

Poems

by

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**The secret in
the lower-left-hand corner**

Weary of wandering the bewilderment of
my heart w/
out you I take a Southwest flight down to
San Diego wedged there on
a map w/
the remaining nation fanning out
north
& east

What peace is there @
the shore of the Pacific w/
seas the same color as your eyes the last time I saw you?

A maudlin mood makes the suffering sweeter in
this sunbleached exile replete w/
hotwhite beaches
& friendly palm fronds
& untroubled tattoo artists
& churning waves that grind my regrets into grains of sand

As if...

I get off
my ass
& swim beyond
the breakers
& into the kelp forest crest
& there I bob w/ a crest &
the otters as each surge draws me up to down
the

If my timing's right I ride it out other side

But more often than not the topsy-turvy forces beyond
ken
& control leave sand in
my hair
& seaweed in
my shorts
& a crick in
my neck
& rocks in
my ears
& water up my nose

astonished
& alive

@
sunset I sit @
the foot of
Ocean Beach Pier where I peer across
the sea
& watch the colors d
 r
 i
 b
 b
 l
 i
 n
 g
d
o
w
 n the scrim of
sky like overthick paint

Then so slow I don't notice it @
first night steals light from
the undone day like a promise never made
& replaces it w/
 a slivered silver moon @
the end of the pier

I take my cue to get up
& walk its length along which I pass a burly black man wearing snow gear
& playing space music on his synthesizer from
 which hangs a sign that says Jesus Is A Fisher
 of Men
& there's a Vietnamese man casting
& casting
& his bait onto
 the now-nightblack waters
& a pair of lovers loving one another against
 the railing w/
 half-empty soda cans dangling from
 free hands

The further
& further out I go the fewer
& fewer people I meet until @
last it's just me
& the moon which hangs there in
the sky like an open palm just beyond my reach

Jesus had it easy

He wasn't fishing for the moon

Television life

The day narrows @
the end until
everything finally fits through
a 21-inch screen but
after
years of
squinting you come to realize that's not enough either so you go
& get yourself a wall-sized flat-screen HDTV from
Circuit City for to amplify the romance
& adventure so it's finally big enough to crowd out
all those undone deeds
& unstill fears

Now w/
the new set installed
& the threat removed you
& your family
& co-workers can all rest assured nobody's wild heart will break out
& rampage over hell's half-acre

hungry
& vengeful
& free