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## She Finds Her Body Again

Jan Ball

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# She Finds Her Body Again

by Jan Ball

She finds her body again  
along the beach in pieces  
as she bends to retrieve  
purple moon shell curvings  
and broken scalloped edges,  
a swirled conical augur  
ridged as stairs on a circular  
staircase, whelks round  
as pomander but still fishy  
with decaying parts rather  
than attar fragrant, and oval,  
jointed clam halves lying  
vulnerable in the sand,  
hinged like an open door;  
she feels the water lick her  
feet like a pet might lick  
her toenails and subtle  
morning seep into her sponge  
soles as the sturdy pelicans hunt  
purposefully for their breakfast,  
expanding predator wings  
in the sky above her.