

JOSEPHINE L. SAVARESE

## Re-Imaginings

---

### A Mother's Remembrance of her Murdered Daughter<sup>1</sup>

#### THE CONTEXT

We spent a day together when She was young. We loved lilacs—*they are so beautiful*. We found a lilac bush filled with blooms and gathered as many as we could. We had lilacs in every room.

*Her body was found after two months buried in an isolated wooded area.*

*RCMP officers were led to the clandestine burial site by Him.*

#### 1. Imagined Statement

*He raped and murdered my little girl.*  
—A Mother

A Monster kidnapped Her,  
hurt Her—  
THAT funny, precious girl,  
My violet Universe.

#### 2. When You Heard

Were you  
remembering  
Yourself,

Blossoming, dreaming in petals

ready ...  
 For Her green  
 ... wondrous  
     ... slippery  
 birth.  
 Do you remember  
 Her emerging ...  
     *wrinkled*  
     ... beautiful  
         Scented in lavender  
         Wailing  
         in music.

### 3. When Her Remains Were Found

*I said I wouldn't stop till I had my daughter in my arms.  
 I held my daughter in my arms.<sup>2</sup>*  
 Did you encircle  
 Her crumpled body  
     Chest tight with grief  
 Clasp Her  
     Tenderly.  
     Did you wonder how  
 She—so small—  
 Cracked open the  
     *World*  
     from Her  
     borrowed earthen cradle.

### 4. The Earth

*Her body was encased in a "clay cocoon"  
 in the fetal position, the jury at the murder trial heard on Thursday.<sup>3</sup>*  
 Nestled Her,  
     as a mother.  
 Comforted Her, a daughter  
     ... Bundled her tiny warmth

JOSEPHINE L. SAVARESE

Against its smooth  
clay heart.

5. **Mother's Prayer**

*Now I Lay Her Down to Sleep*

I pray the Earth her dreams  
To keep.

Because She died  
before She wake,

I pray the Gods,

His soul to

**break.**

6. **Shopping List — 1993**

five undershirts or onesies  
two blanket sleepers  
three pairs of socks or booties  
five pajama stretch suits  
one or two dress-up outfits  
one hat  
one sweater.

7. **Shopping List — 2009**

*I don't even sleep in a bed anymore.*

*—A mother*

Casket

1 Eagle Feather

~~1 Alarm~~

~~Clock.~~

---

8. **Found Poem: It *Doesn't* End**

When you bury your child, it doesn't end there.

It's just the beginning of another kind of pain.

They say time heals wounds. Not when you lose your child. Time doesn't heal that.<sup>4</sup>

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup>These poems are dedicated to Hilary Bonnell and her family. Members of the community were contacted for input during the development of the poems. For an image of Hilary shared by the family, see Tom Bateman.

<sup>2</sup>"Charges imminent in N.B. teen's death": RCMP, *CBC News*, Nov. 19, 2009, <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/charges-imminent-in-n-b-teen-s-death-rcmp-1.814063>. Accessed April 14, 2018.

<sup>3</sup>"Hilary Bonnell's body was in 'clay cocoon,' jury hears," *CBC News*, 11 October 2012, <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/hilary-bonnell-s-body-was-in-clay-cocoon-jury-hears-1.1155884>. Accessed 14 Apr. 2018.

<sup>4</sup>Pam Fillier, Presentation to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Moncton, New Brunswick, February 2018, in Bateman, Tom. "The Last Thing We Said to Each Other Was 'I Love You.'" *Telegraph Journal*, 14 Feb. 2018, [www.telegraphjournal.com/telegraph-journal/story/.../mmiwg-hearing-bonnell](http://www.telegraphjournal.com/telegraph-journal/story/.../mmiwg-hearing-bonnell). Accessed 13 Apr. 2018.

## Works Cited

Bateman, Tom. "The Last Thing We Said to Each Other Was 'I Love You.'" *Telegraph Journal*, 14 Feb. 2018, [www.telegraphjournal.com/telegraph-journal/story/.../mmiwg-hearing-bonnell](http://www.telegraphjournal.com/telegraph-journal/story/.../mmiwg-hearing-bonnell). Accessed 13 Apr. 2018.

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. "Charges Imminent in N.B. Teen's Death." *CBC News*, 19 November 2009, [www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/charges-imminent-in-n-b-teen-s-death-rcmp-1.814063](http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/charges-imminent-in-n-b-teen-s-death-rcmp-1.814063). Accessed 15 Apr. 2018.

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. "Hilary Bonnell's body was in 'clay cocoon,' jury hears," *CBC News*, 11 October 2012, <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/hilary-bonnell-s-body-was-in-clay-cocoon-jury-hears-1.1155884>> Accessed 14 Apr. 2018.