

SODWANA BAY SOUTH AFRICA

By Graham Vivian Lancaster

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It's been a year out of the water
But my shoulder is healed
I think
And as I kit up
Rinsing my mask
Over the side of the dive boat
Looking through sixteen meters of blue water
Seeing fish down there
Settling all qualms,
Divers will pull me back into the boat
If there's a problem
But I'm diving



By Peter Dreyer 1

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Roll out backwards on the count of three
Myriad silver bubbles rising before my mask
Like a symphony of happiness
Descending
Setting my watch
Computers registering
Adjusting equipment
Equalising ears
Free falling slowly
Into blue
Home



By Peter Dreyer 2

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Lining up with the hole in the rocks
Against the pushing surge
Breathing out
Sinking quickly into Simons Cave
Shadowed tranquillity
From the surge above
Swimming slowly
As fish come to see
Looking close into my mask
Brushing my shoulders
Watching my bubbles
As I scarcely breathe
But they aren't afraid
To co-habit
As we watch each other,
I could live here
One day maybe
My ashes will



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Reluctantly rising out of Simon's Cave

Slowly

Minding my head on the rocks above

Clearing and rising

Looking back at the silver streams

Of my breathing

Rising through the roof

Necklaces of diamonds

Expanding into the sunlight

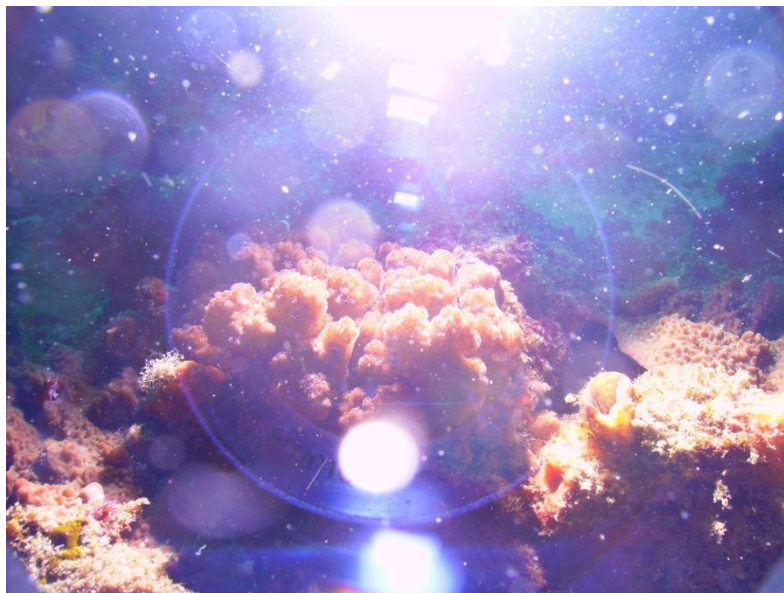
Until the only trace of my passing

Remains in my memory

And the fish

Remain until next time

Or their children



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Sixty minutes

Computers are warning

As I rise slowly

Slower than my smallest bubbles

Begrudgingly

Taking time

More than I need

With air to linger shallower

Looking round

At a sun lit jelly fish

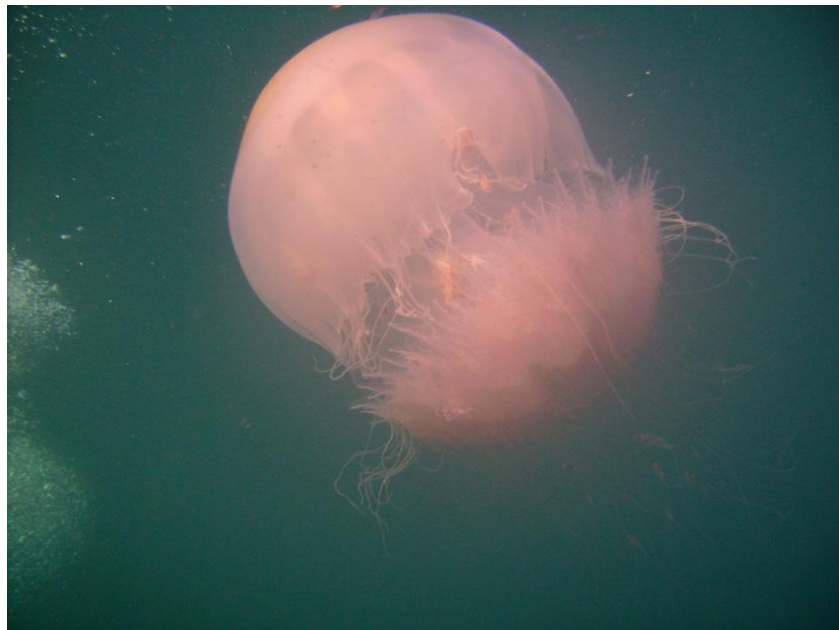
Big white pumping slowly along

Menacing tentacles hanging

Tiny fish in attendance

More jelly fish

We don't want to meet



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Computers show all clear
And I drift up slowly
Diver frantic pointing
And I roll over looking up
Jellyfish directly above
Thrust forward on the swell
I blasting bubbles trying to move it
Fins pumping
Heart thumping
Over backwards and down
Into clear water
Turning

Looking up at a gap
And rising
To float on the ocean surface
BC fully pumped
Lifting my head clear
Hands out
Waiting for the boat
Or jelly fish
But the boat comes first
And I quickly haul myself aboard
Without consideration of my shoulder
But the muscles slowly remind me
As I sit on the sponson
Sucking a butterscotch lollipop

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Removing my fins

Laughing with the others

Life is for living



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Twin 115 Suzukis

Skim the eight meter dive boat across the ocean

Almost like a stone across a pond

Down into the shallow troughs

Bursting over the small swell

Cascading spray

Thrown back on the wind

Ducking flicking heads shaking it off

Like a wet dog

Watching the waves growing to shore

Grabbing rope threaded along behind

Feet in the foot straps

Orange lifejackets tight

Riding on the back of the biggest wave

Beginning to foam white

Powering over as it breaks

Before capsizing in the 'soup'

Savage bursts of acceleration

Down and away

Cutting a water swathe

Picking a channel to shore

Watching the sand bar

Turning away waiting for water

Controls hard down

Rocketing over the shallows

Skegs kicking up sand

Boat hesitating

Pulses racing

Sixty kilometres an hour

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Across open water

Shooting up the beach

With flashing propellers spinning

In twin burbles of dying motors

As the boat tips onto its side

Nice one skipper

See you tomorrow



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Bio:

South African Writers Circle Quill Award winning author and 2010 American Pushcart Poetry nominee, 2010 English Academy of Southern Africa poetry judge, 2011 English academy of Southern Africa Gold Medal proposal, he writes in ten genres from the many eclectic facets of his adventurous life. Widely published in anthologies, with forty one published books of his own, his teenage adventure series and poetry are being taught in schools.

One of his poems was chosen to represent South Africa at the Dec 2010 World Poetry Festival in Canada.

Translated into Spanish, Romanian, Hindi and French, read on radio in Argentina and Puerto Rico. Published in Fullosia Press, A Hudson View, Labyrinth, ConvorbiniLiterare, Seventh Quarry Press, Nord Literar, Axiom, World Anthology Of Love Poetry, Crossroads Of The Century, Sailing Through The Mists Of Time, Across The Long Bridge, Journeys, Skyline.