

**Motherhood**- 1995*LAURA SMITH*

fly no mosquito no alarm clock babies  
wail no they are not babies  
anymore and is all this  
whining absolutely necessary i  
mean come on you are old enough to fix  
your own breakfast find matching socks  
write poetry kiss boys **WHAT DO**  
**YOU MEAN EMILY**  
**WAS FRENCH KISSING**  
i think a nice little boarding school  
with no boys within 100 miles  
is in order here  
you are 11 years old what do you know  
about relationships  
life anything you still call out for  
your mommy after nightmares and painful  
dental procedures besides where would  
you go  
you can't even drive  
you don't even have a job who would hire  
a 13 year old brat what color is your hair now

**TURN OFF THAT NOISE  
NOW I'M TRYING  
TO WRITE  
A POEM**

i don't care  
i gave birth to you  
didn't you asked to be born all right  
all that kicking and thumb sucking  
on the sonogram  
all three of you asked for it  
taking and taking until there's none  
left for me so yes i am  
ignoring you on purpose  
i'll drive you to the mall school  
movies canada  
later when i've unwound from work yes  
i have to go you enjoy eating  
and heat far too much for me  
to stay and hold you  
in my lap you're too big your butt  
is crushing my leg get up the hospital  
is on the phone everybody wants  
a piece of me i wish i would  
wake up  
in a disney movie where the bad guy

always gets it in the end how do i  
know i'm not  
the bad guy  
here come sit in my lap i'll find  
your socks  
and take you where you want  
to go and live only  
to serve you