

# Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

**bearish on america** 8/14 396 ©2002 BY ALISON BECHDEL

MO HAS RETURNED FROM THE FIRST SESSION OF HER DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM IN A WILD AND WOOLY MOOD.

SO CLARICE & TONI INVITED US OVER FOR A BARBECUE. ARE YOU UP FOR IT?

AW, SYDNEY, I'M COMPLETELY WIPED. AND YOU KNOW HOW CRABBY I GET WHEN I'M TIRED.

COME ON, THEY WANT TO CELEBRATE ME GETTING TENURE. I KNOW, I KNOW, BIG DEAL, BUT WE SHOULD HUMOR THEM.

YOU'RE A PIECE OF WORK. TENURE HAS BEEN THE SOLE FOCUS OF YOUR EXISTENCE SINCE I MET YOU. AND NOW THAT YOU'VE GOT IT, YOU ACT LIKE IT'S A LIFE SENTENCE.

yew'll be sorry that yew messed with the US of A! cuz we'll put a boot in your ass! It's the American way!

SORRY, I WAS LISTENING TO THE COUNTRY STATION.

GOD, AMERICANS ARE A REPUGNANT PEOPLE.

SHORTLY... HERE'S TO A SIX YEAR INVESTMENT THAT PAID OFF.

AND A RETIREMENT ACCOUNT THAT HASN'T

I'LL DRINK TO THAT HEAVILY.

OH, PLEASE. SO YOU'LL HAVE TO BUY CONVENTIONAL INSTEAD OF ORGANIC OLIVE OIL WHEN YOU'RE 70.

I'M TIRED OF LISTENING TO AMERICANS WHINE ABOUT THEIR PORTFOLIOS WHEN A BILLION PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD LIVE IN REAL POVERTY! I'M GLAD THE STOCK MARKET'S DOWN.

WELL, CONSIDERING IT'S TAKING BUSH'S APPROVAL RATINGS DOWN WITH IT, SO AM I. HERE'S TO THE DEMOCRATS NOT BLOWING THE MIDTERM ELECTIONS.

CLARICE YOU'RE SO NERVE. A "PRE-EMPTIVE DEFENSIVE INTERVENTION" IN IRAQ IN THE NEXT MONTH OR SO, AND THE REPUBLICANS ARE IN LIKE FLYNN. THEN THEY CAN FOCUS ON DISMEMBERING THE CONSTITUTION AND SETTING UP A MILITARY POLICE STATE HERE IN THE #%%ING FATHERLAND. OH, EXCUSE ME, I MEANT THE #%%ING HOMETLAND.

ARE THESE GENETICALLY MODIFIED?

SHE'S A LITTLE TIRED.

A TIP OF THE NIB TO PAT LEE

THAT WAS A GREAT SPEECH ON HOW VIOLENT VIDEO GAMES ARE A PENTAGON PLOT TO DESENSITIZE A NEW GENERATION OF BABY KILLERS. I ESPECIALLY LIKED THE PART WHEWRE YOU GRABBED RAFFI'S GAMEBOY AND MADE HIM CRY.

HE WAS PLAYING FROGGER, FOR CRISSAKES.

I TOLD YOU I WAS EXHAUSTED. GOD, I'M SO SLEEP-DEPRIVED I CAN HARDLY SEE STRAIGHT.

UH...THE BEDROOM'S THAT WAY.

YEAH, I JUST WANT TO CHECK MY E-MAIL FIRST.

**same as it ever was** 8/28 397 ©2002 BY ALISON BECHDEL

HI, SWEETIE. SIT DOWN AND PUT YOUR FEET UP. HERE'S A GLASS OF MILK. YOU SHOULD BE GAINING A POUND A WEEK BY NOW.

STUART, I DON'T...

DRINK UP! MOMMY'S LOOKING A LITTLE THIN. I HAVE A NICE, PROTEIN AND IRON-RICH DINNER COMING RIGHT UP.

