

# The Evening News

by Judith Clark

I didn't hear it on the news today  
that two women  
died  
here  
in this prison  
last weekend  
but I heard  
every hour on the hour  
Tonya Harding's ex-husband's lawyer's statement  
watched  
all ten minutes of Tonya's press conference  
saw her tears and terror  
They showed no photos  
of Roseann's body  
found  
hanging  
in her cell  
during the morning count  
read no quotes  
from her suicide note  
telling the judge  
who sent her to prison  
on a marijuana charge  
he'd given her a death sentence

(96)

## GLOBAL CITY REVIEW

No reporter wondered  
why no one in charge  
heeded her letters  
pleading  
to go to the hospital  
warning  
she'd kill herself  
no one questioned  
the authorities  
why  
they left her  
alone  
in her cell  
night after night  
to hang herself  
I didn't hear it on the evening news  
when Rosie died  
of massive internal bleeding  
after a week of pleading  
with nurses, teachers, officers  
to see a doctor

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## CLARK · THE EVENING NEWS

Not one of those  
hundreds of reporters and camera crews  
who gathered round the courthouse  
in cars and helicopters  
for Amy and Joey  
came to this prison  
to ask why  
why Rosie never saw a doctor in time  
why she had to cry,  
curled up in her bed  
in her cell  
her friends stroking her helplessly  
after the nurse told her,  
"Just drink plenty of water"  
why  
on Saturday night  
blood pouring from every hole  
her face turned buttercup yellow  
she had to stumble down the hill to the hospital  
no stretcher  
no ambulance

*Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, 1994*

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