



YWCA
EDMONTON

A TURNING POINT
FOR WOMEN

All in a Day's Work

Lori D. Roadhouse

Today
a child tells me
 My new baby sister is living
 in the clouds now
My knees buckle
this child is so matter-of-fact
with this bluntforce trauma of life and
death
a fact that few adults can face with such
honesty
openness and innocence

Today
a child tells me
 A boy was bullying me
 and it made me feel kind of sad
 and mad
and then with a feisty twinkle says
 Because you're supposed to be mad at
 them!
It takes my breath away
her insight and wisdom
her self-esteem blossoming before me
as she shares this tidbit of playground
street smarts

Today
a child tells me
 I was scared when I couldn't find my
 mom
 but then she came home when it was
 dark
 and I didn't tell her that I was hungry
 because she was sad
My heart breaks
for his empathy and maturity

his isolation and emptiness
How old his soul is in first grade

Today
a child tells me
 When I was little my daddy threw me
 and I hit my head against the wall
 so we moved and that's why my name is
changed
 because we don't like him anymore
And my soul shatters
for his
already precarious
running scared from living demons
who are supposed to protect him

Today
a child tells me
 Teacher, I love you
And my heart swells
because I know this child
is grasping
needing and wanting
something that has been out of her reach
for most of her six years

My eyes meet hers
face value
no hesitation
I reply
 I love you, too

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