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# Mission Blue

By Mark Monroe

Look at this.  
It's an ocean full  
of whale sharks.  
I can't even count  
the number of fins.  
Are we awake or are we...  
are we still dreaming?  
They've been living here  
for millions of years.  
We're newcomers in  
their backyard.  
I love being a part  
of their world.  
They're completely innocent  
of anything humans do.  
Since the oil spill, this  
group of whale sharks,  
the largest ever witnessed  
in the Northern Gulf...  
has not been seen there again.  
Guess we'll put this little...  
beast inside.  
There you go. Thank you.  
In the last few years, I'm on the road...  
probably 300 days out of the lot.  
And I give a lot of talks... some  
days just from dawn to dusk.  
I can't think of anything I'd rather  
be doing... other than diving.  
Aren't you a radical about  
protecting the oceans?  
If I seem like a radical, it may be  
because I see things that others do not.  
I think if others had the opportunity to  
witness what I have seen in my lifetime,  
what I see when I go diving  
and the perspective that I've gained  
from thousands of hours underwater,  
I would not seem like  
a radical at all.  
She has seen with her own eyes,  
parts of this Earth few  
others could even imagine.  
Sylvia Earle, this country's

foremost oceanographer,  
exploring depths thought  
impossible to reach.  
It's a pleasure to  
introduce a scientist,  
an engineer, a teacher  
and an explorer,  
Dr. Sylvia Alice Earle.  
I can see in my mind's eye...  
a different world,  
a world that's changed  
enormously just in my lifetime.  
Sixty years ago, when I  
began exploring the ocean,  
no one imagined that we could  
do anything to harm it.  
It seemed at that time  
to be a sea of Eden.  
But now, we're facing  
paradise lost.  
And this is not, "Woe is me,"  
this is just the reality  
of what's happening.  
But it's also the reality, we  
have a chance to fix things.  
Please welcome Dr. Sylvia Earle.  
On any given night,  
Sylvia Earle can be found  
in Norwalk, Connecticut,  
or Stockholm, Sweden, or  
Cape Town, South Africa.  
Her Deepness, Sylvia Earle.  
In Beijing, Belfast, Davos  
or the Galapagos Islands.  
Think of the changes  
that have occurred  
in the world in the lifetime of  
a 200-year-old orange roughly.  
But they don't know why  
their world has changed.  
And that's where I met her,  
at a sort of ocean summit.  
I'm a big scuba diver.  
I love the oceans.

I love them more now  
that I've met Sylvia,  
but, um, it's also people like...  
like you in this room  
that can save the ocean.  
The world's largest fishery was,  
and still the largest  
fishery in the US,  
is Alaskan pollock, and it's  
moving into the Arctic.  
Bluefin are pursued  
wherever they go.  
It's really wiping bluefin  
ecologically off the planet.  
If we fail to take care of the ocean...  
nothing else matters.  
I've been diving for  
over half my life now...  
but that is nothing  
compared to her.  
She's been exploring the ocean  
since before I was born.  
Sylvia, that turtle was a trip!  
- And she came back here.  
- Yeah!  
She went up, got a breath of air,  
came right back to that same place.  
I spent one week with  
Sylvia and I was hooked.  
- Gular flutter.  
- Gular flutter.  
How could I have not known  
who she was before?  
After the Galapagos trip,  
I really didn't wanna  
leave Sylvia's world.  
So I didn't.  
Is that her? Yeah, yeah.  
That's her.  
That's her. There she is.  
Thank you!  
What a beautiful place.  
What I didn't realize  
at the time...

was that this would be the beginning  
of a three-year odyssey...  
a chance to see the ocean and the  
world through Sylvia's eyes.  
Sylvia, the minute I met you,  
you became an example for me.  
Like, seriously.  
Just take me back to how  
you became so passionate  
about the ocean.  
Well, it all started  
in New Jersey.  
As a kid, I had complete freedom  
to go play in the woods,  
to spend all day out,  
just fooling around.  
On my own, often.  
I mean, a lot of the  
time, just on my own.  
Left bank, I'm  
waiting for someone  
Someone to be my friend  
My mother was known as the  
bird lady of the neighborhood.  
People would bring injured  
squirrels, birds, frogs...  
anything that needed help.  
Without you...  
My father, who was really so bright  
and so capable of fixing things.  
When I was a little kid, I'd try to take  
things apart to see how they worked  
and he always reminded me to save  
all the pieces, don't lose any,  
and be sure you know how to  
put it back together again.  
I can't hold the sun  
We're losing a lot  
of the parts...  
the loss of the diversity  
of life on Earth...  
the bits and pieces have  
just disappeared...  
and we don't know how to put things

back together again once they're gone.  
When I was 12, we picked  
up and moved to Florida.  
At first, I was not particularly charmed,  
because I loved the other place so much.  
But the Gulf of Mexico was  
this great blue body of water  
that created almost this mythic  
place that lured my parents there.  
Some kids play in the streets.  
Some kids have a backyard  
and my backyard was wet.  
It was the Gulf of Mexico.  
It was glorious.  
That's where I first fell  
in love with the ocean.  
I could see it. I could hear it.  
I could smell it.  
I could touch it.  
I could splash around in it.  
I loved when seaweed came  
ashore in huge amounts.  
It was like going to the zoo.  
I had fun finding these creatures...  
like little crabs.  
You could take them and then gently  
put them back into the ocean,  
and they'd scurry off.  
It was just heaven for a kid...  
for me.  
It will always be that way in my  
mind, it's just this paradise.  
Happening now, an  
explosion and fire  
devastate a massive oil rig  
off the Louisiana coast.  
Last week's deadly  
oil rig blowout  
remains unchecked tonight.  
And it's raising fears of an  
environmental disaster in the making.  
As long as the oil is flowing  
down here in the Gulf,  
this will simply keep growing

