The Depths of the Sea

Leah Patton*
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Walking along the beach,
I perceive that the sea is calling.
Lo! Its lapping waves beckon me:
"Come to mother's lap, child."

Looking around the abandoned shore,
I realize that the sea and I are alone.
Moon beams shine brightly from above
To illuminate the glistening waters below.

I sense the clothing that covers my flesh.
My garments itch to the touch.
I hasten to expose my nakedness.
Clothes fall in billows at my feet.

Arms wide open to greet the sea:
"Mother, I am coming. Deliver me!"
Waters rush around my feet.
The cold tickles while it soothes my fears.

Move legs, flap arms to meet the sea,
Splash with wild abandon,
Like a child for the first time.
Go farther, deeper.

The sea rocks me slowly, gently,
Like a newborn babe in her mother's arms.
I feel drowsy,
But I do not resist her.

My eyelids become heavy
While the waves rock me gently to sleep.
I sink beneath the surface—
Down—down—down—

No direction is necessary.
She knows the way to the bottom.
I open my mouth for air
But only breathe in blood.

Deeper—faster—I travel
To the depths of the sea.
Near the bottom, I see a bright light.
I struggle to push through the opening.
Both "The Depths of the Sea" and "The Chase" are by Leah Patton: A first semester senior, I will be receiving dual degrees—one in sociology and the other in English with an emphasis in literary studies. Hopefully, I will graduate next spring. Then, I will embark on the wonderful journey of finding a career, probably going to law school and practicing law.

After my poetic capabilities have lain dormant since I was ten years old, I am now experiencing a burst of creative energy. Back then, my mom would peer over my shoulder, trying to read what I was writing. I burnt almost everything I wrote. Never did I write a word down again in the form of poetry—until now. The hardest part about writing is sharing with others. I now share because much of what I write about is personal and real, and others tell me that they can relate to what I express in my poems.