

Mandela Music

whale song echoes
from trench to sky
from sky to trench
last breath of stars

octopus inks
writing poems
in the currents
corals can read

jellyfish rise
silent bell choir
jellyfish fall
on silvered notes

how can I breathe
the ocean's air?
I too am child
born of water

though I forget
the dreaming womb
forget the climb
out of the sea

I will listen
to the orca
I will attend
my siblings' call

I will write names
on shining sand
and trust sea-stars
to know them all

a sea-urchin
does not fear me
seals swim with me
though I am slow

sea otters laugh
and offer me
feasts of mussels
in trade for shells

I do not know
the words and still
I harmonize:
this song is ours

we are the sea

Cassandra Windwalker