

Sharon McIlwee

FIVE WAYS OF LOOKING AT MY FINGERS

One

I will be fifty
and wear many rings,
rubies and greenstone
amethyst and emerald.
People will feel good about me
reading the words on their hands.
I will wear my hair loosely.

Two

They have claws.
They are scarred
by rat bites
cat jaws
many burns
and thorn stabbings.

Three

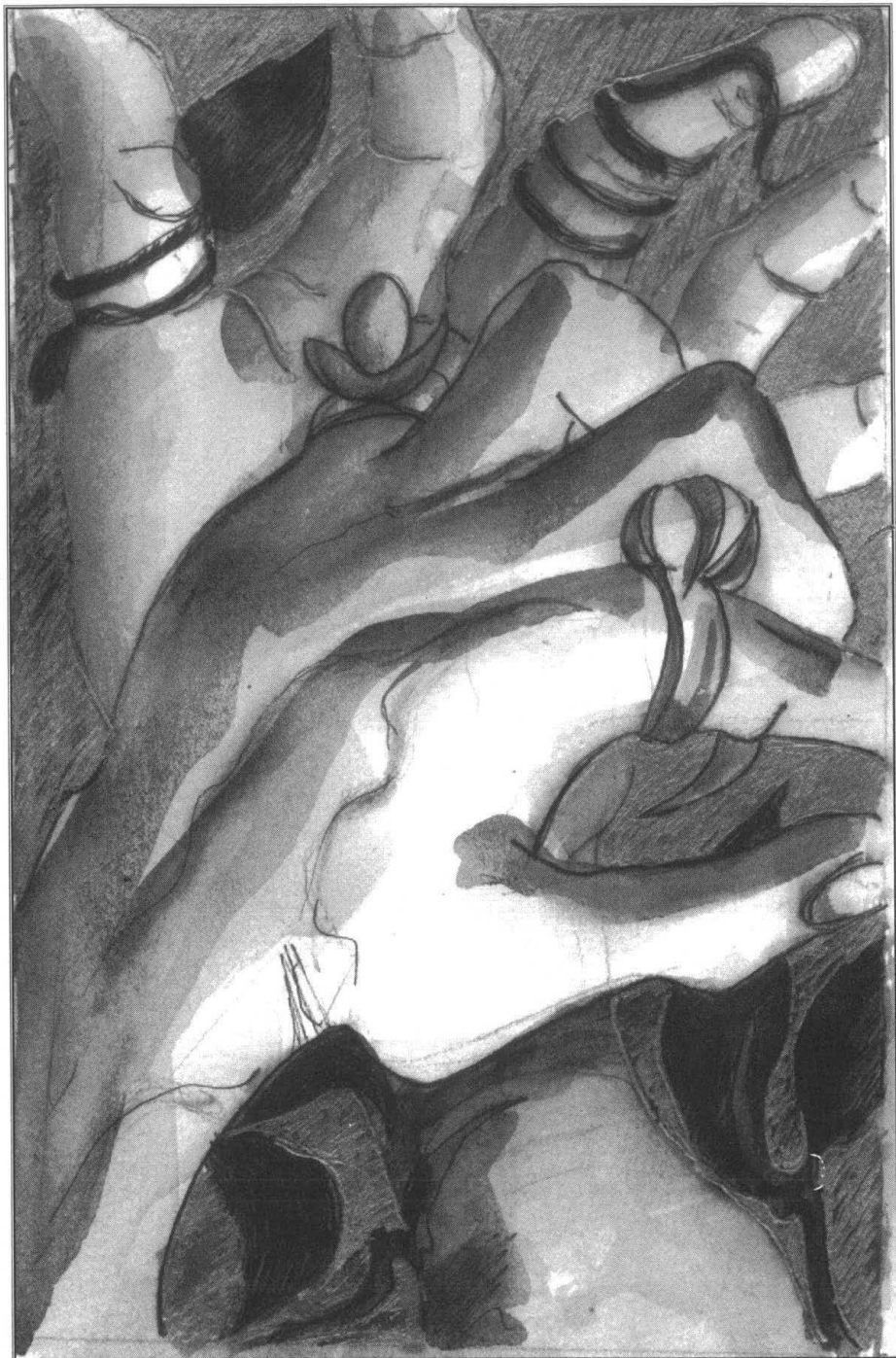
When someone reaches for them
I notice sometimes
their eyelashes have auburn
ends.

Four

These veins
are tiny turquoise dragons.
They are savage twigs.

Five

I have touched you
with them
and that makes all the difference.



LiNQ