

THE SECRET OF WATER

WRITTEN BY BRIAN GOOD

The secret of air is that it gives life
to any person or being, no matter
who or what they are: saints and
sinners alike enjoy its presence.

The secret of water is that it kills you –
thirty millimeters of water
can steal your breath away as you
lie face down on the floor. Take notice

of the secret I have given you, I will
plead with you to not let me go.
I stared at the pictures of tropical
blue fish and brilliant coral. I could not

feel their scales or explore their
nooks and crannies and rooms
and kingdoms. I wanted to hold them
in my hands, to feel them living

in their cerulean world of life and death.
I wanted to feel the sharp intake of
breath as I watch their gills open and
close. Such a simple movement but

one that is their own secret, a
secret that I will never discover.
I'm not allowed to be on the ocean.
I will always find a way to fall in.

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He plans to pursue an MFA in creative writing after graduating from
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