

# Circles: Buffalo Women's Journal of Law and Social Policy

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## Najma

Kathy Clark

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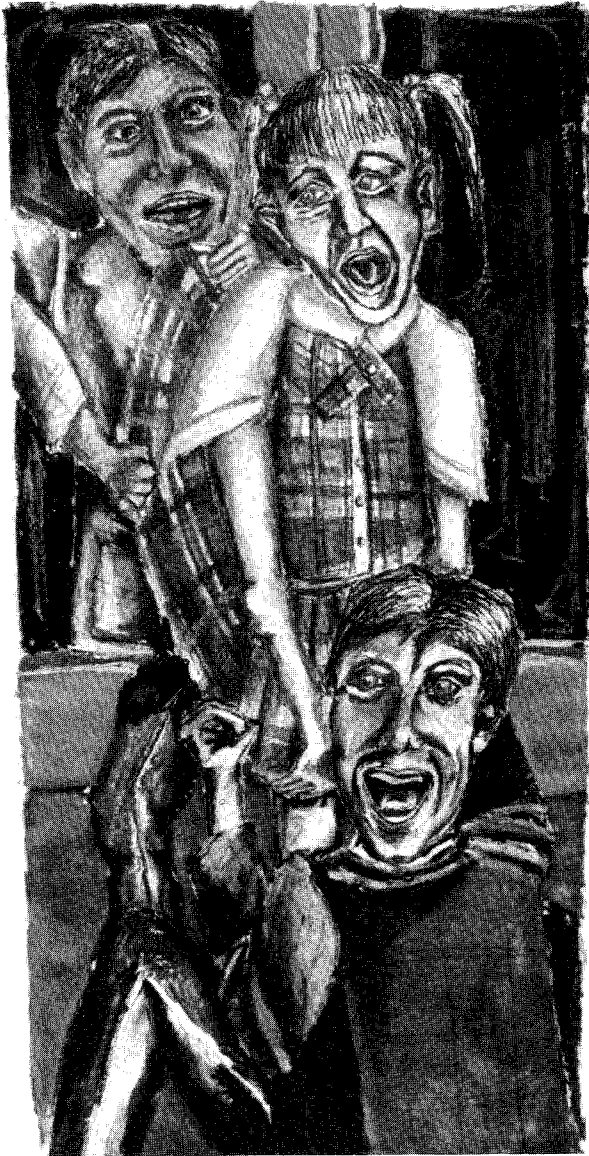
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## Najma

### Cover Page Footnote

Art: So Much for Plait by Mary Creede



*So Much for Plaid* by Mary Creede  
oil painting

NAJMA

the girl on the headboard of  
my birthday  
early-'80s, full-size waterbed  
is not me

her eyes avoid me  
trained on some forgotten  
man who demands a smile  
and curses to himself that  
her neckline doesn't V

years and stories later  
the girl is grown and  
I find her holding a  
small boy close while  
the dog-man tightens  
his grip around her  
thin waist  
and whispers that poorwhitetrash  
should smile while in  
front of a fancy red car  
...but she is dressed in white,  
and she is looking at me

stories and revelations later  
she comes alive  
a Miracle, worth the wait  
and I try to tell her  
about the loneliness  
in which I created her life  
--but I choked  
and got another version

*by Kathy Clark*