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Cases Cited:


PATRICIA A. MONTURE

white man tell me

white man
tell me
“I had no idea”
white man, he,
tell me
white man hear me
I been
telling you ‘bout poverty
abuse
jail
foster care
residential schools
suicide
bottle abuse
rape
crime
battering

been telling you ‘bout privilege I carry
as employed,
teacher,
speaker,
circle of sisters
growing smaller
not vanished
what was that y’all was saying?
white man
ain’t never
tole me
‘bout nothing
i don’t already know.
white man
don’t tell me
hear me
voice crying in the wind.
white man listen:
wind is whistling
that wind
with promise of comfort
when white men
don’t try tell me nothing.

all that, it,
don’t change much
as my grannies taught
about
the pain
the wind he promises
i carry
all them answers
it surrounds me
in the land
downs me
this land
with knowing death and
red land
suicide
white man listen
violence and rape
that wind,
murder
he mocks you.

spirit gone
whistling
woman gone

Patricia A. Monture’s poetry appears earlier in this volume.