

Fair Winds and Following Seas

Kayla McVeigh

A maritime phrase for wishing farewell and a safe voyage

If goodbyes bleed, so be it
Let them chum the waters calling wide-mouthed bullhead sharks
Circling blackened seas
Fins like sails cutting through the push and pull of tides
Let them feed
Tooth by tooth, scissoring through flesh

Let ships be called to the edge of the world
Sinking through deeper shades of navy they are returned
Within the depths that keep creatures with little use for eyes

If goodbyes cry, have them sing out with shorebirds
Let them sound over waves crashing along coastal cliffs that hold speckled eggs
Glaucous-winged gulls
Flapping above choppy waters, flight caught in stirring winds and skies
Let us cry
Wing by wing, rising above currents

Let tides tumble along the stretches of shoreline
Crushing dark green glass, smoothing discarded Heineken bottles
In waves, all things exist somewhere between flotsam and found

And goodbyes are just tradition for all that lives at sea