

**Wendy Mitman Clarke**

## **Beachcombing**

*The United Nations Environmental Programme estimated in 2006 that every square mile of ocean contains 46,000 pieces of floating plastic [causing] the deaths of more than a million seabirds every year, as well as more than 100,000 marine mammals.*

—UNESCO

On the fine white beach  
wandering, wading,  
we find priceless treasure—  
nerites, frog shells, blue sea glass  
wandering, wading,  
washing in with the tide,  
nerites, frog shells, blue sea glass  
pulled by the moon  
washing in with the tide,  
razors, balloons, water bottles  
pulled by the moon,  
baggies, microbeads, toothbrushes  
razors, balloons, water bottles  
carried by the waves,  
baggies, microbeads, water bottles  
drifting, floating  
carried by the waves,  
sea turtle, albatross  
drifting, floating  
bellies bloated  
sea turtle, albatross.  
We find priceless treasure—  
bellies bloated  
on the fine white beach.