

SHIRLEY J. BURRIS

Hush, Darling

Drown her down
In your secret seas,
Until her screams bubble silently
And burst upon the surface.
Your crazy waters fill her lungs,
But the sun, shining through the flow of it
Will make the distortions look like Truth.
See all your other mermaids here—
See their dead faces floating by.

Cover her spirit in your silent sands
Until its wings burn to cordite from inhaling
the scald.
Your layers of darkness
Make the stillness sound like Reality.
See all the women here.
See their bleached bones reaching for the sun.

Dress yourself in a cloak of Logic
And she won't make a sound.

Shirley J. Burris lives in Nova Scotia.

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