

Arts-Based Submission

Deceitful Stories

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Cite as: van Bower, V. (2021). Deceitful Stories. *Witness: The Canadian Journal of Critical Nursing Discourse*, Vol 3(1), p. 11. <https://doi.org/10.25071/2291-5796.100>

stand at my bedside and look
you may see me but not quite understand
my story is not in your chart
or numbers on a tiny screen
you might ask someone else
someone in a white coat
or blue scrubs
what's going on here?
they may try to tell a story
it's not the one I'm trying to tell
if you would listen
if I could breathe
but it's a story I've heard before
from people like you
in white coats
or blue scrubs
who do you think you are?
telling deceitful stories
over my dead body

Explanation:

This poem shines a light on the dark underbelly of our profession and its complicity in upholding white supremacy and white privilege. While the profession's code of ethics has long espoused honouring dignity, promoting justice and non-discrimination, the stories of Brian Sinclair, Joyce Echaquan and Lilian Vanasse (and the countless others we will never hear) remind us of the hollowness of words when our actions as a profession continue to speak lethally louder. This poem is a mirror...a call to listen...and a call to collective action to dismantle systemic racism.

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