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Kraken at Home

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Kraken at Home

It is the nature of this creature to swallow men and ships, and even whales and everything else within reach.—Örvar-Oddr

She pulls one arm
sequined with suckers
through the sand
to hollow out a trench
in the shape
of a half-oval.

Another arm follows,
traces the outer edge
of the first stroke
and curls around it.

She jets to the other side,
her arms flying behind,
adds more marks and curves.

Slowly, she unfurls
the picture:

two
 symmetrical
 seaweed
scrolls
 encircled by
 anemone
 blossoms

Norsemen call her

sea monster,
krake, “twisted,”

but her real name is
caretaker,
rosemåler
of the deep.

She settles in the midst
of her creation,
eight arms laid open
in a spiral
around a bulbous body,

a red rose in bloom
against the ocean floor.

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