

In Dreams Dwell the Daughters' Desires

Karen Anne Buljo

Author Karen Anne Buljo has written a book of powerful stories about violence against women: in the home, in the workplace, in family relationships, and in society in general. These are parts of the women's stories. Parts of their lives. Painful parts. Difficult parts. The stories have been collected over many years, and the author has chosen to write them as prose texts and composed a poem to accompany each one.

These stories also reveal a level of inhumanity that is almost unbelievable. The poems bring forth the voices of the voiceless women. They don't soften the content, but provide an image of what it's like to survive in a violent relationship – if you survive at all.

It is remarkable how the woman is not “a distinct individual”; she is owned by her entire family, in a way serving as everyone's maid and protector, carrying everyone's dignity on her shoulders.

The stories emphasize how women are often blamed when a man is violent or if she experiences violence in some other way. The stállo* is also always among us, and the woman must suffer when even those closest to her don't support her.

* A mythical figure in Sámi folklore, here in the sense of a demon



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Karen Anne Buljo (b. 1964) lives in Máze and has written books for children and young adults as well as radio drama for both children and adults. She has also published collections of poems and a book of travel writing. She has, in addition to all this, also produced teaching materials.