

Neon Generation  
Diana Sunder

We know we want to be in love but I think that might  
be all we know how to do. I don't know how to  
fill in a checkbook and I can't  
drive a stick shift but I promise! I will love you enough

to make up for the fact that I bought an automatic.  
I think I would be great at making documentaries but sometimes I  
don't remember what my name is – I am very good at putting on makeup  
but I need you to like me

without it. All I want is to be  
in love but we've been taught to shoot  
from the hip and keep running–  
I never bothered to learn how to read

a cookbook and now there is no one here  
to wait on the microwave. No one  
told me until much too late: the only way out, the only way  
up is to burn

with souls like firecrackers and we'll go spinning  
off into the atmosphere and we won't ever have to come  
down– maybe that's how  
we were supposed to be but I've shot you full

of pepper and hate mail instead, (I never did learn how to read  
very well) and we end gingerly  
on the floor with cracks running  
through us and sorrowful whispers–

We're sorry.  
We broke everything.