

Yo en el fondo del mar

By Alfonsina Storni (from Mundo de siete pozos, 1934)

Translation by Richard E. McDorman

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Me at the Bottom of the Sea

(from World of Seven Wells, 1934)

At the bottom of the sea
is a house
made of glass,

at the edge
of a coral-lined
street.

A big golden fish
comes to greet me
at five;

a red bouquet
of coral
it brings.

I sleep on a bed
a bit bluer
than the sea.

Through the glass
now an octopus
winks.

In the green forest
around me
sway mermaids who sing
—ding, dong ... dong, ding—
in their nacre and aquamarine.

And above my head
glow in the twilight
the prickling pins of the sea.