

# New Mexico Quarterly

---

Volume 23 | Issue 2

Article 12

---

1953

## The Islander

Edith Stuurman

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq>

---

### Recommended Citation

Stuurman, Edith. "The Islander." *New Mexico Quarterly* 23, 2 (1953). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq/vol23/iss2/12>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by the University of New Mexico Press at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *New Mexico Quarterly* by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [disc@unm.edu](mailto:disc@unm.edu).

## THE ISLANDER

He had not sought the island where he lived;  
 water had risen around his acre: house and tree  
 became a continent, and all his paths went down to  
 was the sea.

He was a natural man, a part of the world.  
 He was caught by the world's water. Time slowed down,  
 lengthening every day to a cycle of seasons  
 divided by noon.

Space spread out; where there was no dove to send  
 out for a token of land, no dove with a leaf returning,  
 each night was huge: among its dispassionate worlds,  
 he watched space burning.

It was long after this, long after he had stopped  
 expecting  
 anything at all that it happened, without any warning,  
 the white fleets coming toward him, a hundred white ships  
 cargoed with morning.

Men stood on the decks. He loved all men so much  
 that he stumbled and sprawled as he ran down to the  
 water's edge, crying  
 his joy out to them, the white, the completely unhopèd-for,  
 ships with flags flying.

EDITH STUURMAN

## THE SUDDEN YELLOW

Take the lamp  
 off into the darkness  
 wick wet but unkindled;  
 having light's power near  
 should make the night clear.