

Jellyfish  
By Tanielle Dlamini

**EXT. COAST - NIGHT**

Two women sit on the shore, letting the shore tickle their toes. This is not the time for toe-tickling. Neither woman says anything; they just stare into the ocean, watching the jellyfish that decorate the water like stars. LACI is the one who dares break the silence.

LACI

You good?

SERENITY

Yeah. You good?

LACI

Yeah.

They stare back at the water. It's a painfully awkward moment.

LACI (CONT'D)

Did you know that jellyfish are older than dinosaurs?

SERENITY

I didn't know that.

LACI

Yeah, they've seen it all, and will probably continue. They're great at adapting.

SERENITY

I wanna be a jellyfish.

LACI

They're also not fish. They have their own special taxonomic group.

SERENITY

Mhm.

Serenity looks at Laci. There is a question of where Laci is going with this.

LACI

They also have no brain. In a way, they remind me of the Sunfish. Kind of just floating around.

SERENITY

The Ocean Sunfish is actually their natural predator.

LACI

I knew that.

The tension is relieved. There is calm again. Jellyfish glow brighter.

LACI (CONT'D)

They don't have hearts either, or any other organs. They're kind of just floating blobs.

SERENITY

They can't feel emotions. That's sad.

SERENITY inches closer to the shore.

LACI

I never took you for the type to like emotions.

SERENITY

I don't mind them. They have their good days, and they have their bad days. But they're a reminder that I exist---that I'm human.

LACI

Jellyfish aren't human.

SERENITY

That's sad.

LACI

Do you think a jellyfish would want to pay taxes, a mortgage, and work a dead end job?

SERENITY

No---I don't think anyone wants to do that---but they'd get to feel things. Like joy, pride, or love.

Serenity looks at Laci as she mentions love.

LACI

But what about anger, sadness, or *embarrassment*? I don't think a jellyfish would like experiencing those. They stay in your head, gnawing at your brain like a parasite.

SERENITY

Jellyfish would technically be the parasite.

Laci glares at Serenity.

LACI

I wanna be a jellyfish too.

There's a long pause between the two. The jellyfish glow brighter.

SERENITY

Would you love me if you were a jellyfish?

LACI

Of course I would, but-

SERENITY

-But you can't because you have no brain. You wouldn't understand the concept of love.

LACI

I don't understand the concept of anything anymore.

SERENITY

Lace--

LACI

--I don't. I thought that it would make sense as I got older, closer to 18, but it doesn't. I don't know what I want to do in life, and my parents are disappointed because of that, and everything's happening so fast, and I'm not a jellyfish. They adapt quickly, but me---I don't. I take ages to finally grasp a concept.

SERENITY

Jellyfish are 98% water, so if you leave them in the sun, they evaporate.

LACI

I wish I could evaporate.

SERENITY

I think being a jellyfish would be a sad life. I think being an adult leads to a sad life. What if it's all a never ending abyss of sadness? Then what do you do?

LACI

I'd take you with me.

SERENITY

And I'd go with you.

Laci places her hand on Serenity's. The jellyfish glow brighter as they stare off into the night sky.