and growing and growing,  
and they have no idea  
where the end will be.  
How'd you feel? What was  
your first reaction?  
It was shocking.  
And it just got worse  
as the news unfolded.  
Of course, the tragedy was  
the human lives lost.  
Then this gush of oil wouldn't stop,  
wouldn't stop, wouldn't stop!  
When I was a child  
living in Florida,  
there was only one offshore oil  
well in the Gulf of Mexico.  
Today, there are more  
than 33,000 drill sites.  
All of us... we are the beneficiaries  
of having burned through fossil fuels.  
Coal, gas, oil.  
But at what cost?  
I really come to  
speak for the ocean.  
We put billions into what takes  
us into the skies above...  
and it's paying off handsomely.  
We've neglected the ocean...  
and it's costing us dearly.  
The thing that's impressive  
to me about Sylvia  
is that she's not afraid  
to point fingers...  
and say, "You know what you're  
doing, and it's wrong."  
You know, she's kind of the  
Joan of Arc of the oceans.  
- Go!  
- She's the one that's out in front  
leading the charge in the  
fight to save the ocean.  
And she's made it her life's purpose  
in the last couple of decades  
to make sure everybody else understands

what's going on and why it's important.  
It's life itself that the  
ocean is delivering.  
This is a turning point.  
If we continue business as  
usual, we're in real trouble.  
Her passion for the ocean  
comes from the fact that...  
like myself and like many  
of us who were young...  
in a younger world  
around the ocean,  
we saw a place that was  
more full of life.  
It was... beyond frustrating.  
It was agonizing.  
Because I know what's  
in the Gulf of Mexico.  
I just could flash back to times when  
I'd be diving in the Gulf of Mexico...  
when it was a place...  
an underwater paradise.  
And to know that it was vulnerable, that  
it could be right in the path of...  
of this...  
This avalanche.  
It's just hard to express.  
YOUR BOOK, THE WORLD IS BLUE: How  
Our Fate and the Ocean's Are One.  
That's a bold statement. My fate  
and the ocean's are the same fate?  
I don't live in the ocean.  
I ain't got gills.  
Why should I care about  
what happens in the ocean?  
It's deep, it's dark,  
people drown in it  
and it's full of sharks  
who want to eat us.  
Or don't you watch Shark Week?  
Yeah, I watch. But think of  
the world without an ocean.  
You've got a planet  
a lot like Mars.



No convenient life  
support system.  
Most of the oxygen that you  
breathe, that everybody breathes,  
is generated by the ocean.  
And it absorbs much of  
the carbon dioxide.  
In a way, we're all  
sea creatures.  
Every whale, dolphin,  
coral reef, whatever...  
they obviously need the  
ocean, but so do we.  
No ocean, no life.  
No ocean, no us.  
So were you that geeky  
girl in high school?  
The science nerd?  
I suppose, in today's terminology,  
I would be regarded as a geek.  
People sometimes have a hard time  
figuring out what they want to do.  
I always wanted to be whatever  
it is that a scientist does,  
I just didn't know  
what to call it.  
There's a little  
library in Dunedin...  
that I used to haunt.  
I'd sit on the floor and that's where  
I first saw a book by William Beebe,  
and became entranced with  
the idea of submarines.  
His book, Half Mile Down, it  
was published in the '30s...  
described how he and Otis Barton  
crawled into this little steel  
ball with a tiny window in it,  
and could look out and see what it was  
like a half-mile beneath the surface.  
What it's like in the deep sea  
with these sparkling creatures  
that illuminate the sea below  
where light penetrates.

So, I never got to meet William Beebe,  
but I regard him as a soul mate.  
Jacques Cousteau was able to  
vicariously, and sometimes directly,  
get people in the water.  
He got me in the water  
by inspiring me to say,  
"That's so cool! I wanna go!  
I wanna see it!"  
His Silent World made me  
want to see what he saw.  
To meet fish swimming in something other  
than lemon slices and butter on a plate.  
To actually go and witness  
this vast blue realm.  
Before the 1950s, diving had been  
very risky and experimental...  
until Cousteau invented  
the Aqua-Lung,  
and became one of the first  
to use a Self-Contained Underwater  
Breathing Apparatus, SCUBA.  
He showed how simple it could  
be to explore the sea.  
In the summer of 1953, I enrolled  
in a class in marine biology.  
My major professor  
somehow managed  
to get two of the very first  
scuba sets that were available.  
Come with me, my love  
To the sea  
The sea of love  
I want to tell you  
How much I love you  
It seemed so improbable. You  
can be underwater and breathe.  
Come with me  
Most of all, it was  
the gift of time.  
Be able to actually stay and watch  
the creatures that were there.  
And it made me want to always  
go deeper, stay longer.

Was there that moment,  
like in a movie,  
if we were in a movie of Sylvia  
Earle's life, like you're...  
- The "Ah-ha" moment?  
- Yeah, somebody puts...  
You put the mask on and you're  
seeing, and you're, like,  
"Oh, my God, this is what I wanna  
do with the rest of my life."  
- Is that what happened?  
- I already knew.  
In the water, anyone  
can be a ballerina.  
You can stand on one finger.  
You can do... back rolls.  
You can look as if you are... the  
most graceful creature in the world.  
And along the way you see all this...  
this galaxy of life.  
You know, it's  
just exhilarating.  
If I can do it... you can do it.  
I'm not Superwoman.  
I'm not big and muscular.  
My mother, at 81... put on a mask  
and flippers and took on the ocean.  
And then she would tell people,  
"If you are 81, don't wait any longer.  
Just do it."  
Thousands of delighted visitors  
are discovering the fun of a  
Florida Gulf Coast holiday.  
From the time I was a  
child, seeing Florida,  
what I thought was just  
wonderful wilderness...  
watching it change  
before my eyes.  
The Tampa Bay area  
is one huge resort  
with gleaming new  
hotels and motels.  
To watch Tampa Bay

getting dredged,  
taking what was a marsh and then  
putting a parking lot there,  
putting a housing  
development there.  
Watching the Weeki Wachee  
River as a witness,  
this crystal river... that starts  
with a spring like a morning glory.  
You look down, you see this blue throat  
that just seems to go into infinity,  
and then it spills out into a  
river that goes off into the Gulf  
in this water that's so clear it looks  
like there's no water there at all.  
And then development along the edge,  
just clouding that amazing water.  
The trees were starting to  
turn brown around the edge  
and all the grass was dead.  
It was...  
that kind of  
experience, a witness.  
I saw the before.  
I saw the after influence of what  
we can do to the natural world.  
The Gulf of Mexico is this  
extraordinarily wonderful,  
productive, magnificent place  
that had the misfortune of being  
right on top of a ton of oil,  
and being the sewer for the people  
of the United States of America.  
Call it the price of progress.  
For six decades, big agriculture  
and industrial farming  
have affected the Gulf of Mexico  
from hundreds of miles away.  
A little less than a third of all  
the corn grown in the entire world  
is grown in Iowa, Nebraska,  
Illinois, Indiana and Minnesota.  
That productivity is due to  
the application of humongous

