

# Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

**belabored day**  
9/11  
©2002 BY ALISON BECHDEL 398

AS ALASKA MELTS AND CHUNKS OF ANTARCTICA DELIQUESC INTO THE SOUTH PACIFIC, ANOTHER LONG, HOT SUMMER DRAWS TO A CLOSE.

HUMIDITY HAS CAST A PALL ON THE POOL PARTY.

THAT REALLY SUCKS ABOUT THE BOOKSTORE CLOSING, LOIS. WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO?  
NO IDEA. BUT I BETTER COME UP WITH SOMETHING SOON OR IT'S GONNA BE DAYCARE BY DEFAULT.  
I FELT FINE THROUGH MY FIFTH MONTH, TOO. IT WAS THE LAST FOUR THAT MADE ME WANT TO DIE.

I JUST READ THAT IN NIGERIA, MEN CAN BE STONED TO DEATH FOR HAVING AN AFFAIR NOW TOO, NOT JUST WOMEN.  
MEN BEING STONED, WOMEN SUICIDE BOMBERS. MAYBE WE SHOULD RE-THINK THAT BUSINESS ABOUT HOW THE ISLAMIC WORLD NEEDS TO ADOPT OUR WESTERN EGALITARIAN IDEALS.  
I'M JUST SAYING YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL HOW YOU TALK ABOUT ISRAEL WHEN THERE'S SO MUCH RAMPANT ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE WORLD.  
BUT BEING CRITICAL OF ISRAEL DOESN'T MEAN I'M ANTI-SEMITIC.

I'M NOT HOMOPHOBIC, BUT I KNOW THAT GAY ENRON EXEC WAS A GREEDY SWINE.  
YEAH, WELL, SAY THAT AT A FOCUS ON THE FAMILY CONVENTION, AND SEE HOW UNHOMOPHOBIC IT SOUNDS. SPEAK THE TRUTH, JUST UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT AND IMPACT OF WHAT YOU SAY.  
OKAY, MAYBE SWINE'S KIND OF A STRONG WORD.  
FOUR BMW'S? THE MAN'S A PIG.  
JASMINE, AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT JONAS RUNNING AROUND IN THAT TUBETOP LOIS GAVE HIM? EVENTUALLY HE'LL GET TEASED, OR WORSE.  
I WORRY ALL THE TIME, BUT LOOK HOW HAPPY HE IS. WHY KEEP HIM COMPLETELY SAFE IF IT MAKES HIM MISERABLE?  
...NO, THEY DO C-SECTIONS HORIZONTALLY, SEE? HOPEFULLY YOU WON'T NEED ONE. I'LL ALWAYS FEEL BAD I DIDN'T GET TO GO THROUGH THE EXPERIENCE OF LABOR.  
DAYCARE FOR TRANSGENDER TODDLERS. I LIKE IT.  
ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO KICK THIS LABOR DAY BASH UP A NOTCH? SPARKLERS? "THE INTERNATIONALE" DANCE MIX?

BUSH UNVEILS NEW FOREST SERVICE MASCOT: SMOKEY THE CHAINSAW.

THANKS, ANNE! SORRY I WAS A LITTLE LATE. I HOPE HE WASN'T ANY TROUBLE.  
I WISH THE TWO OF THEM WOULD GIVE ME SOME TROUBLE. THEY JUST SIT IN FRONT OF THE COMPUTER LIKE... LIKE LARVAE.  
SO HOW WAS YOUR FIRST DAY OF FOURTH GRADE?  
WE'RE GOING TO KEEP JOURNALS AND WE HAVE TO WRITE CURSIVE IN THEM AND WE HAVE COMPUTER LAB EVERY DAY AND AT RECESS A NEW KID TAUGHT US THIS REALLY EXCELLENT GAME.  
IT'S CALLED "SMEAR THE QUEER."  
WHAT?  
YOU THROW THE BALL IN THE AIR AND WHOEVER CATCHES IT RUNS AROUND AND WE ALL TRY TO KNOCK HIM DOWN AND PILE ONTO HIM. SEE MY SCRAPE?  
RAFFI! DID YOUR TEACHER KNOW THIS WAS GOING ON? DID SHE SEE THE OTHER KIDS KNOCKING YOU DOWN?!

