

*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.

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## 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

Her low moan lost

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

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.*