quantities of nitrogen fertilizer.  
All that fertilizer runs off the land,  
makes it into the Mississippi River,  
comes down the river...  
fuels extraordinary population  
explosions of phytoplankton,  
the stuff dies, it rots.  
When something rots,  
it uses up oxygen,  
and then anything that is alive,  
like crabs, little tiny fish,  
they can't hightail it  
out of there, they die.  
They die from no oxygen.  
Boom, that's the dead zone.  
The Gulf of Mexico already hosts  
one of the most notorious  
dead zones on the planet.  
The Deepwater Horizon spill  
just made things a lot worse.  
Around the world, hundreds of dead zones  
have formed just in the past few decades.  
So let's be honest.  
You're 18. You're  
very beautiful.  
Aren't all your friends  
going off, getting married?  
And did that ever... No, you're  
like work, all about work?  
I'm not abnormal.  
Of course I enjoyed  
dating boys and so on.  
But I wasn't  
interested in anybody  
who wasn't interested in  
what I was interested in.  
It's just very self-centered,  
I suppose, but I just...  
Football-schmootball. I mean "Who  
cares about that?" I thought.  
I was attracted to the  
nerdy types, I suppose,  
who loved talking about the stars,  
about space, about animals,

or about diving.  
So, you had this sort of  
perfect, idyllic life  
with this man you loved.  
Jack Taylor and I got  
married in 1957.  
His first job was  
as a park ranger,  
and we moved from national  
park to national park.  
It was just a glorious  
couple of years.  
And he wanted to get his doctorate  
and I wanted to get mine.  
Then Elizabeth came along.  
This is such ancient history.  
Good heavens.  
The '60s, the '70s  
in all of history  
really stands out as a time  
of exceptional discovery.  
This is the first  
time an undersea boat  
has ever had an undersea base.  
We were exploring the ocean  
aggressively for the first time,  
and we were trying  
to go to the moon.  
Roger, the EVA is  
progressing beautifully.  
So it didn't matter which  
direction you were going.  
It was all great  
because either way you were  
going to a new and alien world.  
As a young scientist, this spirit  
of exploration was all around,  
and I wanted to be a part of it.  
And then came this opportunity  
to go on the International  
Indian Ocean Expedition in 1964.  
The other side of the  
world on a boat.  
But it'd mean being away

from home for six weeks.  
And my children were four and  
two, Elizabeth and Richie.  
I had never been west  
of the Mississippi...  
never been out of the  
country before then.  
And then I really went  
out of the country.  
Met the boat in Mombasa.  
I was interviewed.  
It was my first real  
experience with the press.  
They wanted to know,  
"Why are you here?"  
And somebody let it be known that I was  
the only woman... and all these guys.  
And the headline the next  
day, Mombasa Daily Times...  
- You did say seven-zero men?  
- Seven-zero.  
Oh, yeah. Big boat.  
United States participation  
in the biological program  
began by converting the former  
presidential yacht, Williamsburg,  
to an oceanographic ship.  
The purpose of the expedition  
back in 1964 was... to explore.  
"To explore." What a concept.  
It was to document the nature  
of what lived in the ocean.  
No one had been to the  
Seychelles diving.  
No one had been to  
Aldabra diving before.  
No one had been to a little  
island called Fungu Kizimkazi.  
It was really amazing.  
I think the biggest discovery  
that we made in the International  
Indian Ocean Expedition...  
was the magnitude of how  
much we didn't know.

During this cruise, a total  
of 16,000 pounds of fish,  
200 pounds of shrimp, nearly a ton  
of swimming crabs were caught.  
The sea at the time... seemed...  
endless in its capacity to yield  
whatever we wanted to take from it.  
And whatever we wanted to  
put into it, it was okay.  
You'd dump things in the  
ocean, deep-six things.  
It was the way to get  
rid of something.  
It didn't clutter up our backyard,  
our land, so it went into the ocean.  
Our aquatic backyard.  
I have yet to take a dive, even in  
the deepest dive I've ever made,  
and not see tangible  
evidence of our presence...  
to see trash, junk on the  
bottom of the ocean,  
two and a half miles down.  
Things collect there and  
just continue to gather.  
So at the surface and even raining  
down to the great depths below...  
our signature is there.  
It's not just dumping  
waste and garbage.  
Three, two, one...  
Between 1950 and 1998,  
there have been more than a  
hundred nuclear test blasts.  
Either underwater or on remote  
islands in the middle of our oceans.  
1964, when another  
opportunity came  
to go on the same ship,  
but in a different ocean,  
the southeastern Pacific,  
I... had to say yes.  
What about the kids? Were  
you worried about them?



Well, for me, life has always been  
a balancing act, if you will.  
But it was particularly  
true at that time.  
I think, for me, the stress  
was being apart from family,  
and of course as a mom with kids... but  
certainly with my husband as well.  
And maybe it was inevitable.  
We did come apart.  
You don't think about it as,  
"Well, I'm gonna be an explorer."  
You just... You become curious  
and you start to follow a path.  
Then pretty soon that path  
is leading you away...  
from all the other  
well-trod paths.  
Then you start saying,  
"Why am I doing this?  
I'm risking every  
relationship I ever had."  
And then you start asking this question  
that has no logical answer to it...  
other than the fact that  
there's something deeply woven  
in the fiber of our  
being as human beings,  
that we just have to know  
what's over the hill,  
or around the corner or beyond  
the edge of the lights.  
1964, I was in  
graduate school...  
and working on a dissertation.  
Gathering seaweeds from  
the Gulf of Mexico.  
I had a lab at home.  
I began assembling records of what  
kinds of plants live in the sea.  
I came to understand the beauty and  
the history and the importance  
of these marine seaweeds.  
And I haven't looked back. I

