

ROMANCING THE HUMPBACK WHALES

1995 Nevada
 Winner \$50.00

The salty core of my Aquarian (dream:
 To slither like a seal through parting swarms
 Of small day-feeding fishes; their bright (stream
 Defines our path. They plunge like sudden storms
 Of flying arrows, cross the scooping forms
 Of undulating outriders-- our pair-
 Pagliacci faces grinning us a dare.

see comment on
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Our bubble wake is coded melody;
 Each globule rises to a treble staff
 Of living elkhorn branching like a tree.
 Loose blue conveys whole notes from sonic graph
 To ears attuned to each breath's epitaph.
 High coral altars bless the tithes of sun
 Along the reeftop posed as Helicon.

For now the dream is real and we are here.
 Increasing time each day the sea is home.
 The flanking porpoise escort pushes near,
 Suspecting us for wetbacks, monochrome
 Against a beige and turquoise catacomb,
 Who crossed their borders holding rigged passports
 And alien marques to dabble in their sports.

ahead, my partner's outline weaves its part,
 - ~~on~~ the collage, now sudden sequin-flashed
 With black-masked angels practicing their dart
 And pivot, ballet-tuned, pink silver-slashed.
 Poor Michael can't perceive the treasures cached
 Around us in the gently rising swells.
 He suffers bends outside his scholar's cells.

dim
 pale
 whale

He has no feel for magic strewn between
 Prolonged depth rapture (my kind always lingers
 On for days) and staid degrees in Marine
 * Biology. ~~All~~ beauty slips his fingers
 Like eels eluding grasp. His spinal tinglers
 Misfire; articulation never fails
 His clinic facts. Yet he, too, dreams of whales.

theme
 supreme

And he who sees no shadings between peach
 And tangerine, plies me with finest tools.
 He hires my camera eye, takes pains to teach
 Me what I need down here, precisely schools
 Us to a peak, aggressive, but not fools.
 He's handed me a world, made us a team.

beam
 geom
 team

- He's reeled and readied my whale of a (dream.

theme
 scheme
 extreme cont.
 redeem

He's given my desire
 maintained a whole of a theme

geom
 regime

refocused me around a whole of a theme.