

sparrow

Sarah Klassen

first light bounces off the breakfast plates
morning a-sparkle with dew-diamonds
in the grass the lilac bush alive with twittering
sparrows this dear dear planet our only
earthly home so beautiful

so utterly unsafe we must with all
our hearts defend it post 9/11 against mail bombs
potentially deadly in-flight incidents sabotage
of vital government institutions installations plans plots
stock-piles gun-smuggling drug wars we must devise
fail-proof strategies commit ourselves in trust to those
with mighty power to save us those we may place
utter faith in presidents the secret service interpol
we will be vigilant build concrete walls fences
checkpoints no expenses spared no sacrifice too much
our safety top priority a sacred duty we will give
ear to urgent emails tweets from vendors of home
systems phone calls at breakfast noon supper
we won't give up, won't be distracted

a bedraggled sparrow
titters in the lilac bush ○
tiny sparrow
cruel winds are blowing
blowing
who will shelter us

About the poet

Sarah Klassen lives and writes in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Her most recent poetry collection, *A Curious Beatitude*, received the Canadian Authors' Association award for poetry. Her next collection is scheduled for publication in 2012.