

Liz O'Connor

UNDERWATER

A couple doing wall squares in the sand
With their heads underwater
People across the way
Surfing waves I want to try

I squeeze in near the sand wall
Place my feet and do the same
My head dips easily under
Is this it I slowly wonder

After, walking inside with my laptop
Running on it a film of love
Scenes of one of the dreamed of's
Hiding the screen from above

Stole a song from the girl
Who had three names alliterately strange
She was headed to a wedding
I didn't want her to know it that day
My Mom was in an empty field
I don't know what we said
She was aloof I adrift
And stayed near strangers instead

Guys on the stoop
Lounging no work
Scared me cause I felt
I'd catch the urge to lurk

TEARDROP TATTOO

Last night I dreamed of people laughing
About my cousin's teardrop tattoo
I tried to stand firm explaining
But none of that would do

Just before her big 5-0
She'd run off and got married
Down at Times Square she hung
Music was the purpose
Love she had always stung

No one knew where he was
In the hospital she needed to stay
Only her husband could sign the papers
To turn off the machines and let her go on her way

When she lay flat leaving
I held her hand and silently said
'don't go'
Inside me she smiled and said it was time,
One tear rolled from her eye down her cheek real slow

Then I was teaching ballet at the local jcc
Women in the morning, who didn't know me
I played a song for adagio that reminded me of you
A woman said the class was spiritual
I nodded, I knew
Cause I taught from my heart and its teardrop tattoo