

Concluding Notes

1

I write this record out at second hand.
"A hundred feet," says on report—
"one day off Java coast
we watched them from the spars—
we saw them nose into the air—
they stood suspended in coitus
front to front—
made sounds.

One dragged the boat for days."

2

Their muscles were their forte.
Also their nerves.
If you could thread a streetcar cable
to a man
and make him body-haul his weight
until you bled him down—
this might approximate it

but the beasts had too much blood
to make analogies precise

3

Nor were they truly beasts.

If they had language
then THE PEOPLE was their name.

When they swam over
they were worlds—

a sky of skin.

4

There may
be words beneath the sea

written in sounds
rising through registers beyond us:

doomsday radar
lost in space.

Lloyd Abbey