

# Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

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**Ph.D. & Sympathy** 250

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I'LL BE THE LEXUS LESBIAN WITH A FLAT TIRE, AND YOU BE THE SURLY BIKER WHO STOPS TO HELP.

GEE, I DUNNO, BABETTE. I'M KINDA TIRED.

OKAY, OKAY. THE FED EX DRIVER DELIVERING THE GOOD VIBRATIONS PACKAGE TO THE BORED HOUSEWIFE.

Y'KNOW, I THINK I'M JUST GONNA GO HOME.

MEANWHILE... SO THIS WOMAN'S HUSBAND SHOWS UP AT THE SHELTER TODAY WITH A DOZEN ROSES AND A HUNTING RIFLE.

LONG-STEMMED?

GINGER!

SPARROW, EVERY DAY YOU HAVE SOME NEW HORROR STORY! I CAN'T LET IT IN ANY MORE. HOW DO YOU DO THAT JOB?

WELL, WE CAN'T ALL SIT AROUND NOT WRITING OUR DISSERTATIONS.

KA-KLICK

WUF!

WE'VE GOTTA TALK TO HER.

YEAH, GENTLY, THOUGH, OR SHE'LL FREAK.

NOK NOK

LOIS? CAN WE COME IN?

LOIS, IS THERE SOMETHING...

WHAT IS UP WITH YOU, GIRL? MO SAYS YOU'RE POPPING PROZAC! WHAT ARE YOU DEPRESSED ABOUT?

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT. SHE THOUGHT WE KNEW.

YEAH. SO HOW COME WE DIDN'T?

OH, YOU GUYS HAVE ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT WITH YOUR CAREERS AND ALL. YOU DON'T NEED TO HEAR ABOUT MY PROBLEMS.

ARE YOU KIDDING? I'D MUCH RATHER HEAR ABOUT YOUR PROBLEMS THAN WORK ON MY DISSERTATION.

THANK YOU, GINGER. CONSIDERING YOU'D RATHER FELTATE BILL CLINTON THAN WORK ON YOUR DISSERTATION, THAT'S VERY GENEROUS.

THAT WORM! SHE TOLD YOU? WITH A FRIEND LIKE MO, WHO WOULDN'T BE DEPRESSED?

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**DESPERATE MEASURES** 251

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HONEY! I'M HOME!

HELLO, DARLING! LET ME GET YOU A MARTINI AND YOUR SLIPPERS.

MY, WHAT A HEAVY BEARD YOU'VE GROWN SINCE THIS MORNING, MOMMY!

KISS KISS

THAT'S NOT MOMMY! THAT'S CARLOS!

OH, SUGAR, I KNOW IT'S CARLOS! I WAS JUST BEING SILLY!

SOUNDS LIKE TIME FOR ANOTHER DEPOSIT INTO HIS THERAPY FUND.

WHERE'S TONI?

OUT FOR A WALK. SHE WAS ALL UPSET OVER SOMETHING HER MOM SENT IN THE MAIL.

JESUS CHRIST!

MEANWHILE... OKAY. "GENDER, DEVANCE, AND THE INFOMERCIAL" SHOULD BE IN ON THURSDAY. ANYTHING ELSE?

DINNER, MAYHAP?

OH, PLEASE! I CAN'T HAVE DINNER WITH YOU, SYDNEY!

WHY NOT? BECAUSE I'M A FLESH-EATER?

NO. BECAUSE YOU'RE ARROGANT, CONDESCENDING, AND COMPLETELY OBNOXIOUS.

YET STRANGELY COMPELLING.

THAT WEASEL! DOES SHE HAVE TO DO HER FLURTING WHERE I WORK?

FRANKLY, I DON'T SEE THE ATTRACTION. DOES SYDNEY HAVE SOME KIND OF ILL-DRESSED IDEALOGUE FETISH?

OH, COME ON! MO'S A CATCH. WELL... IN A REPRESSED, BUTCH BOTTOM KIND OF WAY. I'VE GOTTA WARN HER ABOUT SYDNEY!

DOES THIS MEAN WE'RE FINALLY GONNA FIND OUT WHAT SHE DID TO YOU?

IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES.

TILL FRIDAY, THEN.

CLAO, BELLA.

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**The Trouble With Sydney** 252

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WE WERE LOVERS OUR LAST SEMESTER AT SANTA CRUZ. THEN WHEN SYDNEY WENT TO GRAD SCHOOL, I FOLLOWED HER EAST. GOD, WE LIVED IN THE NASTIEST LITTLE APARTMENT...

HI, BABE. I HAFTA EAT AND RUN. GOT AN IMPORTANT LECTURE TONIGHT. HOW WAS THE COPY SHOP?

I DIDN'T GO TO WORK. I HAD THAT APPOINTMENT AT THE CLINIC, REMEMBER?

OH, RIGHT. DID THEY FIGURE OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

YEAH. I HAVE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS.

RIGHT. AND I HAVG BUBONIC PLAGUE.

NO, I'M SERIOUS. THIS IS FOR REAL. I'VE BEEN SUSPICIOUS FOR A WHILE, BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU TILL I KNEW FOR SURE.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS! ISN'T THAT SOME KIND OF DEGENERATIVE THING? LIKE WHERE YOU END UP PARALYZED IN A WHEELCHAIR?

