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A Father's First Look at His Child

Phil Adams

Western Michigan University

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you start
 too late
soft
 sad
 purposeful
it enters your mind
 to scream
 i am
and exist

LEROY WATERMAN

A Father's First Look at His Child

I have dreamed of this first look with impatience,
Since her mother yawned her into being.
But, as she stretches her crib and smiles a world
Of indigestion, without yet knowing the taste
Of life, all I see mirrored is my guilty lay.
Her stretching limbs will be defiled;
Death is in the eyes of my child.

PHIL ADAMS