

sadly, so are data and research about HIV/AIDS in women today. In Canada, the first case of AIDS in a woman appears to have been diagnosed in 1981 (Laboratory Centre for Disease Control). Information about this case appears not to have been published until July 30, 1983, in the *Canada Diseases Weekly Report*, Health and Welfare Canada, Volume 9-31. In the article "Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in Women in the Eastern Townships—Quebec," it says this woman was "a 25-year-old Haitian immigrant who had onset of sym[p]toms in 1979 and died of toxoplasmosis in 1981." The second adult female case of AIDS reported to the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control was a "29-year-old heterosexual horticulturist." According to the same article, she "was born in the United States, but has been living in Canada since June 1981. She had used intravenous drugs regularly during the three years prior to coming to Canada." These women are potentially the first cases of females diagnosed with AIDS. The second woman was the first case of AIDS related to drug addiction documented in Canada.

Although more is known about recent cases of HIV/AIDS in women, more has to be done to let women know that we are at risk. Although many of us wouldn't know it from reading about HIV/AIDS in the media—or talking to certain doctors—women with HIV/AIDS across Canada are a rapidly growing group.

Carol Devine is a writer on human and women's rights issues. She has recently published the book, Determination, Tibetan Women and the Struggle for an Independent Tibet by Vauve Press.

¹HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. HIV is the virus which, along with other contributing factors, causes AIDS by slowly destroying the body's ability to fight off disease. AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. Someone with AIDS has a weakened immune system—their body has more difficulty fighting off diseases. The person is vulnerable to serious infections, often called opportunistic infections, which can kill (Voices of Positive Women).

References

- Laboratory Centre of Disease Control. "Epidemiologic Review AIDS and HIV in Canadian Women." *AIDS in Canada: Quarterly Surveillance Update*. October 1993. Voices of Positive Women. "So Your Test is Positive." Pamphlet. Toronto, 1992.

CATHY STONEHOUSE

he comes to me at night
and touches me, separates
my legs just like the wolf does,
and the creatures
from under the bed;

I only think this
with the door closed,
through patches of bruised skin,
my undergarments
shed like orphans.

I feel the seam
along which grown-up games begin,

each night my solemn dark
is split
by one red shaft.

my doll knocked to the floor,
In bleeding innocence

I hear my baby
crying, and I
lock her up, rip
her nice new dress,
and make her grow up

secretly
in a hidden place
where no one plays,
and little girls choke
on the dirt of daddy.

Cathy Stonehouse is a British writer currently living in Vancouver. She has had poems published in a variety of Canadian journals including Room of One's Own, Tessera, Fireweed, and Prairie Fire.

Correction

Our sincere apologies to Himani Bannerji and Roxana Ng whose names were misspelled in the Spring 1994 issue, "Racism and Gender" (Volume 14, number 2).