

Jacqui Somen

I Returned to Miami for my 40th Birthday

decades of bad choices washed away
on these shores I find sand hidden
in crevices generations down the coast
a crashing
WSJ headline “How to Avoid
Looking Frumpy Over 40”¹
beauty & social
calendars & men &
productivity
don’t care for this cycle
of me on my knees
cupping ocean salt-water-mixed-with-tears
is the new anti-aging cream the next wave looks
a little like IDGAF a little like a damp Pacific Northwest night
watching bonfire smoke waft into nebulous sky
children call out to build sandcastles
we construct foundations strong
& sturdy
afternoon returns
manors
to
granules

¹ *Dressing up to go out doesn't...* - The Wall Street Journal. Facebook. (2022, December 3). <https://www.facebook.com/WSJ/posts/dressing-up-to-go-out-doesnt-need-to-change-much-after-a-certain-age-heres-a-par/10162276881248128/>

we laugh as if plastic Godzilla is source &
destroyer & stretch out on our blanket & slurp watermelon &
wrap ourselves in together I lounge
in exhaustion & raise my cheeks
to the warmth
of the rising
moon