

# Fire Snakes

Laura Veirs

Mermaids  
Shimmer in the waves  
Wanted to share a word  
Course they only waved  
Left me alone  
With the blood in my mouth  
To paw and to pray  
To tear at the fray for a thundercloud

To dress up your wounds  
Wash off the salt  
Freshen the blooms  
At your sea-rusted altar

Caldera's edge  
We'll hold hands and wait  
Mudflows are greyhounds  
Exploding from gates  
With hot ash and hot rocks  
They'll crash and they'll mosh  
Till the trees are all flat  
And we all collapse from the chase

Then I'll dress up your wounds  
Wash off the salt  
Freshen the blooms  
At your mud-crust ed altar...