

Paddle Away
a monologue
by
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AT RISE: EMPTY STAGE

ANNA

I opened my eyes and all I could see was blue sky. A clear, blue sky, the bluest blue that I'd ever seen. As I tried to sit up, I realized that I was lying on my paddleboard, surrounded by white sand and the sea. I panicked, because I had no idea where I was. And I panicked even more because my paddle was nowhere to be seen. "A paddleboard without a paddle is like a car without tires." I thought, as I frantically searched for my puddle. I found nothing but shells and a few dead crabs. When I was done searching, I sat back on my paddleboard and I looked at the sea. It was blue and calm, and bled into the sky. And I remembered being lost in grayness, dark clouds above me and me ... paddling, desperately trying to find my way back to the shore. I'd gone too far and I'd failed to notice that there was no shore behind me, anymore. I panicked, turned around and started paddling back to the invisible shore. It felt like forever, but the shore was nowhere to be seen. I couldn't afford to lose hope, I kept on paddling until it got dark. I felt exhausted, my arms ached and my legs could not hold me anymore. I fell on my knees and stayed like that, until I couldn't kneel anymore and all I could do was surrendered.

(pause)

And there I was lying in my bed and dreaming being lost and desperately paddling back to the shore. I paddled until the dream was over and I woke up, and opened my eyes. All I could see was blue sky. A clear, blue sky, the bluest blue that I'd ever seen. As I tried to sit up, I realized that I was lying on my paddle board, surrounded by white sand and the sea. It was warm and cozy, and the sun felt so good on my sun starved skin. I reached for my paddle, but it wasn't there. . "A paddleboard without a paddle is like a car without tires." I thought. But that didn't make me want to move. Who needs a paddle? I was happy, just lying there in paradise. I've paddled far, far, far away from the cold and the gray North West, and I wasn't going back to the gloom anytime soon. At least not until I wake up, and that wasn't going to be anytime soon, because I was terribly exhausted after being lost in the gray Pacific sea.