**No Shoes**

There’s a man with no shoes  
And he loves his wife  
There’s a man dressed in blue  
With a badge  
And he punches his wife  
In a fight  
And he’s sure his manhood  
Is dignified

There’s a king  
And they bow.  
There’s a president  
Dropping cluster bombs  
Right now  
And children running  
For their lives  
Never mind  
What it means  
To be dignified

And we might die  
Of a heat stroke  
Or worse  
Or hypothermia  
Or dehydrate  
From the drought  
That we helped bring about  
Still we haven’t figured out  
How to account  
For the shared state  
We’re in  
Of vulnerability  
Of shared humility  
Exposed

300  
Million  
Children  
Can’t breathe  
300 million  
Did you read the report  
The air’s too sick  
In case you missed it  
It’s the state we’re in  
Exposed

And there’s water that stinks  
It’s too toxic  
To drink  
And it’s all so wretched  
Incomprehensible  
And we keep asking  
Why does anyone keep  
Pretending  
It’ll all be ok  
No it won’t

[Bonnie Selterman]