

*Sheri Radford*

## Outline

under her fingernails, pasta bits catch  
as she scrubs and scrubs  
hard spaghetti sauce off plates  
remnants of her Valentine's day

dinner was the gift she gave  
a messy kitchen was the gift she received

she rubs a soapy finger on her itchy nose  
then scrubs and scrubs at the plates

she can make out traces of dinner on the floor  
splatters of sauce

if she chalked an outline around the splatters  
they'd almost form a person  
a complete person  
who would have bought gifts and roses  
and heart-shaped boxes of chocolates