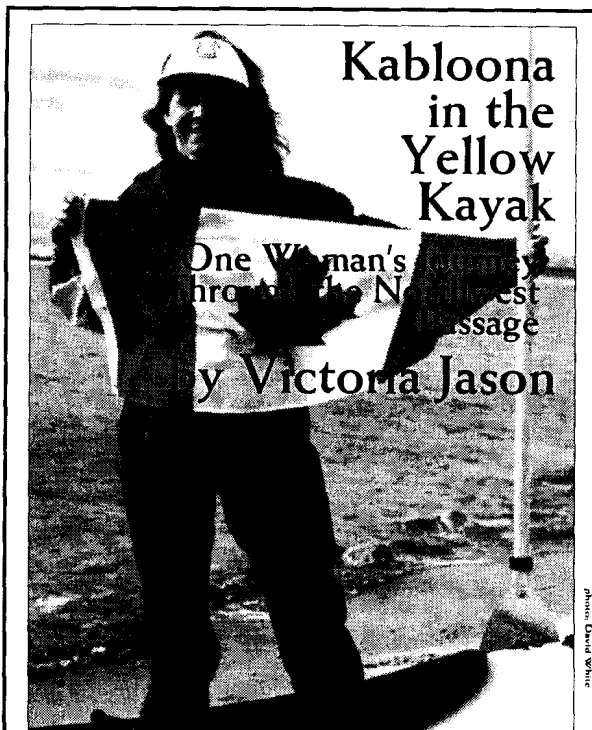


other cruising magazines. There is also a Newsletter for women sailors, *The Nautical Woman* (Harve de Grace, MD).

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REBEKKAH ALEXANDER

Mirror Mirror

In my sister's bedroom
I stood in front of her full length mirror.
Until she left for university
I entered only with sacred permission
but she stopped coming home
after Thanksgiving that year
and I boldly stood on the woven rug
in front of my reflection.

I remember I stood there crying,
grade eight awkward body
with ill-fitting clothes and hair which hung
like overcooked spaghetti,
feeling larger than the fattest person in the
world
wondering why, why
was I born so twisted and hideous,
so unlike the other girls
who passed secret notes in class
and went to the dances afterschool.

I hated them.

I hated the boys who looked at me
with eyes that told me I was invisible
and snapped my bra strap
and called me Tank as they pushed me
down in the playground.

I hated that no one ever saw—
beyond the dirtyness and raggedness,
the cumbersome walk
and the silent eyes which never raised.

Rebekkah Alexander is a counsellor at a rape crisis centre and an art therapist with child witnesses of violence at several Toronto women's shelters. She has previously been published in The Journal of Expressive and Creative Arts Therapy Exchange, in an anthology of poetry entitled Island Sunsets by the Poetry Institute of Canada, at the B.R.A.V.E. Forum on Ritual Abuse, and several newspapers.