

Wilderness House Literary Review 4/3

Barbara Bialick

time leaves and never returns

(a villanelle)

before you lived, you never were
and then your stay is very brief
time leaves and never returns

perhaps you didn't live with ardor
and so you grieve
before you lived, you never were

now you're older and see your error
life's a sieve
time leaves and never returns

you beg your maker for a cure
more time please!
before you lived, you never were

desperation is a venture
and so you're rolling up your sleeves
before time leaves and never returns

one gets polished, but rarely pure
like a seashell on the seas
before you lived, you never were
time leaves but never returns