kenting, 2018

Jasmine Hsueh-Ting Lee

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.uark.edu/diamondlinelitmag

Part of the Art and Design Commons, Fiction Commons, and the Poetry Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://scholarworks.uark.edu/diamondlinelitmag/vol1/iss8/7

This Poem is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@UARK. It has been accepted for inclusion in Diamond Line Undergraduate Literary Magazine by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks@UARK. For more information, please contact scholar@uark.edu.
it’s hot today, too hot. for some reason your mother really wanted to stop at the beach. probably to take too many pictures and put sand into a tiny little bottle as a souvenir, even though this is the land that looked after her years and years ago. the ocean calls to you.

you leave your shoes in the car (you’ll beat the sand out from between your toes later.) the first step down is scalding, and you delicately hop down to the shoreline until your feet adjust to the heat. the voices fade out as you approach the water, until all you can hear is a muted hum behind. the sun is bright, forcing your eyes into a squint as the ocean reflects its light back to you. all you can see is water, water, water, until it blends into the horizon beyond.

the ocean continues calling. you can’t make out its words, but you listen anyways. hush. hush. hush.

all of a sudden the world is big, too big. you feel the waves lapping at your feet and imagine your mother standing where you are, tossing shells into the waves and holding her hair behind her face. she is young again, freckled and tan, ignoring her parents’ calls to come home. you wonder if she was happier, lighter, purer of heart than you are now. you wonder what life she would have lived if you were not her daughter and she was not your mother.

she is a ways from you now, knee-deep in the water, bent over at the hip, reaching for some shell she can’t see but knows is there.

you call for her and you think she doesn’t hear you, but when she sees you and stands up her smile is the exact same as yours.