



Stephanie Mood

POETRY

Elementary

By Stephanie Mood, July 24, 2013

You come in big
and high from the beach
though your shoulders are small
your arm is in place around the red board
and your orange swim trunks are
just where they should properly be
but I know the way your ass curves
soft as a sea mollusk
the line I trace with my finger
reaching under, coming up to the tip
and the foam of the wave.

You come in dripping with saltwater
a thousand kisses riding home
You swim in on your feet like whales
spinning weightlessly off a piece of air
a shaft of light, off the shoulders of the sea.
Down below, it is magical there
and I know the world of the fish and curving grass
billions of hidden stars, I've seen them.
I've kissed you, too, because you come in
because our eyes are watering each other
and our lives are naked together in the air.

*Until her recent retirement, Stephanie Mood taught English literature, composition, and creative writing at Grossmont College. During that time, she served as coordinator of the creative writing program and instituted the annual Literary Arts Festival at the college. Currently, she serves as a board member for Ocean Beach People's Food Co-op, where she works to encourage healthy organic food consumption and to educate people about the successes of the cooperative business model. "Elementary" is from Stephanie Mood's collection *California Poems: Gold in Them Hills*, which can be ordered from Xlibris at orders@Xlibris.com.*