mean, they are the anchor.  
Can I ask you a question?  
When you say, "study seaweed,"  
what does that mean,  
studying seaweed, exactly?  
What does that mean? Like you  
pick up seaweed, you study it...  
Yeah, and it's like  
going to a place  
that no one has ever looked  
at what lives there before.  
So you're an explorer basically.  
You wanna find out  
who lives there,  
how many of what kind  
of creatures are there.  
Do they have names yet?  
And if not... let's find a  
name, let's make up a name.  
I spent years  
gathering seaweeds.  
Ultimately, I gave my plant  
collection to the Smithsonian.  
There are about 20,000 specimens of  
mine that have come to the Smithsonian.  
There's another big batch at the  
Farlow Herbarium in Harvard.  
This is one of my favorites. I did  
my dissertation on the brown algae.  
- Brown algae.  
- Brown algae.  
This goes back to 1955.  
Were you born then?  
Uh, I was not born, thank you.  
Here's another one. This is 1966.  
That's down in Sarasota.  
- This is the Gulf then.  
- This is Gulf of Mexico, right.  
Galapagos.  
Oh, I have so many amazing  
things from the Galapagos.  
Now this is... Ha!  
Oh, gosh.  
I'd like to go back and see if

these things are still there.  
I first got to see the  
Galapagos Islands in 1966.  
I was one of 12 scientists on this  
big ship that enabled us to dive  
for the first time  
in places that no one had  
been to underwater before.  
It was an enchanted kingdom...  
underwater.  
It was the sharkiest  
place I'd ever seen.  
Look over the side, it looked  
like somebody had taken  
a box of those wooden matches and  
just dropped them on the bottom,  
and every match was a shark.  
You could dive down among them.  
Sharks just  
Like this, serenely  
going around you...  
not paying any attention to you.  
But at the time, people thought  
sharks were the enemy.  
The only good shark  
is a dead shark.  
Shark, tiger of the sea.  
Of all sea terrors, the shark is  
the meanest, the most crafty...  
Uh-oh. That flashing  
white belly,  
that's no tuna, that's a shark.  
Our rights to the fish are being disputed  
by those savages of the ocean, the shark.  
But, in fact, that  
wasn't the real problem.  
Sharks were never after humans.  
Man or woman.  
We're not on their menu.  
But in today's world, millions of  
us are taking bites out of sharks.  
What's really tragic about it is they  
don't even bother to keep the shark.  
They just take the fins and throw

the shark back in the water...  
essentially to die.  
It's tens of millions  
of shark fins  
that are harvested every year  
for soup, principally in China.  
It essentially created an  
enormous hole in the ecosystem  
and the way the ecosystem works.  
Shark finning is one of the  
most barbaric examples  
of what we're doing  
to the ocean.  
But it's not just what's happening  
to the sharks that matter.  
The bottom of the  
ocean's food chain,  
plankton, as well as plants  
like algae and seaweed,  
generate more than half  
the oxygen we breathe.  
In the Galapagos Islands, there  
are some species that...  
that are missing.  
And there are new things that have  
come in that didn't exist before.  
If you don't have a record...  
you might speculate,  
you might guess...

- Right.

- ...but this is evidence.

- This is hard evidence.

- Beautiful evidence, too.

Brings back such great memories.

What was your second  
husband's name?

Giles Mead.

Okay, so how did you meet Giles?

I met Giles Mead at a  
scientific meeting about fish.

There is a society called the Association  
of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

That's a little weird, Sylvia.

I know.

They have annual meetings  
and whoop it up and talk about fish  
and snakes and lizards and things.  
We met at this meeting and  
just began talking...  
and we continued talking...  
and we were still talking

**at 5:**

And we agreed that we should  
continue the conversation.  
Got married in Harvard  
Chapel in December of '66.  
Did he have kids, too?  
Yes, he actually had  
three children.  
And then, in 1968, my younger  
daughter, Gale, was born.  
So we had his and hers and ours.  
Wow. The Brady Bunch.  
The most ambitious project  
yet in ocean research  
has just started here in the sheltered  
bay of a beautiful West Indian island.  
Called Tektite II, it's the underwater  
base for a research project  
being run by a group of  
American universities  
with United States  
government backing.  
When I was at Harvard in 1969, I saw  
a notice on the bulletin board.  
"How would you like, as a scientist,  
to spend two weeks living underwater,  
down in the Virgin Islands?" That was...  
the pitch.  
I'd already been diving a lot,  
more than a thousand hours,  
published a number of things,  
and it didn't occur to me  
that women need not apply.  
And Jim Miller, head of the program, who  
had to finally make the call, said,  
"Well, half the fish are female,

half the dolphins, half the whales.  
I guess we can put up  
with a few women."  
Now a team of divers will  
attempt to live for two weeks  
as quiet residents  
on the sea floor.  
Ironically, these aquanauts  
are not men with extraordinary  
physical endurance and stamina,  
but five young and  
attractive women.  
The world's first  
real live mermaids.  
Their leader is a renowned scientist, Dr.  
Sylvia Earle,  
a marine botanist and  
an experienced diver.  
And so they settle down with  
all the comforts of home...  
TV, refrigerators, and  
wall-to-wall carpeting.  
You're warm and dry  
while you're inside,  
but you slip through a hole in the  
floor and you're in the water.  
And we could be in the water  
10 to 12 hours a day.  
I felt like a kid in a candy store  
except that... everything was living.  
You're outside  
with the creatures  
and you just get to know  
them as individuals.  
You actually see this  
group of five angelfish  
that are always there first  
thing in the morning...  
and they have different attitudes,  
different personalities.  
That's, I think,  
what has given me  
a different perspective  
than most probably have.

Not just about the ocean, but about  
the creatures who live there.  
I went into the Tektite project  
as an ivory tower scientist,  
not really in the public eye.  
But Tektite changed everything.  
I...  
Had to get out of my shell.  
We had a parade down the  
streets of Chicago.  
Mayor Daley gave us  
the keys to the city.  
On To Tell The Truth, pick  
out the real Sylvia Earle.  
Sylvia Earle is number two.  
American woman  
Stay away from me  
American woman  
Listen what I say  
Sylvia Earle was a pioneer...  
invading the flannel shirt,  
bearded oceanographer image.  
There was a real sense that  
women simply couldn't do this.  
Well, they couldn't  
pick up the tanks!  
"You can't pick up  
that equipment.  
Here, let me help you with  
your gear, little lady."  
She really broke  
through the barriers.  
And for that, every woman scientist,  
for example, should be very grateful.  
Months later in California,  
Tektite II, the Virgin Islands  
and Greater Lameshur Bay  
are just memories as Dr.  
Earle, wife and mother,  
plays with her daughter Elizabeth,  
10, and her son Richie, 8.  
For Dr. Earle and her husband, Dr.  
Giles Mead,  
Director of the Los Angeles

