

Jael makes sexuality and lesbianism a reality. Maria, who is somewhat intimidated by the louder and flirtier Jael and smitten with the more nurturing and earthier Ruth, suddenly finds herself at odds with them after walking in on them kissing. "Now suddenly here were two friends of hers kissing on the table she ate at every night...How could she not have known? And then, embarrassment swinging to anger, the question reversed: How the hell was she meant to know?"


Maria starts to work it through by talking about it with her straight University pal, Yvonne, who resorts to cliches in describing Ruth and Jael although she has never met them. Maria's irritation at this, which she makes known, lends to the intelligence and integrity of the novel. On her way home that night "she kept forgetting there was anything to worry about".

Ruth finally confronts Maria with the reality of her and Jael's relationship and in a combination of dialogue and aside thoughts, Maria's fears and intrigues are illuminated. While she is young and not very worldly, her intelligence and emerging sophistication carry her where ignorance could rule.

As the three of them relax into a more comfortable space with each other, they no longer have to hide public displays of affection in their home. Jael's flirtations serve as a wake-up call to Maria as she begins to define her own attractions.

The dialect is sharp, the witticisms clever, the characters intelligent, well-defined and likeable. I was sorry that the book ended at the juncture that it did. I wanted more of this emerging dyke-drama. Emma Donoghue, published playwright and editor

of *Passions Between Women*, is a great new voice in lesbian fiction and I look forward to her next cast of characters. ▼

 **VOTE
SUSAN
FOWLER**

**CHITTENDEN
COUNTY
PROBATE JUDGE**



LEGAL EXPERIENCE:

**Practicing Attorney -
14 Years,
Experienced Trial Attorney;**

Private Practice, July 1984 through present,

- General practice in Probate, Family, District and Superior Courts of Chittenden County;
- Statewide Probate adoption practice representing birth parents or adoptive parents in relinquishment and finalization proceedings;
- Private legal counsel in hundreds of contested matters involving family issues;

Deputy State's Attorney, 1981 - 1984

- Chittenden County and Windsor County, Prosecuted hundreds of criminal cases including two murder trials and dozens of sexual assaults, Chief Deputy State's Attorney, 1983 - 1984;
- Argued twenty-eight cases before the Vermont Supreme Court;

Acting Judge, Vermont District Court;

**Judicial Law Clerk for Vermont District Court
Judges, 1980 - 1981;**

UNIQUE EXPERIENCE:

Vermont's only attorney who is an accepted member of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys;

Appointed by Governor Kunin to the Vermont Adoption Reform Task Force, 1991 - 1993;

Adoptive Parent

PLEASE VOTE NOVEMBER 8TH

Paid for by Susan Fowler for Probate Judge Committee



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