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a perfectly timed cliché

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a perfectly timed cliché

the cliché rolled off my tongue like a wet cherry,
and before i could snatch it out of the air,
falling,
streaming a trail of cream behind it,
another slipped out,
and another,
and another,
and soon we were all wading in the red juices
of false wit
and stolen idea;
and for this i was ashamed.
but they swam and drank it all in,
the tainted water,
the bittersweet blood,
and gave me congratulations -
for what i could not say;
all i had done was spit
wet cherries into
a room where dry cherries
were much more common.

brian ewald