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POETRY | SPRING 2018

## Listen to the Ocean

By Ron Lands

You labor to breathe,  
and I ask you to remember  
happier times when we sat  
by the ocean, mesmerized  
by moonlight floating  
on the water. It's the highway  
to heaven, you used to say.  
I watch as peace finds you.  
Your respirations slow.  
Now and then you pause,  
and I count the seconds  
until you start again. The tide  
is going out. The light  
will follow. I will stay  
and breathe alone.

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Ron Lands is a hematologist on the clinical faculty at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville, Tennessee and a graduate of the MFA program at Queens University of Charlotte. His fiction, poetry and essays have appeared in literary publications and the humanities sections of several medical journals. He believes his vocation and avocation blend nicely and cannot do one without the other.

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