

JOSEPHINE L. SAVARESE

Marijoy¹ Tells Her Story While Sister Hildegard Sings Encouragement

I was in a dream like state during the “commission of the offence”

Glance at the Sun, Marijoy

They said I acted: Contrary to Section 243, Disposing of the Dead Body
With the intent to conceal the fact I was delivered of it.

Behold the Moon and Stars

Did not know I was pregnant

Now, think.

Shock when I woke up, did not know how to react,

All of creation is a song to the praise of God

During the birth, things were unreal

God hugs you.

They called it: “depersonalization and derealization”

A nightmare or a dream

You are encircled by . . .

Cried throughout the two hour interview

Especially when describing the birth.

And the blue aftermath, when I buried Baby

in a waste bin.

*. . . God's
mystery.*

This poem is written for a young mother, Marijoy, who disposed of her baby that died immediately after birth on 3 July 2015. She expressed profound remorse when interviewed by law enforcement. In this poem, details of the case are put alongside lines by Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179), a well-known mystic prominent in the twelfth century.²

Endnotes

- ¹ The details are drawn from *R v Geraldizo*, 2016 BCPC 484 (CanLII).
- ² Quotes by Hildegard of Bingen are adapted from “Quotes by Hildegard of Bingen” healthyhildegard.com/hildegard-bingen-quotes. Accessed 22 August 2018.