

Lessons from Voltaire

by Rachel Blythe

In school,
I learned that
In many Native Americans' creation stories
We come from
Feathers
Mud
Sky
Earth
Ocean

But why do we
Fail the Future
Murder for Money
Slaughter the Sacred
Exile the Extinct
Overdose on Optimizing Ownership

Mother Earth

Noun.

Soil is stable, strong, superabundant

Mother Earth

Verb.

Saving our surroundings from sufferings

I am the daughter of an oil and gas worker

I am not proud of it

I am ill

Of the

Poisons in our water

Poisons in our sky

Poisons in our minds

The air we breathe in is ill

The sounds we hear is noise

The water we drink is vulgar

The actions we take is poison

Earth is screaming
But the uproar from the oil drillings
And the commotion from the white-collars
And the babbling from the nonsense news
Are silencing it

Mother Earth

Noun.

Soil is stable, strong, superabundant

Mother Earth

Verb.

Saving our surroundings from sufferings

Still saving us

Still strengthening us

Still searching for us

If we retreat back to our garden

And Cultivate with Candide.