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FAWZIA AHMAD

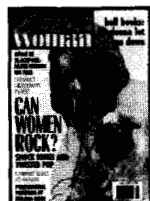
The "R" Word That Kills

I drag my feet out the door
 It was a hard day
 People ask me how I do it
How do you do rape crisis work?
 I sigh
I must be really hard
 I feel heavy
The work must really depress you
 I cringe inside
 If they only knew
 If they all only knew
 It is not the work
 It is not the women that I see
 It is not the women that have survived male violence
 The strong beautiful women that I support
 On the line
 In the office
 It is the RACISM
 From the women I work with
 From the women that are "politically correct"
 From the progressive white Anti-racist women
 The ones that I expect so much from
 Because they are feminists
 Because they are closer to making the difference
 Or are they really?
 I have to stop and consider
 What difference
 Difference for whom?
 Not me
 Not my mother, my sister, my aunts, my cousin
 But difference for whiteness
 What is so different about that!?
 It is white supremacy that it is killing me
 It is this oppression that drags me down
 That makes me cry
 That makes me weep
 That spins my head around
 That kills my spirit
 Why I wonder do I expect more?
 More from the women's movement
 Is it asking too much?
 Is it unreasonable?
You have hurt me
Your are excluding me
You are silencing me
You are racist
 Why do these words scare you so much?
 When it is your words that stifle my inner soul
 That makes me deny my people
 My family
 Me

An article by Fawzia Ahmad appears earlier in this issue.

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