

## Sea Scape

by Susan Gaukroger

What have you seen?  
It seems to me I hear  
waves crashing  
on a distant lonely shore.

Have you been there?  
Rock bottom where despair  
dredges away all sense  
gnaws young bones bare?.

I've been there too.  
In simple terms, wit's end.  
No passage back they say,  
no way beyond that final ebb of feeling,  
barren strand.  
A pebbly plain, no footholds,  
sinking sand.

But some return. Will you?  
Some dare to ride  
uncertain surge of sorrow,  
brave the tide  
of love, of loss.

They trust the swell revives them,  
risk the wash of fate unfathomed, weather  
wild waters' toss

It can be done.  
Unfurl your sodden sails,  
come home again.  
We'll bear your briny tales.

Sea stories,  
salt-starred yarns  
rend pain to pearl

Look up,  
clouds still wheel by  
the breakers bend  
a gull flies high.

We will survive a while  
and what we'll learn is how  
and here's my hand for now.