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The Ocean

by Samantha Scaduto

As the tides roll in
As they roll out
As the sun sinks into the ocean
Casting light onto the water
As the waves wash memories onto shore
Reflecting, growing in the wavering light
As the echoes of happiness dance along the water's edge
As they mix with the joyful smiles of coming
And the crestfallen eyes of going
Like a melody, a song

A song of the ocean, of the water
A song of the whale, of her calf
Of the lives past and present
Of the joyous shouts of a castle built
And the playful shouts of toes in salty water
Of the first time in the golden-white sand
And the last time in the blue-white water
Mixed together, Like the ocean
Like a song,

Like me
Dancing and singing
Though caring, not caring
Splashing the water away like I would my fears, if I could
Like I would my nightmares, if I could
But bringing close the love, the hope,

The ocean, the trees
The places and people I can be myself with
The water
That supports life, That supports me

Laughing in the waves
Barefoot, running at the ocean's end
Wishing and flying
Though my feet are on the ground
Dreaming
Though I am not asleep
Swimming, like I always am
In life, In love
In water
Though I am not always happy
I have tides, too
And so does everyone
We are all human
But we are all different in some obscure or obvious way

Like stories
The kind that flow and grow in the mind
Some even leaving marks, though we cannot see them at a glance
Like streaks of gray on the road
Made from too-fast tires long ago
Like the trail of sand behind a small turtle
Struggling to find the sea
And the salty water of home
Where we all came from, where we will all someday return to

And as the sun disappears below the horizon,
We can rest knowing it will come again tomorrow
And as the moon takes over in the sky,
We can watch as the last streaks of sunlight sink into the waves, the water

The water that we love,
That we play in, that we know
That will always be in our minds
Our ocean.