Salt Water

Leah Daniels

When I was young in Oklahoma
weâ€™d spend our summers
living in a swimming pool
and dad would lift me
up on his shoulders
while weâ€™d stay
all aftenoon

hed tell me stories
about his childhood
and salt water

he grew up in california
but chased a girl all the way
to checkashaw
fell in love
and made a promise
had it all
but never forgot
they built a home
and had a daughter
but he still missed that
salt water

he missed that rush of the waves
the breeze on his face
and the blue that never ends
and when i tired 17 i knew i had to see
so i looked him and said

take me down to california
we can lay out
in the sun
take a ride
by the ocean
count the palm trees one by one
and ill never have to wonder
what it feels like salt water

i left home
right after college
and kissed my daddy on the check
headed west
to california
but wrote him letters every week
fell in love
and had a daughter
she grew up swimming in salt water
oh the years flew right by
till that phone call in the night
dad was on his final breath
i rushed to his side
tears falling from my eyes

but he smiled at me and said

take me down to california
lay me out in the sun
find at a place
by the ocean
far away
from everyone
kneel down
at natures alter
salt water
ohhh

let the waves wash me under
salt water.

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