

WE WILL SURVIVE?

“We will survive,” the fur seal says, and crawls
Flipper in face, for freedom of the sea.
“We'll band together to chase off great white sharks.”

“I will survive,” says the flamingo chick,
Climbing the rocks on spindly, bandy legs
As early tide brings rising, briny water.
“My mother watches on, she cannot help,
She's not adapted to, I will survive,
Though some years none of us will make it through.”

A voice comes from the deep, from ocean floor
Where creatures, every shape and hue, live hidden
And hydrothermal vents shoot scalding water
Into a freezing sea, black as midnight.
“Was this the place where life began, and when
You have destroyed our world, on Jupiter's moons
Will cousins of ours in vents begin again?
A new Earth in the heavens will survive.”

“You're better off than us,” the turtle cries.
“The tangling plastic doesn't sink down there.”

“But I could ride the rubbish and the net,”
Calls small Columbus crab - “I sailed the waves
Then caught a lift on loggerhead turtle's back,
Snatched Mrs Columbus in a crabby hug
And in return we groomed him, so you see
One animal can help another survive.”

“We will survive, and we will share your fish.
The sea lion states. “We'll jump into your nets.
Just make a noise whenever you're hauling in
So that we can escape, there's food for all.”

Then from Raine Island, always home
To the green turtle comes a final voice
“Thank you for checking on us, taking care
For building sandbanks, dragging us to sea.
Before our tiny island disappears
Beneath the rising seas of climate change
We'll find another, we'll survive,
Will you?”

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