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## SANDRA ALLAND

### The Rise of the Progressive Conservatives

They're burning witches again  
(I can smell it from my  
kitchen window at night.)

Barbecued women  
always clog my sinuses.

*Sandra Alland's poetry has been published in Fireweed, The Lazy Writer, and Black Cat 115.*

## SHARON SINGER

### raising daughters

face it, I told myself early on  
you'll never get it right  
won't find the perfect balance  
that spotlights each snare  
sustains ordinary job and uncommon bliss  
hell, who of us doesn't know  
there's a land mine  
on the front doorstep;  
does our world really need more  
fearful human beings?

trust yourself  
I tell each daughter  
what do you feel in the centre of you?  
there's a voice  
in your belly, by your spine  
on your tongue  
find it  
count on it  
nothing will guide you as well

times will be wondrous  
I tell them  
predict nothing less  
things will get messy  
I tell them  
depend on it  
you'll be broken, betrayed  
trust yourself through it all  
when confused and undone  
trust yourself still  
in the unknowing, honour yourself  
it's a certain way through

*Sharon Singer's poetry has appeared in numerous publications in Canada and the U.S., including Sunstone, Canadian Literature, and Writing For Our Lives.*