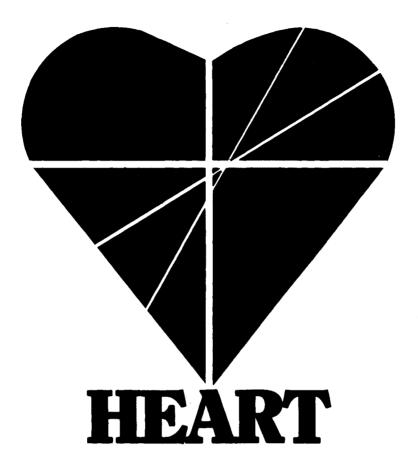
F I C T I O N



Suniti Namjoshi

And then there was the woman who had no head, all heart she was. She was even called Heart, and not (as one might have expected) the Headless Woman. Her function in life was to serve other people and this she did with a willing heart. She cooked, she cleaned, she baked, she scoured and she was always kind and loving and gentle, and never once complained of feeling tired. In the course of time her children grew up, her husband grew old, eventually he died and then he was buried. The Headless Woman was all alone. So she went to the Government to ask for a pension. And she didn't get it. Now I'm not suggesting that the Government was brutal. The problem was that she had no head and couldn't ask.

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