IUNLP: I'm not picking one up!

CC: How's your tea?

IUNLP: Fine. Thanks.

CC: Let me know if you need more. I'm a crappy hostess. I might forget to ask again.

IUNLP: I am interested in how a novelist can call herself working class. I noticed where some reviewers suggested you were fake because your novels are professional.

CC: If they said someone wasn't really black or wasn't really Choctaw or wasn't really gay or wasn't really a woman because she could write a book, there would have been a thousand letters of protest. But no one defends us rednecks. It's okay to say we are stupid. If we write books, we can't be working class?

IUNLP: What do you see as the definition of working class?

CC: We are led to believe that the Professional Middle Class are the winners, Working Class are the losers. You'd probably say this in fancier words, but you'd express this belief. You yourself suggested I should "better myself" a few moments ago. As I see it, class is about values, dependence and ways of communicating. The working class person values place, interdependence, cooperation, the tribe. Middle class professionals are a dependent people, happily dependent on the consumer system for everything. You call it independence. But if you lost your electricity, your service people, your access to stores, you'd see how independent you are! Working class people have become dependent on these things, too, but working class values resent this dependency.

into 'success' and they are

Rural working class especially values land. We would KILL to protect our land, our home, which for 1000's of years was NOT considered a CRAZY thing to do.

IUNLP: (gulps tea)

CC: Also the classes communicate differently and our social skills aren't the same. Working class people aren't big on formal introductions and small talk. We use much more body language and humility. Among us, we share a lot of local history and experience so there's so much we don't have to say to eachother so we tend to mumble and say "you know" a lot. We aren't usually talking heads. Self-depracation is often