

AT 39 Hz

Honorable Mention of the 2015 New Tetris Writing Contest

Women and whales are natural allies. Like Tetris pieces, we fit together and then sink away.

Off the coast of Cape Cod, curvaceous blubber was pierced with harpoons and while the flesh of the head was boiled down to oil, the bones were fixed up as ladies' prisons. Yes, for centuries female hearts beat with longing within the skeletons of whales.

And last night, I streamed the song of an orca spending her summer in the South Pacific. I listened as though my headphones were a stethoscope. I sensed that she knew I could hear. For she interrupted a pattern of thuds and moans so complex that scientists will soon suspect she's male-bodied to quote Audre Lorde: "Your silence will not protect you."