

JULIE DILLEMUTH

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Twelve Waves

twelve  
waves

rolled up

and

crept out

in the moonlight.  
wide awake

ghosts

approached,

thinking about  
the brave sailor

on the raft    the woman

the last drop of water

patient

pensive

## ABOUT THE POEM

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“Twelve Waves” was created from Louisa May Alcott’s *Eight Cousins* (1874-5). About the poem and the process of composing it, Julie Dillemath writes:

In composing this erasure poem, I started with “twelve waves” as a prompt, which is part of a passage on page 105 of an 1887 edition of Louisa May Alcott’s novel *Eight Cousins*. In the story, the main character Rose gazes at the ocean on an island at night, and I love the way the poem is a similar contemplation but by ghosts, who might go unnoticed in the background, the way this poem is hidden within the complete text.



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