County Museum of Natural History,  
Tektite II is a significant  
milestone in reaching...  
So you became sort of  
famous after this.  
I mean, you became a bit of  
a public face for science.  
And it was also great 'cause  
you were not only smart,  
but you were beautiful  
and you made that okay.  
Well, never occurred to  
me that it wasn't okay.  
What was tricky, let's say,  
difficult, if anything,  
was... trying to be a good  
mom, trying to be a good wife,  
trying to be good Mrs. Museum, Mrs.  
Giles Mead,  
trying to be presentable  
at black tie parties,  
trying to be good hostess,  
trying to be good scientist.  
It was... it was a tricky time.  
But, I mean, it's life.  
It's life.  
And so... so you're in LA, and  
how did it end with Giles?  
Expedition to the  
Comoro Islands in 1975.  
A team was put together,  
and Giles and I were to  
be a part of this team.  
We had our tickets, the  
bags were packed...  
and he said something had come up, that  
he would meet me there, "Go ahead."  
Time for his plane to arrive...  
and the plane arrived,  
but he wasn't on it.  
I figured, "Well, he must've  
been delayed somehow."  
And... he was delayed.  
He didn't come at all.



Being married to... a  
very famous scientist,  
who never understood  
the glass ceiling  
until, all of a sudden, she was better  
than everybody where she worked.  
That's really hard, you know?  
I felt the pain  
from time to time.  
Wanting to do things that were  
tough for me to do as a woman...  
because I was a woman, and not  
because I was a scientist.  
You can think of a thousand excuses  
why you can't do something.  
The trick is... to not let that get  
in the way of making things happen.  
Numerous people have told me  
that she's no June Cleaver.  
Yeah, she's not sort  
of the typical mom.  
You don't really expect that  
your mom's gonna come home with  
a five-gallon bucket of algae  
and recruit you out into the  
garage to start laying it out  
and show you the right way to label it  
and, you know, these sorts of things.  
Those aren't typical,  
so, you know...  
But it's what we always did.  
As a kid, we were constantly being  
yanked out of school mid-semester,  
and we'd travel with her  
kind of all over the place,  
wherever she would happen to go.  
We were able to get a  
broader education that way,  
even though it wasn't as  
traditional as... as most.  
When I came to the Caribbean as part  
of the Tektite mission in 1970,  
the reefs here  
were full of life.

Today... those reefs are gone.  
It's happening all  
over the world.  
About half the corals  
are gone, globally,  
from where they were  
just a few decades ago.  
The ocean is dying.  
You're saying that the  
oceans are in crisis.  
Yes.  
How so? What's... If they're  
so big, if they're so huge...  
'Cause they're the biggest thing  
on Earth, right? The oceans?  
We used to think there's  
nothing that we could do  
that could harm the ocean.  
And we tried, right?  
We tried pretty hard  
to harm the ocean.  
And it was frustrating us, so  
we upped the ante a little bit.  
There needs to be a  
real rethinking.  
Unless we just decide that  
nature is gonna be a museum  
in a few small places...  
what we really have to address  
is the problem of us.  
The biggest threat is there  
are far too many people  
and our appetites  
are out of control.  
Not just our appetites for food,  
our appetite for wood, our  
appetites for fossil fuels.  
The biggest problem is releasing  
carbon dioxide into the atmosphere  
that drives these great  
climate change events.  
Starting in 1980, we began  
to actually measure  
the amount of ice deliberately correlated

with the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere.  
It tracks. It tracks like this.  
The warming trends, CO2 in the  
atmosphere, the melting in polar ice.  
There's this cognitive link  
that people just aren't making about  
the role of ocean in climate.  
They don't understand the ocean is  
this great regulator of temperature,  
of the movement of heat  
around the planet.  
What we're doing to the ocean, what  
we're doing to the planet as a whole,  
comes back to us  
in bigger storms,  
more powerful storms,  
more frequent storms.  
Nobody wants that to happen.  
And if we don't want  
that to happen...  
we will make the connection between  
what we're doing to the living ocean  
and how that affects the predictability...  
of our future.  
Our relentless pursuit  
for oil and gas,  
for energy, continues to  
wreak havoc on our oceans.  
But ironically, it's  
these same industries  
that have led to breakthroughs  
in underwater exploration.  
There is a new tool in the sea.  
It moves with the ponderous  
rhythms of a mechanical monster.  
But actually, it is  
a new vehicle...  
a personal submersible.  
It can withstand water  
pressure to 2,000 feet.  
Normally, a diver making a  
six-hour dive to that depth  
would spend 20 days  
in decompression.

A diver using JIM for  
six hours at 2,000 feet  
can surface, open the  
hatch and walk away.

But now a new use for the  
JIM suit is to be tested.

Dr. Sylvia Earle is  
a marine biologist.

Great.

Her question...

"Can scientists use the JIM suit  
for dives beyond 1,000 feet?"

If successful...

she will be the first woman to walk  
the sea floor beyond 1,000 feet.

I've known Sylvia probably  
30-some-odd years.

I think I first met Sylvia in Hawaii  
when she was diving in the JIM suit.

I was working with Maui  
divers at the time,  
and so I just kind of hung around  
and helped out where I could.

Ready? Yes.

Let me close you up.

The JIM suit was mounted on  
the front of a little sub,  
and the idea was that the sub and  
Sylvia would descend together,  
with the sub being  
the safety mechanism  
in case something went wrong  
with Sylvia in the JIM suit.

Holokai, Holokai. We're  
neutrally buoyant.

Sylvia is secured and the divers  
are backing us off the LRT.

We are at 100 feet  
and going down.

All systems go.

Roger that.

Coming up on 1,150, Sylvia.

How's your systems?

Systems fine. I'll

give you a check.  
I see it! Oh! It's the bottom!  
It's that thing that  
explorers love to do,  
which is to just get as far  
away from humanity as they can.  
In a way, ironically,  
it puts you more in touch  
with your own humanity.  
Looking at a landscape  
that hasn't changed in  
billions of years...  
you just feel the sense that  
your lights only go so far,  
everything out beyond the  
lights is unexplored,  
it's still unobserved.  
So there's this almost egoless sense of...  
of humility  
before the vastness  
of the unknown.  
I had this great opportunity  
for two-and-a-half hours  
to walk around and explore  
the ocean 1,250 feet down.  
I asked them to turn off the lights so  
we could have a completely dark ocean.  
Except it wasn't  
completely dark.  
It was amazing.  
The astronauts on the  
moon, the first time,  
they could just  
look at each other.  
I was surrounded by creatures.  
Fish swimming by with little  
lights down the side.  
And there were thousands of  
sparkles and flashes everywhere.  
It was... I mean, I was...  
just like a little kid.  
And that must have been...  
Was that scary?  
No.

