**Plea**

Karen Poppy

Death, swim through my body.

Fingers strong and spread, kick

Of determined legs, feet elegant.

Create a dark, cleansing wake.

Make me believe you are life.

Growing, active—an athletic infant.

Let me bring you forth, O slender

Seal, silver and slippery-skinned.

Grasp my heart like a prized abalone,

Unaware of its own internal pearlescence.

Sink me here, rather than surrender me

To the light.