

When a Mermaid Comes Undone

Inconsequential shells—sometimes a chipped agate—
pay them daily to the gods of hazard.

Stealth is your best suit
to unpucker those drenched lips.

Hide in reef shadow. Avoid
black-clad grief divers who grope after their own hearts.

If compromise swims by, as it will,
up-end that raft of innuendo and guilt.

Don't connive or flutter. Go deep.
If you let it, forgiveness will eventually save you.

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nonsense

what's more nonsensical

that dream where you've broken
the lawnmower vacuuming spring
shoots in a raised bed

or sudden fire in a Medieval
gothic church

is it the man who drops a baby
over the rail at a shopping mall

or the kid with 4 accidents
still allowed behind the wheel

say everything's a candidate
and death drives you crazy fidgeting
his worn out worry beads

oh yes death is going to sound his bell
on your street sooner or later
like the Good Humor man

here he comes ready or not

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Prefecture of Inadequate Explanations

as it turns out

the pond was not deep enough
snowfall too brash
angle of the sun not sharp

the itinerary meandered
a wound did not heal

some hearts were not strong enough
aid appeared tardy
the fire not even warm

sure as you're born someone said
when the food finally runs out
faith goes right out with it

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