

STORY TOLD AT VANCOUVER ART GALLERY READING

She says her name is Gladys Hindmarch and she wants to read something which has to do with being in labour - childbirth - its her first child - the people in the story - she explains to the Gallery audience who they are - they're the people she lives with, knows, is related to - and she's in contact with this new life which is about to come out of her - but its not out yet (that's later, "The Birth" of the same piece) this is the labour - she and Cliff are in their bedroom - what she feels - like shitting, touching, and more, breathing - she breathes out to us the birth labour breathing women do at those times in the life - people leave early - a woman with a large paper bag - it crackles - Gladys stops reading to let her leave - and then she comes back to it - back into what's going on in the story of what's going on in her - she puffs out rhythm breaths - a young couple come in and sit beside me - the girl has a baby in a papoose - she moves off to view some paintings in another room I guess - Gladys is now at 8:40 a.m. - when did she start? - two more leave (well-dressed "ladies") - back to the breathing - she lets the breath out into the room - where is she now? - in her body in her back and pelvis - time to phone the doctor - phone others - let Ellen know its started - she's having a contraction - its a misty day - Herstein says come in later in the day - afternoon - 9:13, 9:17, 9:20 - someones depressed - 9:23, 9:27, 9:29 what's in the room - a green and white sucker

- 9:33 she wants to go to the hospital - she feels safer there - "Cliff, tell him I want to go now" - "Cliff's on the phone trying to get Ellen" - 9:42 another contraction - the breath again - from the childbirth classes she took - now natural, easy - she's hot/cold - she's thinking of the time - she has to time it - get from A to B - into the car - "there's Lanny" - in the second floor window - she looks up at him there - she wants to - that contraction's over - she's in the car - breathing - using the air - bringing it in and out - they're on 4th - moving along the street - Granville St. bridge - Cliff is driving smoothly and she's happy about that - she wants the sucker on the back seat - feels like sucking something - the other half of the couple gets up and leaves - good - she's breathing - in/out - she dreams right with it - her muscles - at the hospital - brick building - entrances larger than she is - car into reverse - Saturday morning - a strong contraction - pushing with her hand - cant speak - heaving rhythmic breathing - the entrance - waiting room - Ms. Andstein - Dr. Herstein - her husband - more noise in the hall outside the room - the acoustics are unbelievably poor (echoes) - bones against bones - "I can't remember, I can't speak" - "Dr. Herstein, I'm here I'm here" - he knows - that's better - exactly what to do - her breathing again - his fingers in her cunt - a wide open mouth - he's smiling - he feels it up there - she breathes and breathes and breathes - "I'll end it right there" she says.

FRED WAH