UH... MOMMY'S LOOKING A LITTLE HOMICIDAL.

GOD, GINGER! HE'S SO COMPLETELY INTO THIS BABY, THERE'S NO ROOM FOR MIE! WHAT IF I DON'T LIKE MILK? WHAT IF THE WAY MY BODY'S CHANGING IS FREAKING ME OUT?

WHAT IF ALL THE ESTROGEN TURNS ME INTO ONE OF THOSE WOMEN WHO CHATTER ABOUT CALORIES AND SELF-ESTEEM AND SHOES? I USED TO BE A RADICAL LESBIAN FEMINIST, GODDAMN IT!

I HAVEN'T FELT THIS LONELY AND CONFUSED SINCE I CAME OUT.

RIGHT. I'LL MOVE TO THE BISEXUAL NEIGHBORHOOD AND START VOLUNTEERING AT THE COFFEEHOUSE FOR UNINTENTIONALLY PREGNANT BI-DYKES WITH OVER-ZEALOUS MALE PARTNERS.

WELL, DO WHAT YOU DID THEN.

MEANWHILE, JUST DOWN THE STREET FROM BOUNDERS BOOKS AND MUZAK, THE LAST INDEPENDENT BOOK-STORE IN TOWN BITES THE DUST-JACKET.

WHAT?!!

I'M CLOSING THE STORE.

I KNOW IT'S SUDDEN, BUT WE JUST GOT AN UNEXPECTED TAX BILL.

SO WE HAVE ANOTHER FUNDRAISER!

THAT'S NO SOLUTION. SALES ARE DOWN, COSTS ARE UP, WE CAN'T COMPETE WITH THE BIG STORES, THE CAFE NEVER TOOK OFF. I JUST CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER INTO DEBT.

SO WE JUGGLE THE BOOKS! WHAT ARE "GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS" FOR?

NO, THIS IS IT.

WHEN I OPENED THIS PLACE 25 YEARS AGO, THE STORE WAS AN OUTPOST IN A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT. THE FUTURE WAS UNCHARTED. I HAD NO IDEA WHAT I WAS GETTING INTO, EXCEPT THAT IT WASN'T GOING TO MAKE MUCH MONEY.

WHAT AN ACHIEVEMENT, TO COME FULL CIRCLE.

JEEZ, I THOUGHT WE WERE GONNA MAKE THE WORLD SAFE FOR FEMINISM.

WE DID. TO BE REPACKAGED AND SOLD BY GLOBAL MEDIA CONGLOMERATES.

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# Curbside

by Robert Kirby

**FOLLOW THRU** ©2002 ROBERT KIRBY

HEY BRENDAN, IT'S ME, DOT. YOU ALONE?

WELL, I WAS KIND OF HOPING... YOU KNOW, NUDGE NUDGE WINK WINK!

C'MON, DOT, YOU KNOW CHASTE LIL' OL' ME! I DIDN'T EVEN GET A GOOD-BYE KISS OUT OF HIM...

DOES THAT MEAN YOU WANTED ONE? THAT YOU ACTUALLY LIKED A BOY I SET YOU UP WITH FOR ONCE?

WELL, YEAH, I DID... J.T. IS LIKE, WELL, YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT HE'S ALL ABOUT, SO THERE'S MYSTERY TO HIM, YOU KNOW? PLUS HE'S A GOOD ARTIST TOO.

SO WHERE'D YOU GO THEN? GONNA GO OUT AGAIN?

DUNNO..WE TALKED ABOUT IT, SO THAT'S A GOOD SIGN... I HOPE SO! \*HEY, WE'RE STILL ON FOR STUDYING TODAY, RIGHT? I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT EVERYTHING THEN, OK?

HELLO?

HEY J.T., IT'S ME, DOT. HOW'S IT GOING?

AND HE'S cute.

SURE, MAYBE AROUND 10:30, OK? I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO DO FIRST..