

## *As a Captive She Swims Uncorrupted, but Alone*

“We are very proud to have her here, because she is the only manta in captivity in the western hemisphere.”

—Spokesperson for Atlantis Resort in Nassau

As a captive she swims uncorrupted, but alone.

Great manta-wings that once propelled her perfectly through warm seas now make small, graceful arcs on our conscience.

She knows that there are no queens in a pelagic sisterhood, that they were all at risk, and even now cannot hold a grudge.

While we appreciative beasts ooh and ah boastfully through the glass, she isn't thinking of freedom or retribution— only this: that the loneliness living in her is a heavy price to pay for being more alive in her element than we are in ours.