The scary part is always  
getting on the highway...  
...to drive to your submarine.  
We say we want to go to the moon, and  
10 years later, we're on the moon.  
Why can't we say now,  
"I wanna walk around  
at 37,800 feet,  
the bottom of the ocean,  
seven miles down"?  
And, "Let's do it."  
The JIM suit really  
fired in me...  
the desire to do something  
to make it easier,  
not just for me, but for everyone,  
to gain access to the sea  
because only 5% of the ocean,  
even today, has been seen.  
Let alone mapped and explored.  
And I began talking with an engineer who  
was associated with that project...  
and we got into a lively discussion  
about those claws on the JIM suit  
and I didn't realize he had  
actually designed them.  
I was so critical.  
I insulted him.  
"Oh, I thought I had  
a good manipulator  
and she says it's a stupid  
piece of machinery."  
And he went back to  
England where he lived,  
and what he came back with  
was absolutely magnificent.  
His name... Graham Hawkes, written...  
with such dexterity and finesse  
that he could have used  
the manipulator arm  
to sign a check that  
would've cleared the bank.  
I was... I was hooked.  
It was on this project that she

met her husband, Graham Hawkes.  
He is an engineer and inventor who  
defected from the aerospace field  
when he realized that the last frontier  
was not space... but the deep ocean.  
What I remember was  
Sylvia saying,  
"Why can't we go to the  
bottom of the ocean?"  
I'd spent, I think, five years getting  
from 1,500 feet to 2,000 feet,  
and here is Sylvia saying,  
"I wanna go to 37,000 feet."  
When Graham Hawkes and I  
first began collaborating,  
we wanted to go to  
the deepest sea.  
Well, I wanted to go anyway.  
And then, I'm thinking...  
"Lady, I can tell you all the  
reasons why we can't do it."  
And in the end, I knocked those  
reasons down in my mind,  
and I kind of thought  
maybe we could.  
So Sylvia inspired me.  
That was the way that worked.  
One thing led to another,  
and a system called the  
Deep Rover was born.  
And it's a beautiful system  
that I've had the joy of  
taking to full 1,000 meters,  
its full rated depth...  
and a little bit more.  
And until James Cameron  
came along with his system  
that went all the way booming down  
to seven miles, 11 kilometers,  
we had the deepest solo dives  
that anyone had achieved.  
You and Graham didn't have  
any children, did you?  
We had submarines.

Ten years later, parted ways...  
but our interest in  
actually accessing the sea  
and developing new  
technologies...  
I mean, it burned  
brightly in both of us.  
Sylvia started designing  
her own submarines.  
A company she founded  
designed the manipulator arm that  
was on the Deepsea Challenger,  
the sub that James Cameron used  
for his record-setting dive.  
Are you a little disappointed that  
Jim didn't take you with him?  
Of course I wanted to go...  
but, alas, it's a  
one-person system.  
The arm is right here.  
Here's your arm.  
I love the fact that we  
have better lights than...  
Sylvia was ready to volunteer.  
She said, "Fine, put me  
through pilot training."  
And the thing is, she's... you know...  
she's not but this high.  
So she's actually a better... a  
better deep aquanaut than I am.  
You know, she's more physically adapted,  
and she pointed that out frequently.  
"You know, I would be better  
in that sub than you."  
Tonight, I'd like to  
introduce you to someone  
who is way up at the top  
of my most admired list.  
She is Dr. Sylvia Earle.  
In 1990, Sylvia Earle received  
a presidential appointment  
that, for her, was the  
culmination of a life's work.  
She became the chief



scientist for NOAA,  
National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration.  
NOAA oversees the nation's  
coastal waters and fisheries.  
I loved the opportunity to be  
at NOAA as the chief scientist.  
I learned things there  
that I... that I couldn't know...  
from being a private citizen.  
I had a chance to see things  
that have changed my perception...  
of what's actually going on.  
I was right in the thick of the  
big Persian Gulf oil spill.  
I went over to the Persian Gulf  
on nine different occasions  
to try to make recommendations.  
Sylvia Earle is just  
back from assessing  
the environmental damage  
from the Gulf War.  
The environment really was shattered,  
air, land and sea. Of course, the...  
You know, it's very rare  
that you would have someone  
who is a great scientist  
who would also be...  
a successful administrator  
of an organization like that  
because you need to be able to kick  
political ass, have influence,  
and control the unruly  
bureaucracy of people  
who come from God only knows  
how many administrations,  
who think they know the truth,  
and they're gonna outlast you.  
And so they're just  
gonna stonewall.  
I went to one meeting of  
the fisheries council  
and... and I was never  
allowed to go again.

A document came across my desk saying that in 20 years bluefin tuna populations in the North Atlantic had declined by 90%. I found that shocking. And so, when I went to this fisheries meeting as Chief Scientist, I raised the issue. What are we doing to the tuna? Because if we're trying to exterminate them, we're doing a great job. We have to stop killing them. Well, that wasn't a popular view. That's when they started calling me The Sturgeon General. I wasn't really permitted to speak about the things that I knew the most about. I feel that I must resign, and as a private citizen, do what I can do with more flexibility, more freedom. Well... Much as I value the experience... it was stifling. I never deliberately said anything as Chief Scientist that I didn't believe, but I was asked not to speak on occasions because they knew what I would say. On the outside, you're free to go to places that I couldn't go... as a government official. I can be free to speak my mind. Not long after I left NOAA, I was in the Tokyo fish market. There's no place on the planet where more fish are brought from more places in the world than in Tokyo. Tons and tons of ocean wildlife extracted and consumed

just... year after year  
after year after year.  
It's hard to imagine that  
the ocean can continue.  
And then I saw rows and  
rows and rows... of tuna.  
There must be a thousand  
fish here or more.

- Giant bluefin.

- Yeah.

Oh...

Many of the tuna I saw back  
then were just babies.  
They hadn't even reached a point  
where they could start to reproduce.

And that was in the 1990s.

It's gotten so much worse.

If you go to Tsukiji today...  
the bluefin tuna being bought for  
restaurants all over the world  
are even smaller and younger.

