

Elizabeth Fletcher – Two Poems

Night Song

Jolted out of deep sleep
darkness
I pad down the hall
cradle you
skin to silky skin
snug you
warm against me
in a hazy half dream

The moon
silvers your peachy cheek
She knows
You are the ruler of these mysterious hours
of the stars
of Saturn and Venus converging

Your hazel green eyes
are alight with starshine
You drink in moonlight
like nectar

I murmur a lullaby
and then another
words blur on my tongue

You smile, eyes wide
enchant me with your music
your melody for the constellations
and my heart

Still, I long for the sweet fall
into my own dark oblivion

Somehow a song from my deep night,
from my craving
rises
in an almost wordless chant

The moon is setting
starlight pales

I whisper a harmony of love and longing
wishing for the end and not the end

At last your eyes flutter
like the wings of little birds
settling

Dawn edges the dark firs in gold and pink
The birds begin to stir with morning song
I fall back into my own bed
and sleep rules

Wild for It

I plunge
headlong into the crest of the foaming wave
embrace the shocking cold
Burst up
Gasping with pleasure and joy

Saltwater slips like cool silk over me,
I kick,
churning my own waves
rolling with the surf

Floating
Alone

Mesmerized by the cobalt blue
the ocean's thunder
the endless sky
cradled in the sea

A gray seal bobs up a few yards down the beach
My shadow's sister
I swim the other way
deny kinship
shiver

The Great Whites glide here
through dazzling waves
quicksilver cold
razor sharp
hunting

Last summer
a man was carried from the water
bleeding out
his boogie board mangled
He was only 20 yards offshore

My head aches suddenly with splintering cold
My legs are numbing
signals
I have reached a threshold

But I can't resist
One more dive and roll
One more wave ride

Like my seal sister,
I swim the Atlantic every summer
each day
wild for it

Elizabeth Fletcher's poems have appeared or are pending in *The Schuylkill Valley Journal*, *Ariel Chart*, *October Hill*, *The Dillydoun Review*, *Tiny Seed Literary Journal*, and *the Ekphrastic Review*, among others. She was nominated for a Pushcart Prize in 2021. Her nature essays on Snowy owls and sea turtles have appeared in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and she is co-author and author of numerous medical education research publications. She has a BA in English and writing from Hamilton College and an MS in Technical Writing from Drexel University.