

**'Medway Mermaid'**  
**SM Jenkin**

You've probably heard about my flowing  
hair. And my silvery scales. But  
has anyone ever told you about my  
teeth, my darling?

My mother was mated with a great  
white. She says; He tracked me out on the coral  
reef. My lips trace the gash in her  
belly; ask no questions. It brought me  
you, she says. She says; you chewed your  
way out. That's why I'm here on this rock, neither  
fish nor fowl.

I can look after myself, darling. I don't  
need you to protect me;  
when mermaids smile, we  
bare our teeth.