

## JAN LEGAULT

### Sweet Sex

Today I stayed  
where I was wheeled  
to a place in the sun.  
Sleepy as a cat,  
intoxicated by warmth,  
my head bobs dreamily  
of old women like me  
I once used to know.

Now stiffened and wise  
I look out into the haze,  
my coke-bottle glasses useless.  
(They all know I can't see)

A pink blob,  
a volunteer, a smock moves nearer.  
Her manner: forced "niceness"  
Sickly sweet, this facade  
she thinks  
will push her through  
her pearly gates.  
Planting wet slobber  
on my cheek  
calling me "dear,"  
feigning to know me.  
I wonder how she'd feel if she knew  
I'm a lover of women.

Another, unspeaking  
whisks me off  
to a table  
laid for strangers.  
A bib  
wrapped around my throat  
picks and chokes and  
stuff they call food  
is thudded down  
somewhere in front of me.  
I never ate flesh,  
but some "experts" here decide  
otherwise,  
so I gag,  
and empty my mouth towards the shadow  
who shoves it at me.

Back in my room,  
plopped onto a stiff, plastic mattress  
I open my tiny table-drawer  
and there, tucked in the back,  
my hidden treasures,  
the "forbidden,"  
rich belgian chocolate,  
and a little lubricating jelly...  
Under the cover of velvet darkness  
I rediscover  
sweet sex.

*Jan Legault is a Dyke who has supported herself financially by working in long-term care for many years. She grapples daily with sexism, racism, ageism, and perpetuation of mainstream stereotypes by co-workers who seem to blindly support the ideals of this system. Her intent in writing is to also reflect the destructiveness, dehumanization, and depersonalization (particularly of older women) within institutional settings.*

### THE CENTRE FOR FEMINIST RESEARCH

The Centre for Feminist Research/Le centre de Recherche féministe (CFR/cfr) at York University in Toronto was established to coordinate feminist activities at York, to promote interdisciplinary and collaborative research, and to establish linkages between York scholars and community organizations. The Centre's membership includes more than one hundred feminist scholars with accomplished backgrounds in the arts, humanities, fine arts, social sciences, business administration, natural sciences, and selected professions.

The CFR/cfr engages in a number of activities at the university and beyond. It's current projects deal with: feminist psychology and psychotherapy; the prevention of violence against women; women's rights as human rights (a conference on this topic will be held in March, 1995); mentoring, networks and accessing for women with disabilities; curriculum development for the prevention of violence in schools; women and sport; balancing work and family.

For more information about the CFR/cfr and its projects, please contact:

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