



YWCA  
EDMONTON

A TURNING POINT  
FOR WOMEN

## My Story

*Sepideh*

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the girl was born to one barely a woman  
one dependent on opium and alcohol  
when the girl looked into the eyes of the one who  
had housed her in her womb  
she saw coldness  
she wondered why  
but did not give voice to the whys in her  
she remembers the stench of opium and whiskey  
and hiding in the recesses of her own self  
the walls were bare  
no door but bars behind which she had locked  
herself in  
no room to invite another  
the mother was alone  
as if by no choice turned to yet another man to  
rescue her from her own self  
he didn't show up tonight  
she sat in the restaurant across the drunk mother  
in frozen dread  
in the car the mother beat her  
she felt she wanted her dead  
in the morning what remained were the scream-  
ing bruises  
and the unspoken tears  
but the mother remembered not  
as if there was no last night  
nothing made sense  
and the girl did not know where to look to find  
sense  
she felt different  
an observer in life  
she was waiting  
not sure for what  
waiting silently to die  
if ever you would ask her what she wanted  
she would find no voice to answer you

there came an ordinary day when out of nowhere  
her mother sent her away  
to another land to learn English  
the girl began to breathe  
for the first time she felt free  
she ran and ran and ran  
and laughed and cried

a revolution occurred  
she did not return to her mother or her land  
she became a stranger to her own people  
both worlds lived in her  
the east and the west  
the west offered her another life  
the east moves in her blood  
her heart in the past and in the now  
pain was her companion  
it took her into her own quiet strength  
into her inner home of neither east nor west  
she cradled the pain  
and now and then travelled beyond the pain to  
the place of rest inside  
her eyes opened a little  
a new beginning unveiled  
she began to walk  
holding hands with pain and rest

she often falls  
and then  
remembers  
her home within  
and walks again  
and again

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