We're fishing them to the  
very edge of extinction.

But I don't have to  
stop eating fish, do I?

Well, I have.

- You've stopped eating fish?

- I have, because...

'Cause you've been down  
there under the ocean  
and you've seen them do the  
dirty business, and you...

- I know too much.

- That probably turns your stomach on it.

But... I...

We eat a lot of fish. Fish is  
supposed to be the healthy food.

- That's the...

- I mean, how else am I supposed to  
get my mercury?

If we... if we went off of the major  
fish that we eat in the oceans,  
what... what should we eat? I  
mean, should we be eating...

We can't eat the cows, right?  
We can't eat the pigs 'cause those  
industrial farms hurt us, too.  
What's left? Invertebrates?  
You know?  
We're gonna have to give them a new name  
just to make us eat them, you know?  
The way we called Patagonian toothfish  
Chilean sea bass to get us to eat that.  
Orange roughy, the... what  
scientists call them, "slimeheads."  
- Slimeheads?  
- Mmm-hmm.  
So we changed the name  
to "orange roughy"  
- and then we started eating them?  
- That's right.  
Why don't we start calling...  
why don't we start calling  
earthworms Appalachian yard trout?  
- And then we'll just...  
- I like it. I like it a lot.  
...we'll start eating those  
and it'll be all fine.  
Fishing is one of the more important  
occupations along the coast.  
Strangely enough... the  
most important catch  
is not primarily a food fish...  
but the fabulous menhaden.  
An important marine  
industry has been developed  
based on the valuable oil  
extracted from the menhaden.  
Most people have never  
heard of menhaden.  
Menhaden used to be  
unbelievably abundant  
to the point that you  
just couldn't see through  
the schools of billions of fish.  
And now these guys come in  
and they suck up with their vacuum  
cleaner vast amounts of menhaden.

For what? For chicken feed.  
So that we can eat chicken  
that tastes like fish.  
We're so good at  
killing menhaden,  
so good at turning them  
into fishmeal and fish oil.  
My doctor tells me,  
"Take Omega-3 pills.  
They're very good for you."  
So what do I do?  
We don't have to kill fish  
to get the omega oils  
that we really value and  
that are good for us.  
We can get them from the  
plants that the fish eat.  
Fish don't make  
those oils anyway.  
You know, menhaden are really  
quite extraordinary fish.  
What they in fact act as is the...  
the kidneys of the ocean.  
They're cleaning up the water of  
excess phytoplankton and detritus.  
And then on top of that,  
they are the base of the food chain  
for bluefish and striped bass  
and all of these fish that are  
incredibly valuable, incredibly tasty.  
And as menhaden have disappeared,  
so have these very valuable fish.  
Once the menhaden are gone,  
the Chesapeake Bay will not  
be the same intact ecosystem.  
This is the face of industrial  
fishing in the Chesapeake Bay.  
Fleets of boats, spotter  
planes, and huge nets  
that capture entire schools of  
fish in a matter of minutes.  
Get 'em in there!  
Get in there! All  
the way in there!

You guys come on this side! Let's get...  
let's get in there.  
Back away! It's dangerous! Go away!  
Get out of there!  
- Here we go.  
- Got it?  
I've looked at any number of charts,  
graphs... numbers on a page.  
I've seen lots of photographs of  
industrial fishing operations.  
But to actually be in the  
water with the fish...  
It was surreal...  
to see those little  
fish captured  
in a way that is unlike anything  
in the history of the planet  
until we came along.  
For a moment... I felt as if...  
a piece of me was being ripped  
out of the ocean as well.  
Overfishing, it's an  
amazing phenomenon.  
Who would've ever thought  
that people would be able  
to fish so efficiently and so  
effectively and so strongly  
that we would reduce the stocks of  
these species that were present  
by the billions  
to the point of obliteration  
or near-obliteration?  
But we have done it systematically  
with enormous success.  
We've done it to Atlantic tuna.  
We've done it to sharks.  
We've done it to cod.  
We've done it to halibut...  
to anchovies, to  
herring, to sardines.  
We've done it to...  
just about every damn thing  
you would ever wanna eat.  
Good job, Bryce.

We have this idea, we humans,  
that the ocean is so big,  
so vast, so resilient,  
it doesn't matter  
what we do to it.  
That was... that was crazy.  
Our ignorance  
is really the biggest  
problem that we now face.  
We now can learn  
from the past...  
and as never before,  
do something about it  
before it's too late.  
Sylvia has a wish  
for the planet...  
what she calls her Mission Blue.  
And it's really very simple.  
Protect the ocean in the same  
way we now protect the land.  
In 1872, the United States began  
establishing a system of parks...  
that some say is the best  
idea America ever had.  
About 12% of the land around  
the world is now protected,  
but only a fraction of 1% of the  
ocean is fully protected globally.  
How did you come up with  
the idea for Hope Spots?  
On the land,  
people have recognized places  
that are in good shape,  
but they're under  
threat as hot spots.  
Hot spots.  
And I said, "Well,  
we need to do the same thing,  
of course, for the ocean...  
but why don't we call  
them Hope Spots?"  
Because, if we take  
action, recovery,  
we're at least making them better

than they otherwise would be...

Cause for hope.

She's just asking people  
to do everything in their power to  
preserve large portions of the ocean.

Not pin pricks, but large  
portions of the ocean.

That's a reasonable wish.

The biggest thing we've done to  
change the oceans to date...

is kill things that live there.

And if you can say, "In this place,  
we're not going to do that,"

that's really worth doing.

You know, the Hope Spots  
can't just be pretty places.

The Hope Spots have to be places  
where the potential is identified,  
the threats are identified...

and some kind of concrete  
action is taken.

This is Cabo Pulmo, Mexico.

For more than a century, it was  
a thriving fishing village...

and then the tourists came...

and then the sport fishermen...

and then the industrial fleet  
with their long lines and nets.

By the 1980s, so much had been taken  
from the surrounding water...

that nothing was left.

In 1997, the people who live  
here took the ocean back.

Together they created a Hope Spot  
70 square kilometers around,  
making it completely off limits to  
fishing and dumping and drilling.

Okay, come on, come on, come on.

Since the protected  
zone was established,

Cabo Pulmo has replaced  
fishing with ecotourism

and the community is thriving.

Well, how is it possible that



this is our first dive together?

- I don't know, but it's true.

- It is true.

It is absolutely true.

