

with it, claiming it will further alienate police. Since 1975 anti-violence workers in Toronto have left their paid work to sit on panels and committees or go to meetings with police without financial reimbursement for wages and time lost. And to no effect. Would consultants on helicopter use and purchase or stun-gun efficacy in crime fighting work for free? Should they? The practice of not paying people for their work results in that work being undervalued or ignored. Not to mention poverty.

The film *The Accused*, starring Jodie Foster and based on a true story, is an example of the courts believing that a woman consented to a gang rape by strangers, even though she was sure she did not. We need not go as far as Hollywood to find examples. In Canada see *Regina v. Wald, Hockett and Girt*, Alberta Court of Appeal and *Regina v. Sansregret*, Supreme Court of Canada.

LESLEY E. STRUTT

Water Boiling

The pot is boiling on the kitchen stove.

Into it she drops:

two hands small as butterflies
two eyes wide open
two flat feet
and something hard, something heavy—

turned to stone.

The sudden splash of water, quick as his last slap,
snaps her head back.

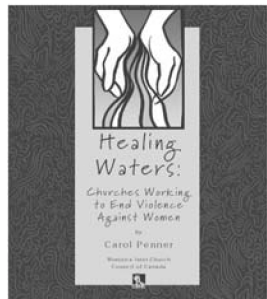
She is so still
in the fading, the light
then. She lifts a spoon and
stirs
until

she's done.

Lesley Strutt is a student of the award winning poet, Patrick Lane. This poem is part of a series exploring abuse and the strange world abused women inhabit in order to cope.

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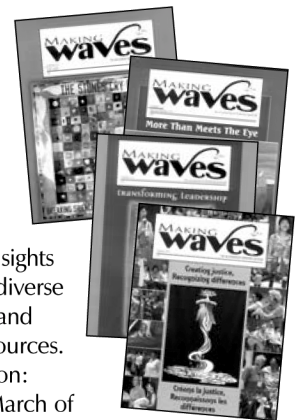
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