

gulls fly out of letters
 you sent
 music from a lyre
 you are far away
 distant shores
 battered by waves
 come here for comfort
 waves within my cove
 love is delicious
 love is sand
 love is waves after waves
 gulls speaking your words

3.

I stack stones
 upon round smooth stones
 to see how many
 before they topple
 this is how men build
 before wars
 when stones fall
 empires fall
 I tried building water
 upon water
 like a woman
 but it becomes water

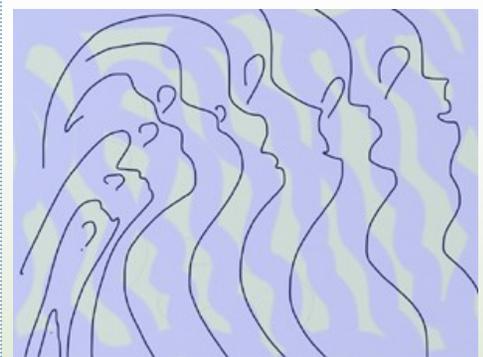
4.

I hear rumors
 a place where women rule
 no men allowed
 surely
 no man could allow this
 men spoil dreams
 thundering even in sleep
 after running through us
 naked as seaweed
 I woke up
 when everyone slept
 even the dust
 it was quiet

5.

I heard a hermit crab
 turning inside its shell
 trying to be comfortable
 on the other side
 of this island
 we are all restless
 when some wrong happened
 then dust is unsettled
 dogs chase their nightmares
 lovers growl
 like stags
 horns caught in brambles
 I sing as a cricket
 everything settles
 this is what it is like
 to be moonlight

Letters to Sappho



Martin Willitts Jr.

1.

ever notice
 how rain
 is a woman's tears
 after a stillbirth
 ever notice

2.

I found a shipwreck
 beached skeleton
 near a seaman
 exposed lungs
 does it matter
 we all return to earth
 we are all fragments
 all sunken
 all forgotten
 all cast aside
 reduced to shell
 reduced

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Cover: *Faces* by Lauri Burke

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Letters to Sappho

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