

Never Saw It Coming

By Robin Lipinski

"Don't go near the water," a mother's warning constant,
Growing to learn what she says you hear,
You experience what is stern.

Many things she told, enforced with father's concern, yet youth has a way of coping, of knowing
just what it is we want to hear.
Stealing a cookie, or staying awake after the bed light fades, we pick and choose our battles,
I'm sure the parents know this true as they too had their own childhood choices,
That is how the world turns.

"Don't go near the water," constantly was heard, and truth of the matter, I did, it was fear.
Not from drowning,
Not from monsters,
Not from what are most mother's concerns.
It was watching the movie Jaws that ruined water for me.

Going to the beach with friends, they frolicked and dove in the waves,
All the while smiling and yelling, "Hey dude, are you afraid?"
I would just smile back and say, "No, my stomach hurts."

Turning sixteen was fun,
There was sneaking a cigarette and beer,
And one must mention the truth, there were girls.
One in particular, there was Sue.

Heading to the beach one summer, the summer when dreams come true, we all were there
including that wonderful girl.
She looked fantastic, her red hair wet, glistening in the sun, and other features I dare not mention
but imagine, I'm sure for you it was the same.
I sat there on the sand, watching, scared.

In the middle of a thought, a daydream, it happened.
Sue screamed.
She was in trouble and jolted me back to reality.

Without hesitation or thought, I jumped into sea, with only thoughts of her safety guiding me.
Swimming with strength I never knew existed, I arrived shortly beside her, two hundred feet
from shore, from safety.
Without a worry of fins or teeth,
I felt secure in my new knowledge that besides me treading water,

Was the girl of my dreams.

As for why she screamed it was actually nothing but her feet brushing seaweed,
Hard to imagine something so simple can cause one so much fear.
Together we swam back to our future, one that both of us would share,
And to our children's future,
I'm sure we'll tell them all about potential fears.

The End