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Raging Waters

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Raging Waters

Ethan Reisler (English 2026)

The Cape's tide breaks higher than the clouds.
 Tossed asunder to perform triple-somersaults
 For horseshoe crabs and seaweed,
 I'm always doomed to wipe out on the landing.
 Enough sand packed in my mouth to make a pearl,
 lungs spewing seawater, I emerge
 a cherub fountain, stripped clean of spf 70.
 A boogie board in hand magnetizes me
 to that boundless blue pond
 despite the sand blastings.

In another time,
 Yellowstone's Grand Prismatic boils in my chest;
 the water scolds my innards clawing a way out,
 erupting through my eyes, finding its freedom.
 With so few words, she bombed the Hoover Dam
 leaving me spitting the tears I couldn't stomach
 on the church's parking lot asphalt.
 Sitting alone in shotgun, my friend left long ago,
 watching children sing for a Christmas play inside.
 I think I preferred being pummeled by the Cape's calloused tide.

So what could have possibly made me try again?

What love did I have to find in someone else?
 I've never been cast in bronze, but I am a thinker;
 something about sweaty palms after holding hands for more than three minutes or
 making them chortle with a Dobby impression
 Is worth every attempt to stick the landing.

