

no**Lorraine Stander***nee*

*ek skryf jou af
 want ek kan jou
 nie insê nie.
 ek skryf, want ek sê dit nie sterk genoeg nie.
 jy is nie meer my ma nie!
 jy het jou opdrag gefaal.*

I write you off
 because I cannot
 say it in to your face.
 I write, because saying it isn't strong enough:
 you are no longer my mother!
 you failed at your task

you chose the one with crumbs
 around his mouth,
 the one with
 his fingers in my lips,
 the one with your grandchildren,
 because: 'Shame, Pappa beat him',
 the one who runs away
 from letters, e-mails, faxes and a question
 on a beach in Langebaan.

you say I have to forgive him
 because he does not need to say what he had done
 because now I am ill
 because I blame him -
 because I am ... bitter
 because I ...
 god knows what?! but:

today I resign as your daughter
 because you are not enough for me!
 you are not a mother for *me*

today I end this farce!
 I fold.

(translated from Afrikaans)