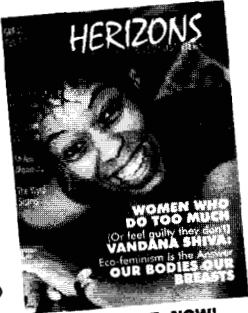


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KATHERINE LAWRENCE

My Fallen Priest —A Confession

"A debate over celibacy in the priesthood is gripping Britain following a scandal involving the resignation of a Scottish bishop ... (who) disappeared a week earlier. A women with whom (he) is said to have had a long-standing friendship disappeared at the same time."

—*Saskatoon StarPhoenix*, September 18, 1996

I love the way you braid your robed legs
around my body, whisper to me in darkness
about enemies on horseback, explosions in
parish
farm yards, as fires burn at the back of your
eyes.

I worry about how much longer we can run
before
they hunt us down, find us together in a white
bed
full of matted purple asters, sheets stained
with sweat & pollen, semen on my lips, my
hair.

I am your ruination, the one who taught you
the difference between laws of the flesh &
laws
of the church, the one who cups your penis in
my
hands to show you the difference, the one who
excites
you to forbidden heights as you pray *marry
me, marry me*,
our faces buried in goose feathers to muffle
laughter & fear
as soldiers ride across the roof above our
heads in search
of everything we have learned about faith.

Katherine Lawrence is a Saskatoon-based writer whose work appeared in a number of Canadian literary journals. Her first book, Crooked Hemlines, will be released in the fall of 2001 by Coteau Books.