WELL, NO... NOT NECESSARILY. THEY GAVE ME A BUNCH OF INFORMATION...

SHE DIDN'T COME HOME THAT NIGHT.

GREAT. I'LL LOOK AT IT LATER. I GOTTA GO NOW OR I'LL BE LATE FOR "CIXOUS'S MEDIA: (G)ORGANIZATION / CASTRATION OF THE PHALIC ECONOMY."

TIP TO THE NIB TO DINNIEA STENOGR!

WHAT AN ASSHOLE!

YEAH. NOT EXACTLY SUPPORTIVE. BUT... WE'VE ALL DONE AWFUL THINGS. SHE WAS YOUNG! IT WAS A SHOCK!

OFFICE

YEAH, WELL. WHEN SHE FINALLY SHOWED UP...

LOOK, THIS JUST ISN'T WORKING. YOU DON'T CHALLENGE ME ENOUGH. I'M MOVING OUT.

WH... WHERE WILL YOU GO?

I'M GONNA STAY WITH MADELEINE FOR A WHILE.

MADELEINE?! THE VISITING COMP LIT PROFESSOR?

TURN'S OUT THEY'D BEEN THEORIZING TOGETHER SINCE MY FIRST SYMPTOMS SHOWED UP.

SUH-LEAZE-BAH!

...AND IN HERE IS MY DILIGENT STAFF. HOPELESS WORKAHOLICS, AS YOU CAN SEE. EVERYONE, MEET OUR NEW INTERN, ANJALL.

OH, WOW. I AM TRIPPING OUT THAT I ACTUALLY GET TO WORK HERE!

BEING CONSTANTLY SURROUNDED BY BOOKS! BRINGING IDEAS, POEMS, AND MANIFESTOS TO THE WORLD! HOW CAN YOU STAND IT?

THAT REMINDS ME, LOIS. THE LUBE SHIPMENT JUST CAME IN.

SHE JUST ABANDONED YOU? SCARCE AND SICK IN A STRANGE CITY? I CAN'T GO OUT WITH THIS WOMAN!

OH, WE HAVN'T AGE SOMEHOW.

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**Seasonal Affection Disorder** 253

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AT THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT BAZAAR, OUR HEROINE IS EXHIBITING SOME BIZARRE AND CRAFTY BEHAVIOR.

COULD YOU STAND LIKE THAT? I'M TRYING TO AVOID SYDNEY.

OH, MO. DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE ALIENATED YET ANOTHER PERSON. HOW COME YOU'RE STILL TALKING TO ME?

BECAUSE YOU DON'T KEEP SECRETS FROM ME LIKE LOIS, OR THINK YOU'RE BETTER THAN I AM, LIKE CLARICE. AND YOU DIDN'T FUCK OVER A FRIEND OF MINE, LIKE SYDNEY DID.

WELL... SINCE YOU'RE COUNTING, I DID LET MY PUBLIC RADIO MEMBERSHIP LAPSE.

THE HOME STUDY LOOKS GOOD, AND I'VE CLEARED UP YOUR CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE ARRESTS WITH THE JUDGE. NOW WE'RE JUST WAITING FOR A HEARING DATE. IN A MONTH OR TWO, THE ADOPTION SHOULD BE FINAL.

WANNA BANANAS IN PAJAMAS DOLL NOW!

IS IT TOO LATE TO PUT HIM UP FOR ADOPTION INSTEAD?

ZOLOFT, HUH? I'M ON PROZAC.

REALLY! I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU WERE IN THERAPY.

I'M NOT. MY DOCTOR PRESCRIBED IT.

ORGANIC Cuddly-Free DIAPERS

SO YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING ON THE EMOTIONAL ROOTS OF YOUR DEPRESSION?

HEY, MY INSURANCE COVERS FIFTY PERCENT OF A NINETY-MINUTE THERAPY SESSION AFTER I MEET THE THOUSAND DOLLAR DEDUCTIBLE. MY CO-PAYMENT ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IS SEVEN BUCKS. YOU DO THE MATH.

SYDNEY! I DIDN'T FIGURE YOU FOR THE CRAFT FAIR TYPE.

HEY, GINGER. I'M SHOPPING FOR A JOKE GIFT FOR AN EX.

THE HIDEOUS BRONZE OF TWO WOMEN EMBRACING WOULD BE WITHERINGLY IRONIC, BUT I'M ALSO DRAWN TO THIS MACABRE PINK TRIANGLE NIGHT LIGHT.

HA! WOULDN'T THIS BE THE PERFECT GIFT FOR LOIS?

OH, IF I WERE GIVING HER ONE, I'D MEAN.

UH-OH! COVER ME! HERE COMES CLARICE!

MO, IF YOU DON'T WANNA SEE ANYONE YOU KNOW, WHY DON'T YOU GO SHOP ACROSS THE STREET AT FOCUS ON THE FAMILY'S FRANKINGENSE AND FRUITCAKE FAIR.

SCREECH!

FOR THE GAL WHO HAS EVERYTHING HAND CARVED DILDO RACKS