

2018

Quietly, by the Water

Dakota Kipper

Western Michigan University, dakota.s.kipper@wmich.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/laureate>



Part of the Poetry Commons

Recommended Citation

Kipper, Dakota (2018) "Quietly, by the Water," *The Laureate*: Vol. 17 , Article 37.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/laureate/vol17/iss1/37>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Lee Honors College at ScholarWorks at WMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Laureate by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu.

Quietly, by the Water

Dakota Kipper

There's a bed by Lake Michigan where the imprints
of bodies, imprisoned by youth, remain untouchable:

bound to eternity like the casts of Pompeii,
like the smoke in the air, like running naked

against the waves to douse a burning in their lungs.
There's a copy of Frost's "Fire and Ice" tucked,

stereotypically, between the sheets or hidden
in the broken shadow of a faulty motel lamp.

Someone forgot to read it. Someone on the beach
is shivering and watching the water swallow the moon.

He has sand beneath his fingernails
and a hand on his leg that's starting

to earn his trust, starting to make appearances
in the ash and papyrus kept secret in his pillowcase.

There's a layer of dust preaching on the doorstep
of a darkened room, pretending to ignore drawn curtains,

deadbolt locks, the sound of the wind screaming
over the restless shoreline, *There's nothing here anymore.*