

JOSEPHINE L. SAVARESE

## Marijoy<sup>1</sup> Tells Her Story While Sister Hildegard Sings Encouragement

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I was in a dream like state during the “commission of the offence”

*Glance at the Sun, Marijoy*

**They said I acted:** Contrary to Section 243, Disposing of the Dead Body  
With the intent to conceal the fact I was delivered of it.

*Behold the Moon and Stars*

Did not know I was pregnant

*Now, think.*

Shock when I woke up, did not know how to react,

*All of creation is a song to the praise of God*

During the birth, things were unreal

*God hugs you.*

**They called it:** “depersonalization and derealization”

A nightmare or a dream

*You are encircled by . . .*

Cried throughout the two hour interview

Especially when describing the birth.

And the blue aftermath, when I buried Baby

in a waste bin.

*. . . God's  
mystery.*

*This poem is written for a young mother, Marijoy, who disposed of her baby that died immediately after birth on 3 July 2015. She expressed profound remorse when interviewed by law enforcement. In this poem, details of the case are put alongside lines by Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179), a well-known mystic prominent in the twelfth century.<sup>2</sup>*

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> The details are drawn from *R v Geraldizo*, 2016 BCPC 484 (CanLII).
- <sup>2</sup> Quotes by Hildegard of Bingen are adapted from “Quotes by Hildegard of Bingen” [healthyhildegard.com/hildegard-bingen-quotes](http://healthyhildegard.com/hildegard-bingen-quotes). Accessed 22 August 2018.