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Krill Watching

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Krill Watching

Abstract

This is a concrete, or visual, found poem about the scientific activity of observing krill in the deep sea. I discovered this concrete found poem in prose that Nicol (2019, p. 200) quoted from Ommanney (1938).

- Nicol, S 2019 'Oceans of krill', in B Nogrady (ed) *The best Australian science writing 2019*, Sydney: NewSouth Publishing.
- Ommanney, FD 1938 *South latitude*, London: Longmans, Green & Co.

Keywords

Poetry, marine biology, krill

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Krill Watching

The 'krill'

is a creature
of delicate and
feathery beauty,
reddish brown
and glassily
transparent.

It swims with
that curiously
intent purpose
-fulness peculiar
to shrimps, all
its feelers alert
for a touch,
tremulously
sensitive, its
protruding black
eyes set forward
like lamps. It
moves forward
slowly, deliberately,
with its feathery
limbs working in
rhythms and, at a
touch of its feelers,
shoots backward
with stupefying
rapidity to begin
its cautious forward
p r o g r e s s
once again.

This concrete found poem was discovered in prose that Nicol (2019, p. 200) quoted from Ommanney (1938).

- Nicol, S 2019 'Oceans of krill', in B Nogrady (ed) *The best Australian science writing 2019*, Sydney: NewSouth Publishing.
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