

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

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HARD CORE
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FROM EAST GRAND FORKS TO KEY WEST, QUEER AMERICA Huddles 'ROUND ITS HOME ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS FOR A TELEHISTORIC MOMENT OF COLLECTIVE CATHARSIS.

...AND WHAT WAS HIS NAME?
SUSAN.

... I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS, I GOT THE JOKE ABOUT THE TOASTER OVEN.

... I WANT A HOUSE WITH A PICKET FENCE, YOU KNOW, A DOG, A CAT, SUNDAY BAR-BECUES, SOMEONE TO LOVE...

AARGH!

YES, I'M... I'M GAY.

DON'T YOU SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE? THEY'RE TRYING TO NEUTRALIZE US! THEY FEED US SOME PHONY SITCOM ABOUT OUR LIVES SO WE'LL STAY HOME AND WATCH IT, INSTEAD OF GOING OUT AND MAKING OUR OWN SUBVERSIVE CULTURE!

WELL, JERRY FALWELL SEEMS TO FIND THIS SHOW PRETTY DAMN SUBVERSIVE. BESIDES, IT'S NOT PHONY. SHE'S A REAL LIVE LESBO!

THAT'S THE WORST PART! TRY TO CHANGE ANYTHING IN THIS COUNTRY AND YOU END UP GETTING PACKAGED AND SOLD BACK TO YOURSELF! PLUS NOW EVERY SHMOE ON THE STREET'S GONNA THINK THEY KNOW WHAT MY LIFE IS LIKE!

GOD, MO! YOU'RE SO HARD CORE! THIS IS ACTUALLY REALLY FUNNY, IF YOU'D SIT DOWN AND SHUT UP!

SYDNEY, WHY WATCH THE DISNEY VERSION WHEN YOU HAVE THE REAL DEAL RIGHT HERE?

WAIT! I WANNA SEE THIS!

RELAX, I'M TAPING IT. WE CAN WATCH IT AFTER.

AFTER WHAT?

AFTER DOING SOMETHING OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS WOULD MOST DEFINITELY OBJECT TO, IF WE HAD ANY.

LATER, SOMETIME DURING "PRIMETIME LIVE..."

CLIK! HI, IT'S MOM. YOU MUST BE OUT AT ONE OF THOSE 'ELLEN' PARTIES. WELL, I LOVED THE SHOW. SHE'S SUCH AN ATTRACTIVE GIRL! YOU KNOW YOU'D LOOK GREAT WITH THAT HAIRSTYLE! YOUR DAD AND I WERE JUST SAYING MAYBE ONE DAY YOU COULD MANAGE A BOOKSTORE LIKE ELLEN, INSTEAD OF JUST WORKING IN ONE. WOULDN'T THAT BE NICE? CALL US! BYE!

let the lover beware
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NO'S HAVING A COFFEE BREAK WITH EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE CONFIDANTE.

I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT! SHE'S SO IRRITATING... YET SO SEXY! I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HER!

GIVE ME THE PARTICULARS.

IT'S THE BEST SEX I EVER HAD!

NOT NECESSARILY A GLOWING TESTIMONIAL IN YOUR CASE. SO, HOW'D YOU LIKE THE "CYBORGASM"?

WHAT?

YOU KNOW! THAT DILDO SYDNEY BOUGHT AT THE STORE LAST WEEK. THE WEIRD, RIDGY ONE. I HAVEN'T TRIED IT YET.

I... YOU... HOW...

I'LL TAKE THAT AS A POSITIVE REVIEW. I'M ASSUMING SHE WORE IT, OR DID YOU STRAP 'ER ON TOO?

LOIS! THERE'S MORE TO SEX THAN MERE TECHNIQUE. I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU I REALLY LIKE THIS WOMAN! A LOT!

WHOA, BIG FELLA! THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH JUST HAVING A GOOD TIME. I WOULDN'T RUSH INTO ANYTHING WITH SOMEONE LIKE SYDNEY.

WHADDAYA MEAN, SOMEONE LIKE SYDNEY? JUST WHAT EXACTLY IS SYDNEY LIKE?

ME.

MEANWHILE, OVER AT THE UNIVERSITY...

HEY, SYDNEY, YOU READY TO LEAVE?

YEAH. CAN YOU HELP ME CARRY THIS STUFF TO THE CAR?

AH! YOU'VE FINALLY REALIZED WHAT A CROCK QUEER STUDIES IS, AND YOU'RE DONATING ALL THESE BOOKS TO THE CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA RUMMAGE SALE.

SADLY, NO. THIS IS ABOUT HALF THE READING I NEED TO DO THIS SUMMER FOR MY BOOK. THE PRESSURE'S REALLY ON FOR ME TO PUBLISH.

HOW NICE TO KNOW THIS DELIGHTFUL STRESS WON'T END AFTER I DEFEND MY DISSERTATION NEXT WEEK.

WELL, LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE. THERE'S SUCH A GLUT OF PH.D.'S YOU'LL PROBABLY NEVER FIND A JOB.

AT LEAST I'D HAVE A LIFE AGAIN. HAVE YOU TOLD MO YOU'RE GONNA BE SPENDING THE SUMMER WRITING THIS BOOK?

NO. WHY? DOES SLEEPING WITH SOMEONE A FEW TIMES MEAN I SHOULD CONSULT HER ABOUT MY CAREER?

HEY, GIRLFRIEND, DON'T PRETEND THIS IS SOME KIND OF CASUAL SEX THING. I KNOW MO BETTER THAN THAT.

LOOK, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH JUST HAVING A GOOD TIME.

MMM. I KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO'D HATE TO SEE MO GET HURT, IS ALL. SAY, I HOPE YOU SAVE YOUR MANUSCRIPT ON MULTIPLE DISKS. IT'S SCARY HOW VULNERABLE ALL THOSE YEARS OF RESEARCH ARE, ISN'T IT?

GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDERED PRIDE DAY

Burlington June 21, 1997

Carol L. Thayer, M.D.
Family Physician

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