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Hidden Bay

Jennifer L. VanderMeer Grand Valley State University

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Hidden Bay

JENNIFER L. VANDER MEER

I am facing towards the Pacific, away from you both. We had driven all night, all over each other's nerves, to this blue-gray sky morning, along Hwy 101. Our senses awaken by smell of sea in nostrils, kelp leaves, wet sand. Hiking along cliffs, waves breaking Against exposed rock, crabs scurrying into mossy crevices. Emerald sea palms, barnacles stand rigid to their posts, between land and water. We squatted like excited kids over rocky tidepools, peering at purple sea stars, prickly urchins, neighboring lime green anemones their rubber like tentacles lie outstretched, till curious fingers touch. Across tranquil blue, a gull glides, cries. A sea lion barks, beckoning companions. Time to go— Lingering, We were caught up in a world Much wilder than ourselves. Broken pieces of shell, stone, Debris, being rounded at the edges.