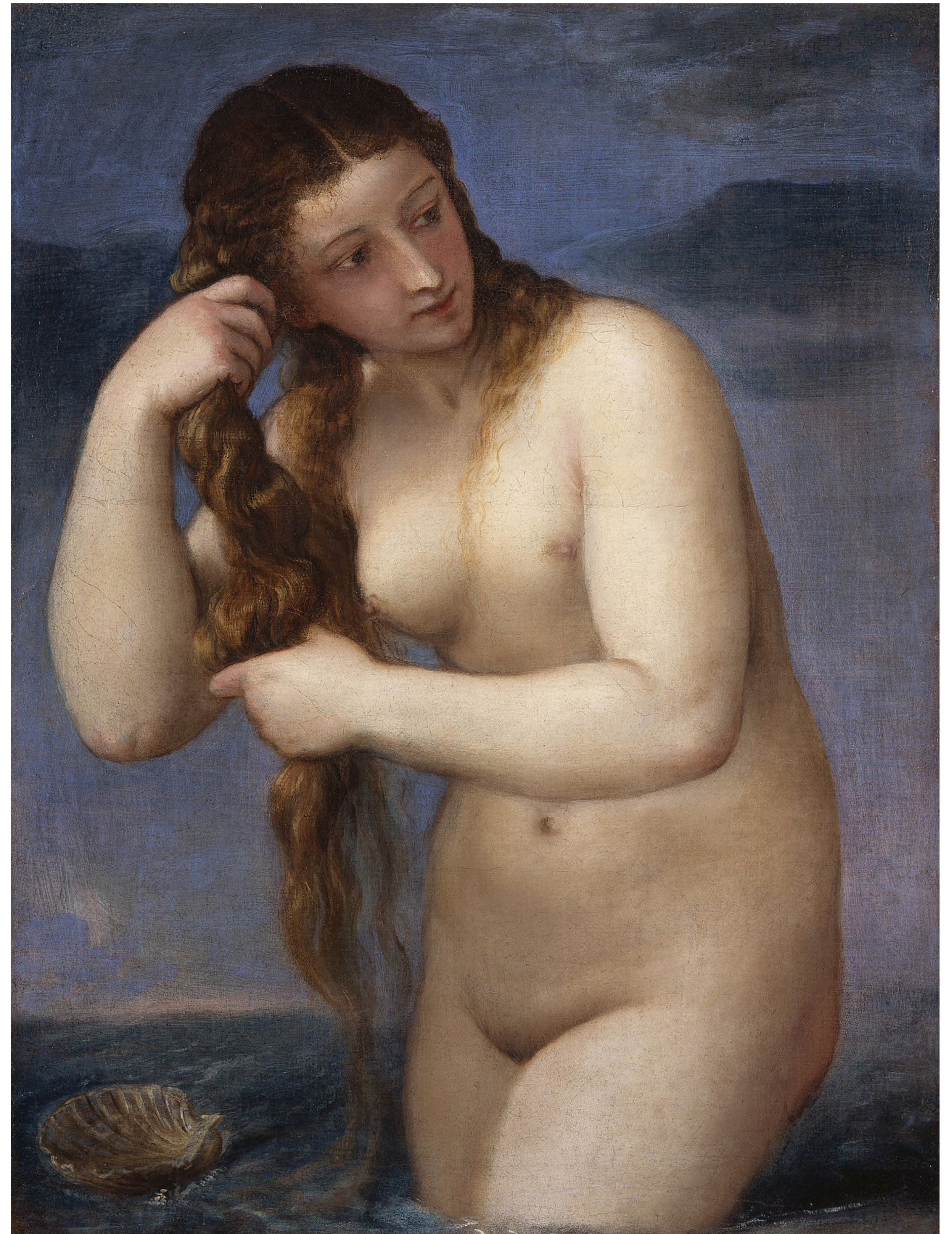


# “The Call”

They are experiencing higher call volume than usual. You wonder why. Was it a full moon 2 weeks + 6 days ago? Four bucks off decent cab sav at the government liquor store. People forgot the planet was on fire and then people remembered again. They are sorry about the wait time and your call is very important to them. The voice that eventually picks up is chipper in a way that feels almost irreverent. This is probably better than the alternative but you're still a bit weirded out by it. They are fully booked until the Tuesday after next. Yes, they're right, you are amazed at how common this is. 7 weeks by then. Still straightforward. Routine. Very safe. They don't have to sell this to you, you're the one that called them. Is morning or afternoon better for you? You'll need to have somebody to take you home or they can call you a taxi. They aren't allowed to let you drive yourself home, legally. Can they leave a message on your answering machine if they need to get ahold of you? Does anybody still have an answering machine? The chipper voice thinks this is hilarious but still needs an answer. Yes, that's fine. How are you feeling about your decision? They have someone there, if you need them. To talk to, they mean. It's normal to have a wide range of emotions. It can help to talk to someone. You're okay but thank you. Thank you.

By Katie MacKenzie



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