

Stranger's Gift

(*Aphrodite out of the sea.* -- D.H. Lawrence)

beach at Bay View State Park
sun bathing while reading
Object Programming For Managers
arrives an au pair with an eight year old
slightest nod of acknowledgment
auburn hair in a chignon
long natural buttoned muslin skirt held
with both hands hem about her knees
while wading with her charge
till knee deep
when she backs
with back quarter turned
toward shore
til ankle depth
turns toward me
face still away
no eye contact yet
raises the gathers to her waist
light blue silk briefs
white lace trim
catch the afternoon sun
holds this pose
for two moments plus a swallow
eyes to mine
Mona Lisa smile
slowly lowered skirt
hand in young girls hand
walk away
to my whispered
thank you

Dixon 11/20/98