



## The Girl Singer: Poems

**Marianne Worthington**

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Poetry is always looking for voices from the wilderness, and with her country music cool, Southeastern Kentucky's Marianne Worthington is a fitting, masterful voice for Appalachia. Her work has appeared in *Oxford American*, *CALYX*, *Grist*, and other publications.

*Corvus*

*My mother works the crossword while we wait  
for my father to die. I imagine  
his father, with his pretty fiddle, his  
hateful temper, standing on death's logging  
road to meet his son. My daughter's nightgowns  
flutter forgotten on the clothesline.  
In sleep, she is my mother reborn.  
Ready or not, our days begin on black  
wings and end the same. The crows strut and squawk  
their dim song. Caw! is a three-letter word  
for mockery. Into our yard they come  
marching like drunken soldiers. Mother hates  
this murder but feeds them stale bread, knowing  
they steal our brightest treasures for their nests.*

MATT SUTHERLAND (November / December 2021)

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