

# Windward

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TTTO: “Where the Heart Is” by Naomi Rivkis

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 TTTO: “Where the Heart Is” by Naomi Rivkis

N:  
 My grandmother came from Odessa  
 Left on the wings of a wild winter storm.  
 She swam the Atlantic in winter  
 To a place where her eggs would be sheltered and warm.  
 She pushed through the crowd at the beachhead to lay them  
 Crawled back to sea with a satisfied smile;  
 She said as she swam through the warm Caribbean,  
 “Now this is my home, well at least for a while.”

S:  
 And she told her new friends with a laugh in her eyes,  
 Said, “I followed my heart, and the heart never lies.  
 And where the wind takes me no turtle can tell,  
 But I’m always at home in the seas where I dwell,  
 Because home is wherever I carry my shell.”

N:  
 I was born within sight of Manhattan,  
 Knew the scent of the Hudson too deeply to speak  
 You swam Puget Sound with the salmon  
 And I loved you before I had known you a week.

I'd swum round Cape Horn on my way to Alaska  
 We met off Vancouver as I paddled through;  
 You smiled as you showed me your islands and beaches  
 But your eyes held the question my Grandma's friends knew.

S:

But I said, "I love travel as much as your eyes,  
 So I'll follow my heart and the heart never lies.  
 And where the wind takes me no turtle can tell,  
 But I'm always at home in the seas where I dwell,  
 Because home is wherever I carry my shell."

The water kept rising unnoticed,  
 A little bit warmer and wilder each year  
 Came a time when we couldn't deny it:  
 That the beach we called home would too soon disappear.

ALL:

So we'll spend a few decades and visit our children,  
 They're swimming the seas from New Zealand to Nome.  
 We will leave with the tide, let the waves take us windward,  
 But wherever we wander we'll always be home.

And we've spread our descendents, as wide as the skies,  
 And we've followed our hearts, for the heart never lies.  
 Where the wind takes us next year no turtle can tell,  
 But we'll still be at home come high water or hell,  
 Because home is wherever you carry your shell.