# Where Water Meets Memory: A Life Shaped by Water

**By: Coco Kennedy and Grace West**



Growing up in New Jersey, water was always apart of Maya Glenn's life–whether it was in the ocean or the countless hours she spent training as a competitive swimmer. Moving to Texas for college meant leaving that behind Now, in Barcelona, she's back by the water. Barcelona, Spain. Mar.  13, 2025.

**Kennedy & West:** "You've spent most of your life around water, what does being near water in Barcelona again mean to you?"

**Glenn:** "It honestly feels like home. Water, whether it be the ocean or a pool, has always been a constant in my life. When I moved to Texas, I didn't realize how much i would miss it. For me, being back near the ocean is one of the best parts about studying abroad here."

Water has shaped her in more ways than one. Growing up near the ocean and competing in swim taught her lessons that still guide her today, even as she embraces a new life in Barcelona. Mar. 13th, 2025



**Kennedy & West:** “Growing up around water and swimming competitively, how has that shaped the way you approach life today?”

**Glenn:** “It’s definitely taught me how to stay disciplined and keep pushing through challenges. Swimming taught me that you can’t always control everything but you can control how you react. That mindset has stuck with me.”

From the pool to the shore, water has always given Glenn a sense of clarity and strength. Now, as she navigates life in Barcelona, it continues to be a grounding force. Mar. 13th, 2025.



**Kennedy & West: “**Now that you are back near water in Barcelona, how do you feel in influences you everyday life?”

**Glenn:** “It makes me really happy honestly. It also makes me calm in a sense. It reminds me that not everything has to be fast-paced. It reminds me to just slow down sometimes.”

The first thing that she does when she gets to the beach–is to take it all in. The ocean isn't just a place, it's a moment to pause. Mar, 13th. 2025



**Kennedy & West:** "What is the first thing you do when you get to the beach?"

**Glenn:** " Most of the time I will just stand there for a second and take it in. It always clears my head no matter the day I'm having."

Being by water isn’t just about the view, it’s about feeling at home. After spending time away from the coast, she realized how much it influences her mood and mindset. Mar 13th, 2025.



**Kennedy & West:** “Do you feel any different when you’re living near the ocean?”

**Glenn:** “Yes 100%. I noticed that I didn’t appreciate it until I was away from it. But when I’m near the ocean I feel more like myself. I love going to college in Texas but it was a weird adjustment.”

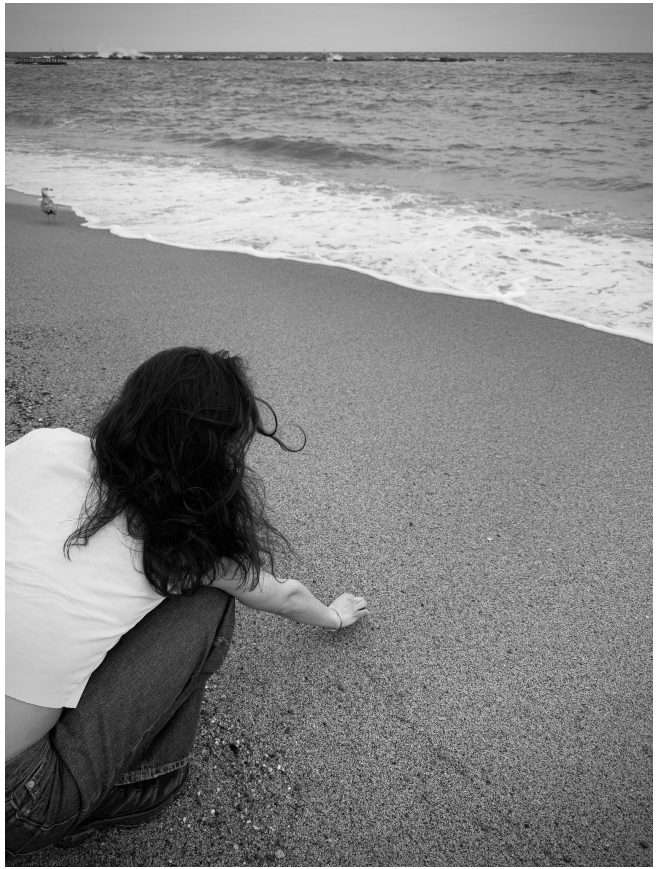
Water has always been part of her life, but now it’s less about competition and more about connection. Living by the ocean, she’s approaching it in a new way. Mar. 13th, 2025.



**Kennedy & West:** “Has your relationship with the water or the ocean changed over time?”

**Glenn: “**Definitely. I think I’ve learned to just appreciate it more. I can now enjoy it in a more leisurely way compared to when I swam competitively in high school.”

Water has always been a constant in her life, from childhood until now. No matter where she is, she always sees herself gravitating towards the water. Mar. 13th, 2025.



**Kennedy & West:** “Do you think that you will move back to the coast after you graduate college?”

**Glenn:** “I don’t really know where I’m going to end up after graduating but being near the water is definitely somewhere I would love to be.”