

THE TEARS OF A BATTERED WOMAN

There was a day several weeks ago,
My case was shown on The Today Show.
My juror came and spoke her mind.
Sadly, bias and prejudice we did find.
The myths about battered women abound
making the verdict in my case unsound.

The juror said, "Nancy did not cry",
therefore, her defense must have been a lie.
But battered women know and can tell her why
we suppress our emotions and do not cry.
We have learned to show our abuser no tears
because a worse beating is what we fear.

The juror then stated what sealed my fate
was the differing testimony my sons did make.
'Tis true they had different points of view
about the abuse and what they knew.
But children who love both parents take sides.
That does not mean either one has lied.

The juror next questioned the "overkill".
She presumed my actions were of my free will.
But a battered woman in fear of her life
is driven by panic during the strife.
The frenzy is not of malice, but fear
of being overpowered by her abuser so near.

The stereotypes continued as we heard the juror say,
Nancy should have left sooner; done things a different way.
Should have called the police and not cleaned up the mess.
This member of the jury could accept nothing less.

An expert could explain these issues and more,
but limits on her testimony closed that door.
Such a law is an injustice and I pray you care.
Trials need not be perfect, but they must be fair.

The verdict twice overturned, I should be free
but these concrete walls still imprison me.
Commutation now my only hope; that's a fact.
I'll face death in this prison unless you act.
Please contact Governor Snyder and advocate for me.
Many thanks for responding to my passionate plea.

Nancy Seaman

