

Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal

Volume 8 | Issue 1

Article 9

June 2008

A Sea So Quiet

Jona Colson

Follow this and additional works at: <https://orb.binghamton.edu/harpurpalate>

Recommended Citation

Colson, Jona (2008) "A Sea So Quiet," *Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal*: Vol. 8: Iss. 1, Article 9.
Available at: <https://orb.binghamton.edu/harpurpalate/vol8/iss1/9>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). It has been accepted for inclusion in Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal by an authorized editor of The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). For more information, please contact ORB@binghamton.edu.

Colson: A Sea So Quiet

A SEA SO QUIET

Jona Colson

You would think I go mad with grief
when the white sails fill—billowing out

like a pregnant belly into the cold sky
making no sound. It is a sea so quiet even the waves

are silenced in their swells. I am taught to interpret
these signs—the slight of the keel, the swing of the boom—

as we ghost past Thomas Point Lighthouse.
The keel cuts like a marble blade through the brackish water,

the stern refuses to wake, and the Captain, deciding
not to fight, learns to live here, though it is bitter

in his throat—the way silence affects everyone in the end.
But, even the sea a vow of dumbness? Nobody touches.

We are the only two in existence—all hands forward to strike
and secure the mainsail. Time ceases where invisible

figures move below the surface—how much life can be
kept in by the sea, how much clings to the surface of the boat,

a space where seaweed holds to fiber bathed by water.
I will stay here until the seaweed takes root and the fossils surface

because the quiet present dissolves like salt
and soon sound will drown us all out.