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## SECOND READING

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## SECOND READING

**Abstract**

Poem

# Romesh Gunesequera

## SECOND READING

Downwind the hawkmoth drowned,  
the pink-skimmed earth  
turned to mud.

Under a loose sun, picking rubble,  
I saw a butterfly:  
one wing iridescent,  
the other cracked  
from an unexpected fall.

I thought I'd shift the stones, clear a path,  
get things sorted fast.

As I reached down, the open wing  
blinked against my skin: I felt  
the tremor of an illuminated page,  
a pulse beneath the lines.