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Shore Report

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Shore Report

All sand, all a gloss on memory
 walking in the dunes is forbidden
 the slim grass too fragile

a sun that fails to convince, green filtered
 that boy, his ropy limbs such ease
 ecological darts

now clears, humidity sucked halfway across
 Atlantic, gray haired and stubborn
 aluminum chairs, striped

come child not so far into the foam
 come child come child
 lotion, salt, fresh,

all sand, all a gloss on memory
 and the board found his head
 blood in rivulets

sea mixed, no body recovered at that depth
 horseshoe crabs, beached, broken helmets
 come child not so far

string tied to the gull's foot, so ache, heart
 salt pump and the wave curls
 poor man's kite

home now and the sand in secret grooves
 shiver in the cold spray, rub
 soap hates the hand

waves advance like rolls of film, kids smiling
 come child not so far
 shy sun new season

all sand, a gritty gloss on memory

Jeffrey Skinner