

Poet's Clothes" she expresses her frustration and anxiety as a mother: "I cannot / find a way to make him understand that I love him ... it's as though I am chasing / him down a path but he's always faster than me" (10).

Her own mother's life and words, however, serve as framework for Gillan's volume. The poems tenderly recount her mother's life, the gifts she gave and what she taught her daughter: "treasure my children and keep them close . . . I know what my mother meant when she told me my children were the only treasure I'd ever need" (95). Early poems in the collection recount her mother's prolonged illness and eventual death. In these powerful poems, Gillan uses lyrical free verse to capture the images and feeling of love between mother and daughter, a daughter's pain in letting go of a dying mother. In "Brushing My Mother's Hair," "Singing to My Mother," and "My Mother's Garden II," Gillan captures the physicality and tenderness of care between an aging mother and her grown daughter and the visceral quality of their attachment. This is a moving collection that reveals Gillan as both mother and child.

### ***Double Jeopardy: Motherwork and the Law***

Turnbull, Lorna A.  
Toronto: Sumach Press, 2001.

#### **Reviewed by Fiona Joy Green**

In commonplace language, Lorna Turnbull—Assistant Professor of Law, feminist, wife, and mother of three children—critiques North American law for placing women in double jeopardy. Through the effective use of statistics and specific decisions made by provincial courts of appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada, she shows how the structure and practice of Canadian law and, to a lesser extent, American law takes power away from women. Her impressive study of legal cases regarding pregnancy, breastfeeding, and taxation demonstrates how the subordination of mothers is initiated and perpetuated by the law.

Chapter one describes how the law fails to provide adequate support for those in caregiving roles. Chapter two defines law, its hierarchal structure and adversarial system, and the various ways feminist thinkers have challenged the supposed separation of law from the political sphere. Chapter three explores how the law embraces the social characterization of "good" and "bad" mothers and is not responsive to mothers' lived experiences. Focusing on the Canadian income-tax system, Turnbull provides specific examples of double jeopardy for mothers who are employed and unemployed.

Chapter four explores how legal and cultural attitudes towards pregnancy

inform legal attitudes towards mothers and mothering in general. Chapter five, "The Legal Characterization of Motherwork," reveals how heterosexism, homophobia, class bias, racism, and a lack of understanding of the realities of poverty in the lives of mothers continue to influence the practice of law and the lives of mothers. Simply stated, the law is often blind to the realities of mothers. In chapter six, Turnbull discusses income-tax rules and their impact on mothers and on motherwork. By comparing the tax systems of Canada and the United States, she illustrates how mothers, depending on their social location and particular situation, may or may not benefit from these differing tax systems.

The final two chapters are the most exciting, as the author proposes how law and legislation can be used together as a strategy for social change. This approach, Turnbull stresses, must be part of an overall strategy that includes political lobbying, grassroots organizing, and other approaches to bring about social change. By explaining the incremental nature of legal change and how the traditional male model of litigation is hierarchical in its organization, Turnbull exposes the limitations as well as the potential benefits of litigation as a strategy for social change. In doing so, she shows that the law can be used to help transform rather than simply reform women's inequality.

Turnbull elucidates the many problems around motherwork in Canadian law and legislation. She successfully implements Charlotte Bunch's four elements of feminist theory. She describes the situation of mothers in relation to the law, provides textured analysis, and offers a vision and a strategy for changing that relationship. Other fine features of the book include a table of cases and a glossary of legal and feminist terms. This book will be useful to readers interested in taxation, income tax law and legislation, and to students and teachers of Women's Studies. A valuable resource, *Double Jeopardy* also will appeal to mothers, academics, and activists interested in mothering, motherwork, and their relationship to the law.

### ***Unbroken Homes: Single-Parent Mothers Tell Their Stories***

Paterson, Wendy A.  
Binghampton, NY: Haworth Press, 2000.

#### **Reviewed by Diana L. Gustafson**

When a marriage ends in divorce, the resulting family structure is often referred to as a broken home. This negative image seems to be supported by literature that associates single-parent families with a variety of social ills, such as delinquency and drug abuse, and that labels those emerging from such families as damaged or broken (4). As the title suggests, *Unbroken Homes* presents the