

Ladybug's Omen

Emmory Bridges

Scared to cross what is rippling,
they stick to one another as if
friends. Here they float simply
like granite, solid and color-
blotted. Together they arrive
on foamy chalk lines and are
gifted medallions of sand to
hide under black fossil bellies.

People enjoy making declarations:

1. Infestation. They will not agree with
Libyan insects, we always have funds
for war; shields are shiny, decorated,
and washed by our waters for battle.
Spots have bedded illness before.
2. Godsend. We have prayed, and been
sent Mary's Beetles. Red cloak and
dappled darkly with seven sorrows,
our crops will be saved, our people fed.
We use wings of their elderly as beads
in heirloom and rosary. Slightly torn leaves
make pictures for the lucky to see and
stories to imagine from gentle minds.