

## **Saltwater Parable**

By Bella Cox

Paella scented. Seawater flecked.  
Skin, the same dusky oil as mine,

hair, long enough to brush his shoulders.  
English: worse than promised.

He taught me to turn my back to the waves,  
said this way, sea salt would not sting my eyes.

Then retreated with the tide, without return,  
as if to test the lesson I'd learnt.