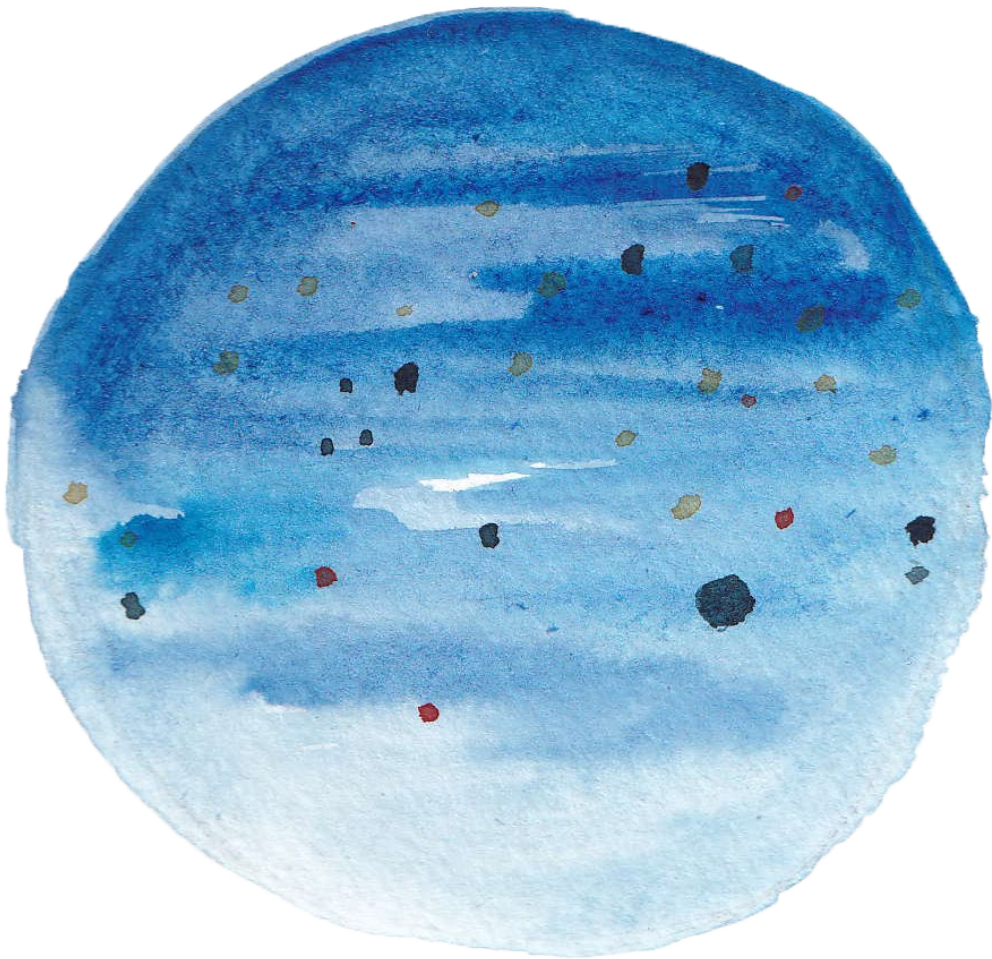


And in this Starlit Sea

a mini-collection



Alicia Hayden

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For everyone who has gazed up at the stars, and felt like they
belonged.

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O! What it is to gaze at the moon

O! What it is to gaze at the moon and sigh.

The cosmos looks so grand tonight,

A rusted orb of Mars,

A glowing pearl of Venus,

And we — in all our minute splendour,

Spinning, orbiting, endlessly:

A cosmic merry-go-round.



Little red coat

A red cape fluttering in the breeze,

Catch him by the bins;

A flash of white trim as the owner buries himself

Deeper,

Deeper,

Dark,

And darker,

A crash (too far)

Ears pricked and

black-booted paws are

leaping,

pushing,

climbing,

free!



