

## Lessons from Loyalty

Sinking deep into the heart of the matter, because  
It is deep in the heart, where loyalty matters.

Loyalty runs deep through these veins.  
Fifth daughter of seven, in a big Irish clan.

Yes, I been blessed and broken by loyalty,  
more than once.

Blessed by the constancy and protection of belonging,  
And held by the interconnectedness  
of devoted duty and responsibility.

I, also, have been broken by loyalty.  
Where I have been loyal to a fault,

And had my goodness trampled on.

This is human.  
And I am still learning.

Loyalty can be blind, until those blind eyes are opened,  
to truth.

Truth tells no lies,  
and sometimes reveals ugly betrayals.

Loyalty binds us to the truth of who we are.  
And who we aren't.  
We are, somehow, defined by our loyalties.

It is in this encounter with loyalty  
that we truly experience our humanity.

*Mary McManus*