

## the newly drowned

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**the newly drowned**  
by Matthew Moses

their heads turned down,  
shoulders slumped forward,  
arc-like;  
there is no more rigidity  
for them: they are like toy parachutes  
holding the power  
of the hundredpound-heavy air.

a child on the beach with toy  
—man, string, chute—  
amazed by the power of nothing;  
the power of the nothing. in the physics.  
of the plastic man. floating down  
so gently. to the sand. this nothing.  
laying him down so gently.

the drowned man,  
won't touch  
the ocean's last stair  
for a week. the air  
will slip  
from his body . . .