I DON'T KNOW, BUT I WAS KNOCKING THEM DOWN TOO!  
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START; YOU KNOW IT'S WRONG TO GANG UP ON PEOPLE. YOU KNOW 'QUEER' IS A VERY MEAN WORD!  
THEN HOW COME YOU GUYS ARE ALWAYS SAYING IT?  
...BUT IT BENDS TOWARD JUSTICE.  
LATER THAT EVENING...  
WELL, I'D APPRECIATE THAT. THANK YOU. ... NOT AT ALL. BYE.  
I THINK IT'LL BE FINE. SHE APOLOGIZED, SHE REALLY GETS IT, SHE'S GOING TO TALK TO THE KIDS ABOUT THE POWER WORDS HAVE TO HURT.  
HOW ABOUT THE POWER OF GANG-TACKLING TO HURT? #\*%@ING RITUALIN-RADDLED RIFFRAFF!  
CLARICE, CAN WE PLEASE TRY AND WIND DOWN? IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY.  
HERE, WE CAN READ THE SAME-SEX COMMITMENT CEREMONY ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE TIMES. GOD, REMEMBER WHEN THEY WOULDN'T EVEN PRINT THE WORD 'GAY'?  
HILARY AND SCHUYLER... CHAPEL AT HOTCHKISS... STANFORD... MBA FROM U. PENN... HOW SWEET? THEY WORK AT THE SAME INVESTMENT BANK IN THE GLOBAL RAPINE & PILLAGE DIVISION.  
OKAY, OKAY. WE CAN READ THE ARTS & LEISURE SECTION.  
(APOLOGIZES TO DR. KING)

**Intro to Queer Theory**  
9/25  
©2002 BY ALISON BECHDEL 399

THE ARC OF HISTORY IS LONG...

WWW.DYKESTOWATCHOUTFOR.NET

# Curbside

by Robert Kirby

**THE NEXT MOVE** ©2002 BY ROBERT KIRBY

SO WHATTA THINK, DOT? SHOULD I CALL J.T. TONIGHT, OR SHOULD I GIVE IT MAYBE A COUPLE OF DAYS FIRST? I.E. DO I LET HIM KNOW WITHOUT RESERVATION THAT I LIKE HIM OR, CONVERSELY, DO I PLAY IT TOTALLY COOL AND KEEP HIM GUESSING?

LOOK, BRENDAN, LIKE I ALREADY TOLD YOU, HE SAID HE LIKES YOU. I'VE DONE MY PART. WHAT YOU'VE GOTTA DO IS TRUST YOUR GUT AND DO WHAT FEELS RIGHT...MY GUESS WITH YOU IS THAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO HOLD BACK A BIT AND ERR ON THE SIDE OF COOL. OK? NOW, CAN WE GET BACK TO WORK HERE? I'VE GOT A TON OF SHIT TO CATCH UP ON TODAY...

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT... I MEAN, WHEN A GUY CALLS ME BACK THE VERY NEXT DAY AFTER A DATE IT SOMEHOW MARKS HIM DOWN A COUPLE NOTCHES..YEAH, REMEMBER THAT GUY OWEN FROM LAST SPRING? I ALWAYS WONDER IF I MAYBE THREW HIM BACK IN THE WATER TOO SOON.....

I REMEMBER WHEN WE....

OK, OK! I'LL SHUT UP NOW! BACK TO WORK!

THANK YOU.

JUST KEEP IN MIND THOUGH-YOU ALREADY HAVE A BOYFRIEND- IT'S EASY TO BE DISMISSIVE WHEN YOU'VE FORGOTTEN WHAT IT'S LIKE.

OK, MY YENTA PHASE? OFFICIALLY OVER.