

Try Not to Think About It

The earth has aged
badly

Try not to think about it

This morning
I awoke dreaming
I was eating a raw shellfish
from the bay
So delicious

Try not to think about it

One drop of mercury
a single drop
poisons a football field of ocean
Industries use water bodies like toilets
Like the sea creatures don't mind

But they mind

Lately
sharks come into shore
attack people
Lately
whales assault boats
They know about their dolphin sisters
dying in the Amazon
They know about their coral
boiling to death in 100 degree waters
They know about the tons
and tons
of plastic bags
never-decaying plastic bags
that rest in their bellies
They know about the over-fishing

because we are hungry
so so hungry
always hungry

We treat the ocean
like anything we don't understand

Try Not to Think About It

brutishly

I used to wish
for a house by the sea
the magnificent sea
the sea that allows me to see
my own smallness
That house
floods now
all the time....

Try not to think about
the oil spills
sea birds black and slick
unable to fly
oil spills filtering through the shrimp
we like to buy

Let's undo the damage!
Remove the harm!
Or, just try not to think about it
The sun still rises
rose-gold and welcoming
every day

Try not to think about
the haze in the air
that is, the air that we breathe in
all day long
Try not to think about
the PFAS in the tap water
that is, the water that we drink
the water that makes our rice and oatmeal
Try not to think
about the missing butterflies
the new smallness of song birds
the swarming lantern flies

Try to imagine that these are signs of nothing
these are not messages
these are not warnings

The cost of doing business

Try Not to Think About It

Unintended consequences
Collateral damage

Just get on with it
Mind your own business
Lock yourself in a gold air-conditioned tower
Don't look at anything
you don't want to
Consider your Hair
your Nails
your Navel
 Certainly not the world
 Certainly not
our only Eden

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