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Tell It Like It Is

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Cover Page Footnote

"Second Prize Winner" Appeared in the issue: Volume 2, Issue 3, 2002.

TRACY FAY

TELL IT LIKE IT IS

(after reading Lucille Clifton's *wishes for sons*)

tell them how it is, Lucy
all the cramps that cause us pain.
tell them how our stomachs twist
and how it seems we're insane

ask them if they go to the store
to get us our supplies.
ask them if they really went
and all you hear are lies.

tell them that the time has come
and then they say "good grief!"
tell them that the time is gone
and then they say "relief!"

tell them how it would be, Lucy,
if they were in our shoes.
tell them how they would feel
when they have got the blues.