

Sedna & the Sea Creatures

In the very beginning...

the sea was calm and still: just the gentle rise and fall of the tide and the lapping waves against rocky shores. Beneath the waves, at the bottom of the sea, Sedna was sleeping on her bed of rippled sand. But there was no other life in the ocean; she was alone and lonely.

In her dreams, Sedna's heart ached to love and her body yearned to create life. Her dreaming desires shifted into rousing passions, her passion became a frenzied fever, until Sedna finally awakened in maelstrom of elemental energy. Sea became storm as she rose from her sea-bed, through the stirring waters, then flung herself out into the salty air. A turbulent tempest of wind and wave and water and woman...

As she shook her head, her long hair gleamed with living pigments in the sunlight: glistening green and brown seaweed now floated on the surface of the sea. As she began to breathe, in and out, a flowing shoal of fishes swam from her open mouth in all their many finned forms. Her nascent screams transformed in mid-air into seabirds – gannets and gulls, fulmars and shearwaters – soaring free on wide, white wings. As she held her arms aloft across the storm-laden sky, myriad life-forms flicked out from her fingertips: crab, cuttlefish, seahorse, octopus, turtle, seal, dolphin; each finding their own way in the ocean according to their kind. Finally, from her little finger, a sea-mouse found its furry form, shimmering with iridescent colours as it squirmed beneath the waves.

All life in the sea, from coastal shallows to deep-water trenches, was born into being from the bountiful body of Sedna. Then, as her storm of creativity began to subside, she sank once more to the bottom of the sea; satisfied and spent of all her energy. But now in her deep, oceanic slumbers, she is surrounded by life and kept company by untold creatures...

Written by Martin Maudsley in response
to artwork, by Ilse Black.

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