

KRISTIN LATOUR

Advice

A dog will not bite your hand
if a window is half open to the rain.
He will sit facing a breeze, drops of water
on his nose. Wise is the woman with open windows,
veils on her chairs and tea poured in plates. And more
intelligent is she who knows to sew more petticoats than she
can wear, in several sizes. Garments are outgrown with each child
birthed sideways, shows put on for doctors who poke at the most tender
places. That needles should be sharpened in sand is a given. All ladies are mere
shadows who sharpen theirs in sand. Your life shortens with each even breath. One
exhalation and the rain will pour in through the wounds in your hands, pricked and bitten.