

Two Poems

Katherena Vermette

selkirk avenue

1

thrush

girl walks up
selkirk avenue
head down
body huddled
into herself
shakes with winter
squeezes
her arms around
an oversized
grey sweater
as if she could
hide and not feel
the cold

2

robin

girl stands on
selkirk avenue
head down
her body cries
like a baby alone
paces
a round circle way
too young body squeezed
into too tight clothing
breathes out
with her whole chest
puffed out bright
and red
as if she's
beautiful
as if she's
proud

Two Poems

3

hummingbird

girl drives down
selkirk avenue
looks forward
as if she doesn't
look at all of them
they won't be there
doors locked
too loud music
drowns all the voices
outside
like her windows
are tv screens
and the other girls
on the street
are just a show

go

one evening
her eyes
will gaze up
into the pink
of a darkening sky
and she will
raise her arms
like a lark
to the wind while
the trees wave
her on

and she will just
let go

Katherena Vermette is a Metis writer of poetry and fiction. Her work is increasingly visible in literary magazines and anthologies, including *Manitoapow – Aboriginal Writing from the Land of Water* (Highwater 2012). Vermette is an active member and coordinator of the Aboriginal Writers Collective of Manitoba, teaches in the Winnipeg community, and is currently completing her Master of Fine Arts (UBC). Her first full-length collection of poetry, *North End Love Songs*, came out in Fall 2012 (The Muses' Company).