

T A R A B A L L A R D

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## How Do I Write to You about Minefields?

In the Golan, yellow signs  
blister the hills, roads, valleys.

In three languages, we are warned.  
Homes are abandoned. Moss

overtakes their stone walls. This  
is fragility. This is where we wait

for the explosion, for the upheaval  
of earth, though

the sheep continue to graze.

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Born and raised in Alaska, **TARA BALLARD** lived in the West Bank for the past two years, where she and her husband taught at a local elementary school. They now reside in the Gulf and often travel throughout the Middle East and Africa. She is currently finishing her MFA in Poetry through the University of Alaska.