Ghosts

A moth watches the stars, alone.
All the flowers are closed up for the night.
It's never the same, these days,
The price of pollen too high for a lowly
'Little brown job' like him.

Other moths flutter past,
All paired up for the night
And off to see the latest cabaret show
'Enter: Lacewings!'

Come see the newest, hottest wings in town!

So the moth is watching the star show instead:
Orion fighting the great bear,
He exits, pursued by a plough.

The moth laughs,
Ghosts of playwrights gone have far too much fun.



Herring Gull

Let. me. strut.

A peacock with attitude – just *imagine* the chaos!

At night, I rule these streets, these alleys,

Hell! I rule the skies, the Heavens, the stars –

Just because I'm drab, doesn't mean I'm dull

And I'm a smart, shiny whistle.

Your bins are mine.



Moon

The moon is soft and crisp.

A sharpness to her gentle glow,

A smoothness on her face.

The chimney stacks kiss the stars

Like children's Lego blocks, building

Higher and higher

Until the colours melt into the abyss.



Details in the dark

A sort of swirling, heady detail in the dark.

They dance – two sparrows chiming in a hedgerow.

The moon beats – the reverberating disc of a drum

Her shoes tap, and tap, and tap.

Hedgehogs walk home, arm in arm,

And somewhere, a barn owl breaks the silence

With a half-croaked scream.



Void

A void – but in colour,
And instead of empty – it's full.
The night; all too often vilified
As a terror itself,
Is simply lonely,
So it has turned to stars
The stars, pinpricks
Glitter spilled on a cushion
They form a sea,
A vast ocean of light.
And this starlit sea,
It whispers secrets for eternity.



Birdbath

For Jacob



Feathers gleaming like swords,
Harpies, phoenixes, rocs, caladriuses,

They spill from the forests and hedgerows,
They pour from the sky.

Darkness shields their feathers
Which drip with colours – intoxicating –

And under night's knowing wing,
They bathe in stars

A cosmic birdbath
For the forgotten Gods of the night.

About the Author

Alicia Hayden is a wildlife artist, writer, filmmaker, and photographer from North Yorkshire.

She won the 'Human Impact' category in David Shepherd Wildlife Artist of the Year 2021 for her piece 'When the Whale Sang', and was awarded the inaugural Ingrid Beazley Award. Alicia hopes that by showcasing the beauty of the natural world, she will encourage more people to protect it.



'And in this Starlit Sea' is the fifth instalment in Alicia's series of free mini-collections exploring the beauty and mystery of our local spaces. The fourth instalment in Alicia's mini-collection series, ['Every Dune is a Mountain'](#), was produced in partnership with The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and Dynamic Dunescapes, and came out in June 2022. You can get your free copy of the book through Alicia's [online shop!](#)

Her first poetry book ['Rain before Rainbows'](#) came out in 2020, and she is currently working on her second.

If you enjoyed 'And in this Starlit Sea', please consider supporting Alicia through [Ko-Fi!](#)

Other works

Mini-collection series

Tales from the Forgotten Wood (August 2021)

Pastel dreams in Golden Skies (December 2021)

The Skylark splits the Sky (January 2022)

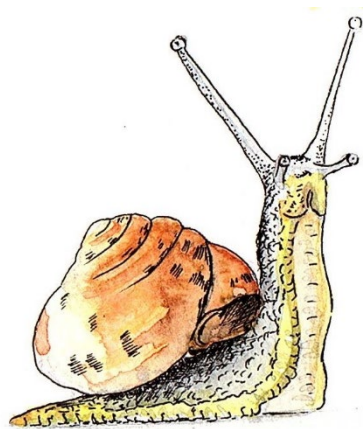
Every Dune is a Mountain (June 2022)

Poetry books

Rain before Rainbows (December 2020)

Collections and Anthologies

Connections with Nature: 50 moments of meeting the wild
(October 2021)



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