

I LEARNED HOW TO FIGHT I'M THINKING AS MY MOTHER
TELLS ME WHAT MY SISTER GOT FROM HER

Don't let the rocking
chair rock or

someone will die
I learned to connect
money and love even

when I don't want to.
Put a piece of thread

in your mouth if you
sew something while
its on otherwise

you sew your own shroud.
Men like a hard time.

I know it's not true
but I believe throw
salt over my shoulder

think how I shouldn't
water the plants
when I bleed and

wait for rain when
I kill a daddylonglegs.

FRIDAY

rain all morning

applewood burning
mist i'm curled

under the blue quilt

the tin roof sounds
like someone dropping

diamonds on it

I HATE THE WAY YOU

worry about what
people will think
tho you pretend not to
are unsure which
black dress is right
just to go to the
A and P. When you are
sure you've lost yr
keys money glasses
I groan, you don't
see me drive back to
my own house to
check doors, ovens
the cat. It makes me
angry to see you
panic when I'm not
home reminds me of
how I called my uncle
when your phone rang
and rang. My nose
is my father's and I'm
tall but I've a fear
of bad teeth dream
of teeth. It makes
me mad to see you
put 4 sugars in
your coffee. It's
the ways we are so
much alike that
are hard to forgive.

-- Lyn Lifshin

Niskayuna NY