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Almond Tree in Late Winter

Rita Tognini

Our almond tree is barbed with buds.
Tight cocoons of pink-tinged petals
ache to unfurl against a leaden sky.

The first flowers wave white from low boughs.
Single, twin or triplet blooms inch
to topmost branches, veil the sky.

Buffeted by wind and squalls, petals
confetti lawns, polka-dot verandas,
surrender to leaves. Kernels plump in suede shells.