



# Tobacco Basket

Michelle L. Stevens

*Gathering gray willow*

*Along flooded Putah Creek,*

*Swallows dart and turn*

*As we women softly*

*Talk, bend, cut willow.*

*Voices sing through willow*

*Into my hands,*

*Teaching me to weave*

*A tobacco basket.*

*This basket*

*Focusing my vision*

*And my Way, with every*

*Weave a prayer.*

*This basket a nest*

*Holding my blessings.*

*My blood tipped breast*

*Feathers, cradling sweet*

*Eggs, sweet dreams.*

## Correspondence

Michelle L. Stevens, Jones & Stokes, Inc., 1411 Anderson Road, Davis California, 95616, U.S.A.,  
MichelleS@jsanet.com.

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