

SARA MOORE WAGNER

Because the Little Mermaid Wanted Something Else, Too

Make this land a red garden,
round and hot as the sun on the waves,
fill it with blood poppies.
I mention it because
I've grown so tired
of all this blue stillness,
the turning earth seems
silent to me, down here
where everything lives
or is already dead.
Give me a drowning man
caught just above our heads,
his lungs blooming red
as a giant tube worm.
Any little glow down here
is a falsehood, a bioluminescence.
I am so tired of all this
blue light, dim
as the inside of a vein.
I want to burst out of my own chest
like a red tentacle. Give me
a garden to prove
this hunger existed.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sara Moore Wagner is the author of *Hooked Through* (Five Oaks Press 2017), and her poems have also appeared in *Cider Press Review*, *Glass*, *The Tishman Review*, *Midway Journal*, and *Stirring*. She is the founder of Cincy Submits and a copyeditor for *Midwestern Gothic*. A stay-at-home mother, she lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, and can be found online at www.saramoorewagner.com.

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