

## A. MARY MURPHY

I want to know the story of abandoned underwear  
panties, briefs, boxers  
if a humiliation or an ecstasy has occurred  
in this doorway at the bus stop  
right in the middle of the street  
every pair of underpants has a story  
narrative threads  
I find it difficult to pick up

*A. Mary Murphy is a Canadian poet. She has a Ph.D. in English and currently teaches creative writing at the University of Winnipeg. Her poems have been placed in numerous journals in Canada and also in Australia, England, France, the United States, and Wales.*

## MADELINE SONIK

### Fade

The gentle cows kicked  
against  
their circles of shadow  
shouting for me to turn on  
lights  
moments before I played in  
gold  
forgetting  
I had run from the barn  
fearful of darkness too.

My father never heard cows  
shouting  
he was deaf to certain sounds  
a stranger in the world  
of beasts he'd set  
his life upon.

Each night and day was the  
same  
to him, each season  
merging cows and children  
dragging like plows over  
fields.

His hands  
never felt fear or  
knew the white-faced cows'  
uneasy wonder  
at blackness.

His hands  
never touched  
sadness and never  
called for light to come  
into the world.

*Madeline Sonik's publications include the children's novel Belinda and the Dustbunnys (Hodgepog Press), the novel Arms (Nightwood Editions), and the short story collection Drying the Bones (Nightwood Editions).*

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