

# Periodical Poetry.

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## Poet's Panel

### Again We Rise

Sometimes alive is a thing that happens  
after the blue – the pale face baby  
light skin,  
the deep trench of sadness, the  
drowned  
boy in public pool dripping cheese  
fries  
and slurpee and no swimming  
lessons.

Sometimes alive is what follows  
abortion,  
what follows funeral, after loss has  
lapped at you like a river until you  
walked  
out of its pull. A hunger, a  
compulsion,  
like the tide, the sun - insistent,  
incessant.

-Jonie McIntire

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*\*line breaks/format may be altered from original to fit page.*

Check out [joniemcintire.net](http://joniemcintire.net) for more of her work & to keep track of her monthly poetry events:  
Uncloistered Online and  
Uncloistered Live.

### Eternal Optimist Sifts Through Maddening Times

In typical times we are not without some mess we know we must clean. Well, friends, these are not typical times, and shit's real messy. Jonie's poem *Again We Rise* makes me feel a little more at ease about my own messes. She reminds me that what doesn't absolutely end me holds a promise of...something; and within that something is a seed that needs fed. The way she writes of choice and loss, freedom and death, feels like a painting that just won't dry (in the best way)—hyper vibrant and I don't want to get too close else I mess it up or get paint on my nose. I'm particularly struck at "*after loss has lapped at you like a river*".

And good lord, aren't we all feeling the erosion?! As we wrap up 2021, take time to sort the messes that are yours and sweep the rest under the proverbial rug; know that you aren't alone and find ways to hold onto the awareness that you, like the sun in Jonie's poem, are alive...*incessant*. So often this is true seemingly by virtue of an automatic limbic response to life's ebbs and flows. Think for a moment what we might do with all this rubble if we really harnessed that magic we've had all this time. Enjoy your holidays. Be happy.

Thank you for being here.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**Women of Appalachia Project**  
**Women Speak: Book Launch**

**January 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Thursday Night Open Mic**  
**Featuring Richard Westheimer**

**Night, bright as daylight**  
**Blackness gone & back again**  
**Electricity**

-Andy Milliken

\*To help those impacted by the Kentucky tornados, use this link for a list of donating opportunities: [Kentucky disaster relief: A list of organizations providing help \(courier-journal.com\)](https://kentuckydisasterrelief.org/)