

Land-and-sea

by [Leslie Williams](#) in the [August 16, 2017](#) issue

I like to swim out till I can't swim more  
Until it's hard to get my breath and in gasping have work to do  
Get back to shore  
I don't want to tell you about the girl  
Lying abed, my head beside hers  
On the white pillow eyes white she said I have not prayed  
I have barely ever done that I said don't worry I have done that for you  
I have included you in all the days of my life  
All days have been good for praying though it's hard to believe  
That's all God wants  
Shouldn't He want more in return for all this swanning around in the breeze  
Feeling easy in the body  
So animal, so wry  
I love the purple inside oyster shells but haven't done a thing to help them  
Nothing we can do to earn the mainsail beauty, given every day  
And the lifting sea.