

## ***The Mantids' Moirai***

*(a triolet)*

Six spindly legs will bear me down this silken thread  
That dangles from my ootheca. Chitin-bound,  
I'll molt ten times, amassing strength with each new shed.  
Six spindly legs will bear me down this silken Thread  
The Fates must cut in just one year. To keep well-fed  
I'll eat my mate, and when my abdomen swells round,  
Six spindly legs will bear nymphs down this silken thread  
That dangles from my ootheca, chitin-bound.

—Mindy Watson

