

Masthead Logo

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# Sunbathing

Jack Myers

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## SUNBATHING

We've reached the ocean and one son  
is laughing as he watches the surface  
of water fly back to itself. He's overcoming  
fear. The other son is so small and happy  
when he reaches out to strangers, they leave  
themselves for love.

My wife and I are on the hard-packed mud  
hoping no one knows us. It's hard to explain  
our lives, why the invisible makes us feel  
secure, armored like the crab with feelers  
and a trapdoor over its heart.

When no one comes, we know we've come back  
to watch our children judge us. They think  
we're so perfect, we've brought our bodies out  
to burn in the sun.