

Autumn, 2001

Judith Miller

under the tortured steel
of girders of death
torn and twisted
men and women weep

they weep sorrow
anger
and utter exhaustion as they dig inch by inch
into rubble
into a nightmare of flaming caves and rivers of fire
at the centre of a city
that used to laugh

sturdy men and women
who know love and loyalty and working together
search for companions
they are not willing to concede
to death and destruction
they stop only to console a child
or to gulp water

they are moving a mountain
while people all over the world
wait for the news they bring
out of that heart of fire

Judith Miller, scholar/poet, teaches English language and literature at Renison College, University of Waterloo. In addition to poetry, she publishes ruminating essays on varying aspects of Canadian literature.