The idea of protecting the  
ocean to bring back the fish

is an idea whose

time has come...

and it's beginning to

work all over the world.

A Hope Spot is a place that

gives you cause for hope.

It's a big chunk of the planet... or

it can be a relatively small place.

Like Cabo Pulmo...

where... conscious

efforts have shown that

if you make an investment...

care for a place...

it can recover and be

a symbol for hope.

Bueno?

Yeah, it's pretty amazing.

I think I wanna be a jack.

- You what?

- I think I want to be a jack.

You wanna be a jack?

Every place, even the small  
places, make a difference.

But we need to scale up.

We need to think big.

Sylvia has invited me to join her

on a mission to Australia...

already home to one of the

largest Hope Spots in the world.

She's here to campaign for

one that's even bigger.

Whilst we were running this campaign, the

Global Census of Marine Life came out,

and it showed that Australia

had more marine diversity,

more marine species than any

other country in the world.

Like, 95% are just found there

and nowhere else on the planet.

Yeah, I was gonna say that.

- That's amazing!

- Yeah.

Sylvia wanted to  
take me to a place  
she'd been before  
in the Coral Sea...  
more than 100 miles out  
into the open ocean.

Australia is a leader in terms of  
establishing protection for the sea,  
starting in the mid-1970s  
with the establishment  
of the Great Barrier Reef  
Marine Park Authority...

and more recently, a  
designation of the Coral Sea,  
a large area that basically  
hugs the Great Barrier Reef.

My first glimpse of the  
Coral Sea underwater  
was in the 1970s.

It was really pristine,  
in the sense that little fishing had  
taken place there at that time.

There are still large  
areas of the Coral Sea  
that are untouched  
and unspoiled.

But making it a no  
catch, no dump zone  
is the kind of insurance that  
is needed to keep it that way.

- Looks beautiful though, huh?

- Sure does.

You can kind of tell  
why nobody's out here.

It's so far.

We've come out all this way  
and all we find are ruins.

The place Sylvia remembered  
so vividly is gone.

I am driven by what I know...

by the reality...  
as a scientist looking...  
at the evidence...  
that my species, the world  
I know, the world I love,  
is in trouble.  
People I know and love... may not  
realize how much trouble we're in.  
- So that's the Coral Sea, huh?  
- Yeah.  
- Lot of dead coral, though.  
- Yeah.  
- Still not many fish.  
- No.  
Not one shark. Not even one.  
- Not one shark.  
- No barracuda.  
We were hoping for the  
schooling barracuda here.  
No fish. I mean...  
You... you were  
expecting more, right?  
Oh, heavens yes. Hoping for it.  
Just never thought, way out  
here, we'd have no fish.  
No.  
Do you think it was bleaching  
and just the world of...  
The world is changing.  
Half the coral reefs  
around the world are gone.  
So we're lucky to see  
what we did see.  
Wow.  
Coral reef is like a city.  
It's not just the buildings.  
New York needs its taxi drivers.  
It needs its doctors.  
It needs the teachers.  
It needs all the pieces that  
make the system function.  
The corals need the fish.  
The fish need the coral.  
You take the fish

away, the corals die.  
You take the corals  
away, the fish die.  
We can do things to the ocean.  
We will do things.  
But first we ought  
to think about  
how can we use the ocean  
and not use it up.  
So, Syl, the corals just didn't  
look good or they... they were...  
No, the living stuff  
was mostly young.  
Nothing old that...  
Well, the reef... the  
reef here were big.  
Coral's what you expect  
to see in the Coral Sea.  
And we're in the  
middle of nowhere.  
- That's what's so...  
- I know this is...  
- We're in the middle of everywhere?  
- Middle of everywhere.  
- Okay.  
- Okay.  
- Thanks, Sylvia.  
- Yeah.  
Sylvia, I honestly have  
never met anyone like you.  
Your energy, your  
tenacity, your passion...  
It's... It's inspiring.  
Do you ever have that moment  
where you say to yourself,  
"I'm not gonna do it today. I'm  
gonna just take the day off"?  
If you saw a child  
falling out of a  
10-story window,  
and you have the ability to  
reach out and catch him,  
you do everything you can to  
position yourself to catch him.

You don't take a break and say,  
"Oh... while the child is  
falling out of the sky,  
I'm gonna go over..."  
No, you're there 24/7.  
You're there every... with every  
ounce of what you've got.  
You want to save that child.  
Looking up from underneath  
Fractured moonlight  
on the sea  
Reflections still  
look the same to me  
As before I went under  
And it's peaceful  
in the deep  
Cathedral where you  
cannot breathe  
No need to pray,  
no need to speak  
Now I am under all  
We're not out of the game yet.  
We could still win this thing if  
we were able to turn it around.  
We've just got to get out there  
and make the public aware  
of what's happening  
and make them care about  
what's happening.  
We've got to really rewire  
the way human beings look at  
our relationship to nature.  
And the arms of the ocean  
Are carrying me  
And all this devotion  
Was rushing out of me  
In the crushes of heaven  
For a sinner like me  
But the arms of the  
ocean delivered me  
In the same way that  
humans have the ability  
to consciously shift the balance  
of the Earth, which we've done,

we also have the capacity and  
capability of stopping it.  
We can shift it. We have to.  
It just... It has to happen.  
What we have on Earth  
is all we'll ever have.  
We need to remember that.  
The sad fact of it is that...  
the ocean could be empty and  
it would still look the same.  
It's a very hard thing to  
convey what's happening,  
how it will affect  
you personally.  
And so as the ocean is being  
emptied, and as the ocean is dying,  
the surface looks the same,  
the waves look the same.  
If I could be born  
anywhere in time,  
it would be now.  
It would be now because this is the  
time, as never before, that we know.  
We understand what we  
didn't know 50 years ago.  
If we wait another 50 years...  
opportunities we now have will be gone.  
This is the moment.  
Our decisions, our actions will  
shape everything that follows.  
How much do I love you?  
I'll tell you no lie  
How deep is the ocean?  
How high is the sky?  
How many times a day  
Do I think of you?  
How many roses  
Are sprinkled,  
sprinkled with dew?  
How far would I travel  
To be where you are?  
How far is the journey  
From here to a star?  
And if I ever lost you

How much would I cry?  
How deep is the ocean?  
How high is the sky?  
And if I ever lost you  
How much would I cry?  
How deep is the ocean?  
How high  
Is the sky?  
How high is the sky?