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Selkies

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Selkies

Selkies

by

Cameron La Follette

Seals wait in chill green brine
near the river and glistening sands
for the moon's late rising
pale silver spell spreads out free
all across the sobbing, foaming sea

They lie heavy in a rolling surf
at the edge of wave-bright shore
a rippling pulls along their bodies
under the starry midnight air
and young maids breathe naked there

Selkie speaks on the rocky shore
giving human love to bear our young
and holding court on watered sands
for the land beckons, alien but fair
they are guests to our haunted air

This is their long, sad yearning
wrapped in call of the moaning sea
gleam of fish and roar of blue tide
the silvered selkie is bound as seal
no love may sunder it, nor years heal

Their salt-glistened pelts are never far
and though we court a brown-eyed seal
the tide empties human hearts
so if one gives marriage to you or me
selkie will turn hungrily to the sea.

