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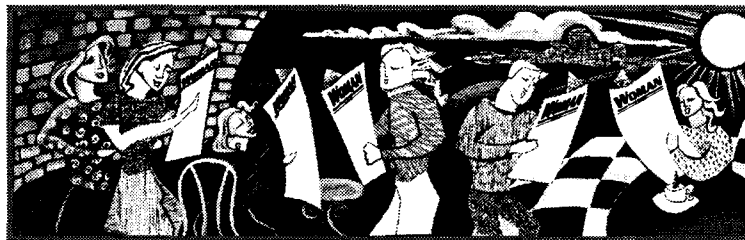
## RENEE NORMAN

### Checking My Daughters at Midnight with Lotion on My Hands

night climbs over discarded clothes black jeans black camisole  
with a trim of white lace under their eyelids other worlds move  
across their faces quilts drawn up to nostrils like lilies  
like peonies the fragrance of lilacs in the seams of open windows  
let in the rush of air from the dark creek a woods lullaby  
for those who sleep close to trees in the night's silence  
an eloquent language of love and darkness hard between the sigh  
of a deep dreamer the rustle of a body turned a fourth wall  
reflects the hand smooths the crease off a brow pain  
of the whispered  
of the whispered....

*Renee Norman is a part-time teacher and a writer and a doctoral student at  
the University of British Columbia. Her poetry has been published in various  
journals, including Prairie Fire, Room of One's Own, Whetstone,  
Dandelion, and Freefall.*

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