

mon. We all have that one thread that connects us to creation (209).

Anne Acco: I always appreciate it when somebody tells me a story. That is the other thing—appreciation. You have to pay homage to the storyteller (134).

Lenore Keeshig-Tobias: This is probably the only contribution I can make to my society: to be a storyteller, and to defend the authentic Native voice, to speak up for the Trickster. To tell people: 'Keep your hands off! If you want to hear stories then you come to me. And you go to my grandmother or grandfather.' The Trickster, the Teacher is a paradox: we learn through the Teacher's mistakes as well as through the Teacher's virtues (84).

Maria Campbell: The tiger lily doesn't try to tell the dandelion story (58).

Beth Cuthand: There are a number of us who are going back to the old stories and using them, or they are using us, as a means of telling a contemporary story (40).

Marie Annharte Baker is a poet, struggling to be playwright and performance artist/storyteller. Her poetry book, Being on the Moon will be followed by Blueberry Canoe. Moonprint Publishers is to publish her chapbook, Coyote Columbus Cafe, which is to be performed at the National Storytelling Festival in Toronto, 1994. She recently won a CBC Fringe Radio Drama contest for Some of My Best Friends Are. She studies women's literature and playwriting at the University of Winnipeg. She has finally become a Nokomis and is trying to settle down.

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SANDY SHREVE

Great Aunts

for my great-niece, Ashley Lancaster

Generations fell between us
sheers concealing inner living rooms
All I have are glances back
days of cotton prints and thick-heeled shoes
Alba, Led and Laura
old women who thumped canes
visiting the fringes of my childhood
indulgence dressed in the discipline
of three great aunts

I try to make them up
rouge and lipstick memories
like a little girl in front of mother's mirror
At first my eager hand grabs for heroics
paints exaggerations over ordinary stories
vague eccentricities and kindness
deep and fleeting as the lilac scent of spring
This trinity of spinsters
lived the quiet lives of millions
each noted only on a weathered headstone
left for me their brooches and their books
and their independence

Alba, Led and Laura
now I use their names as passwords
scramble letters for a code to pass along
the anagram is *alure* and a *ballad*:
A passage into song
A choir of women singing

Sandy Shreve's poetry appears earlier in this issue.