



Tyger Tyger Magazine

While the sea has been busy elsewhere

I have found salty Medusa locks laid to dry.
I have found a colony of sea-tempered stones,
a mermaid's purse and a cuttlefish bone.

I have found jellyfish big as size twelve boots,
battle-weary barnacles, keyhole limpets
and stillborn crabs, pale as blackthorn bloom.

I have found orange-clubbed sea slugs
in jewel-box pools where silken fish seek
and hide among strawberry anemones.

Once, I found a gannet, surprised as Icarus by its fall,
left wing outstretched, wide-iceberg-eyed as a morning sun,
pearl-breasted and pure in its astonishment.

I have found mirror-images of mackerel skies,
and runnels through rocks to sand-sweetened shallows
and on to an underworld I can see only in dreams.

While the sea has been busy elsewhere,
I have found fallen stars
and shells to sing me through winter.

by Rhona Stephens

