Warning to Readerji and Dam-wallah:
And, don’t ask, “but like Robbie is white, eh?”

First Heat Heart of a Thing is from the author’s collection of multi-genre fictions, Circum the Gesture, which she is currently working on.

Yasmin Ladha teaches a creative writing course for women at the University of Calgary. Her book, Lion’s Granddaughter and Other Stories, was published by NeWest Press in 1992. A chapbook, Bridal Hands on the Maple, was also published in 1992 by Second Wednesday Press.

BARBARA HUDSPITH

On visiting the sight of the last witch’s burning at Dunning in Perthshire, Scotland

She writhed
a woman in torment
on that soft green knoll

A flock now sending
their low sad moan
over the black loam,
over the drystack wall
so rigid
in the dank fog

Her screech now hushed
in the empty autumn air
where the rooks flap and scream
in the tip-top boughs
bedded softly on this snow-squall night

And we
We rush arm-in-arm
down that silent road

Her low moan lost

as we near the purple heat
of the gas fire’s glow
our tea already on the hob
our buttered scones
ranged thick
against that ancient horror

Barbara Hudspith runs a bed and breakfast business from her home in rural Dundas, Ontario. She writes poems as well as articles and short stories on the subject of women’s religious experience.

References


