

Final Voyage
Jason de Koff

Walking down the wooden planks,
I find the sea there to greet me,
with gentle wave and kiss of spray,
she follows me along the sand.

Whispering stories of the last,
who came along just yesterday,
those who enjoyed her company,
but had to leave too soon.

Just as I will once I'm through,
though for now I sit and listen,
with greater concentration than before,
taking in every word.

Holding each moment in my hand,
clinging to their meaning,
until the slow creep of fog,
and dimming of light,
show me it's time to go home.

Jason de Koff is an associate professor of agronomy and soil science at Tennessee State University. He lives in Nashville with his wife, Jaclyn, and his two daughters, Tegan and Maizie. He has been published in a number of scientific journals, and recently has had poetry accepted in other literary journals.