

JULIA TRAVERS

Marine

I swam in on the high tide
and skinned my shin on the breaker wall.
I fought through the swamp
to get to you,
through slippery roots and maroon vines
that twisted up around my legs
like fresh henna thigh tattoos.

Sometimes now I sleepwalk—
with the feel of mud between my toes
and under my fingernails,
wearing earrings that are too heavy—
made of fishnets
and green glass floats.

While you sleep
I pull up the edges of the dead carpet
in our apartment home
and with white stones
and black sticks of mulch
that I found in the parking lot,
I draw on the floor—
pictures of us on a boat.



ABOUT JULIA TRAVERS

Julia Travers is a writer, artist, and teacher who lives in Virginia. She received a BFA in art education from Virginia Commonwealth University, and her poems have appeared in *The William and Mary Review* and *escarp*. She has volunteered with Storyline, a community project integrating art, walking, writing, local youth, and community stories. Online at juliatravers.wordpress.com.

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