

look at me. Nat sees me changing diapers and scrubbing the can all day and why would she want to grow up to this?"

Lucy is right, of course. She's too sensible to let big-mouths like Freud and Lacan mess her up. I thought about all the little muppets on Sesame Street and that big dope, Barney, the purple dinosaur. All males. The female muppets and female cartoon characters make rather poor role models. I mean, Miss Piggy? Yes, most of the female characters wear large pink ribbons and simper and giggle alot.

And what about the videos Colleen's watched lately? *The Neverending Story*—a boy stars in that. *Home Alone*. *Robin Hood*. *The Lion King*. The features that star females—for instance, *Cinderella*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast* all emphasize physical appearances above all. The goal is always to look beautiful and win the prize—a prince or a prince of a man.

And too much of the standard fare in children's literature is the same old story. Where are the female Huckleberry's, the female hobbits? What's a little Colleen to do? Does she really have to reject her glorious gender to gain her freedom? What can a mother do to help a daughter grow up and cope in a world that never stops telling us that females are weaker, inferior, and in need of a rescue, or a man, or maybe even just a good fuck to fix up the problem?

Colleen ought to know the truth: that the clitoris is for pleasure. Her pleasure. Whenever she wants or needs it. I think it's time to throw open Pandora's box and toss away the key.

Collette Yvonne graduated from York University in 1996 with an Honours B.A. in Creative Writing and the Humanities. Since then, she has had several articles published in the Toronto Star on topics such as breaking traditional gender roles, violence against women, and living with a disability. Collette recently finished writing her first novel.

MARINA TRUDEAU

My Daughters and I

Dedicated to my six daughters.

My daughters are so precious
And are as happy as could be.
They tend to be cautious
And this is between you and me.

It must be faith
That I should have six girls
For there is no hate
In all my beautiful loving girls.

My daughters are my precious joy.
To me they are like the queen's pearls.
All sadness they tried to avoid
Lucky am I to have six girls.

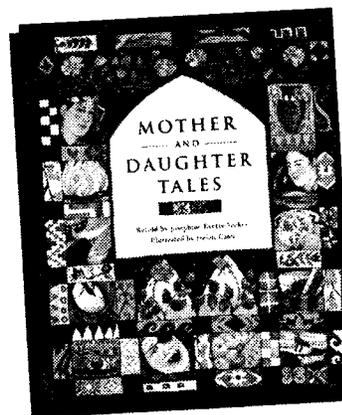
My daughters, I love you all
No one will take my love for you away.
If ever you are in trouble, all you do is call
And I will be on my way.

Marina Trudeau is an Aboriginal woman from Wikwemikong First Nation. She is the mother of six beautiful girls. Her poetry was published by the National Library of Poetry in 1995.

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