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The Mermaid's Revenge

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Abstract
In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"The lake stones were smooth, slippery beneath my leathered feet, but (predictably) rock-hard. The water pulled at the skin of my insteps and ankles, pushed me back toward the shoreline, pulled me out, pushed me back. Some days I could imagine myself a mermaid: Melusine, Sabrina. Some days I could not. I was strong, the pull of the water stronger."

Cover Page Footnote
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Promises

It comes without warning
over the air waves,
Those words we once sang.
Together forever,
that’s what we promised.
Now tears fall down my cheeks,
and only one voice fills the room.

— Jeanne M. Moose