

# Mermaid Practice

*Gregory Nero*

**Abstract—the mountains dissolve into the sky. this happens near dusk.**

**Index Terms—breath, hold**

LITTLE WOUNDS

Waves of heartache

Googling "hydroxyzine with alcohol" in the bar bathroom

A few laps in the pool to find my body again

Trying my hardest to act normal while Pam offers me  
zucchini bread

Hot hot hot long long shower in the stall furthest back

While I make rice I wonder if the only way out is through

Reset button brain, reset button at the intersection -  
slamming on silver and yellow

Too many seeds in my orange and I get pissed off for no  
reason at all

Wake up at 10 or 11

Biting on straws and overreacting

Tense and getting tenser , tender - always just one letter off

Remember our rule: no big thoughts this late

I wish I was a flat plastic fish

Fade into dark and light blue

The smell of fire and maybe pine reminds me of the  
Christmas tree farm at the end of the road

Green needle on the carpet , red and white and green skirt

Blue trays of food in the cafeteria and sloppy joes

I feel inclined to start over