

# Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

**the DRAMA of the GIFTED CHILD**

Mo and Sydney decide to spend the first half of their Christmas vacation with Sydney's father and step-mother.

302

©1998 BY ALISON BECHDEL

Panel 1: Mo and Sydney are sitting at a table with their father and stepmother. Mo is holding a book titled 'SHINOLA MIXED FOOD CELLULOSE'.  
 Panel 2: Mo says, 'WHO! AN MRX7000! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THANKS, DAD!' Sydney replies, 'PAUL! YOU PROMISED TO SCALE BACK THIS YEAR! THAT MUST HAVE COST FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS!'  
 Panel 3: Mo says, 'SEVEN. IT'S AN AMAZING PIECE OF TECHNOLOGY! OPEN YOURS FIRST!' Sydney replies, 'OPEN YOURS FIRST!'  
 Panel 4: Mo says, 'HA! YOU LITTLE MINX!' Sydney replies, 'SYDNEY! YOU SPENT SEVEN HUNDRED BUCKS ON THAT? WHAT ABOUT THE BUDGET WE DREW UP FOR YOU? WHAT ABOUT YOUR DEBT?' Mo replies, 'MO, RELAX! I GOT ONE TOO, SO IT'S LIKE I BROKE EVEN!'

Panel 5: Mo says, 'AND THE SECOND HALF WITH MO'S FAMILY.' Sydney replies, 'UH... THANKS, DAD. HOW THOUGHTFUL. BUT Y'KNOW, I WORK IN A BOOKSTORE. I GET AN EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT. I TELL YOU THIS EVERY YEAR.' Mo replies, 'WELL, I GOT IT AT 20% OFF AT BUNN'S AND NOODLE. BUT IF YOU DON'T WANT IT, I'LL TAKE IT BACK.'  
 Panel 6: Mo says, 'DAD! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU HAVEN'T I EXPLAINED A THOUSAND TIMES HOW BUNN'S AND NOODLE IS RAPING THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE!'  
 Panel 7: Mo says, 'NICE TALK, MO! JUST TAKE THE BOOK! YOU'VE ALWAYS GOTTA GET EVERYONE'S ATTENTION.' Sydney replies, 'SCOTT, WHY DON'T YOU GO POLISH YOUR JUMBO WOOD?' Mo replies, 'WHY'RE YOU SO CRITICAL OF SCOTT'S GOLF-PLAYING, MO? I THOUGHT LESBIANS LIKED GOLF.' Sydney replies, 'SYDNEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?' Mo replies, 'I... I JUST THOUGHT I'D WORK ON THIS CROSSWORD THAT WAS LYING HERE.'  
 Panel 8: Mo says, 'I FORGOT TO WARN YOU. MOM'S A TAD TERRITORIAL ABOUT THE DAILY PUZZLE.' Sydney replies, 'SCOTTY! GET ME SOME MORE EGGNOG. QUICK.'  
 Panel 9: Mo says, 'THE DRIVE HOME IS A BIT TENSE...' Sydney replies, 'GOD! IT WAS LIKE I'D SWIPE CAPTAIN QUEEG'S BALLS! I ONLY FILLED IN A COUPLE SQUARES! "PERSONA NON WHO COULD RESIST?'" Mo replies, 'HEY, YOUR DAD'S NOT EXACTLY MR. MENTAL HEALTH EITHER. HOW OLD'S YOUR STEPMOTHER? IS SHE DRIVING YET?'  
 Panel 10: Mo says, 'MEANWHILE, THEIR CAT-SITTERS ARE MAKING AN INTERESTING DISCOVERY.' Sydney replies, 'WHAT'RE YOU DOING ON SYDNEY'S COMPUTER? AND WHY ARE YOU BLUSHING?' Mo replies, 'I UH... I WAS JUST LOOKING TO SEE IF SHE HAD ANY GAMES.' Sydney replies, 'OH MY GOD! I'D SAY SHE DOES.'  
 Panel 11: Mo says, 'KOFF.'

**... like it's 1999**

Mo and Sydney have just returned from visiting their families, and in consequence are feeling a bit fractious.

303

©1998 BY ALISON BECHDEL

Panel 12: Mo says, 'JEEZ, SPARROW AND STU DIDN'T CLEAN OUT THE CAT BOX ONCE WHILE THEY WERE HERE.' Sydney replies, 'GOD, MY KEYBOARD'S ALL STICKY. LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE MESSING AROUND ON MY COMPUTER, TOO.'  
 Panel 13: Mo says, 'THEY LEFT THIS INVITATION TO THEIR NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY. WANNA GO?' Sydney replies, 'UH... SURE. I HOPE THEY DIDN'T GO SNOOPING IN MY FILES.'  
 Panel 14: Mo says, 'MEANWHILE, PARTY PREPARATIONS ARE AFOOT...' Sydney replies, 'SYDNEY'S HAVING A VIRTUAL AFFAIR? WHO CARES? AND WHAT WERE YOU DOING ON HER COMPUTER?' Mo replies, 'IT'S MY FAULT. I WAS LOOKING FOR GAMES, YOU KNOW, NASCAR RACING! SOLITAIRE! BUT IN THE FOLDER LABELED 'GAMES...'  
 Panel 15: Mo says, 'HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S A WOMAN? FOR ALL YOU KNOW, IT COULD BE CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN. BESIDES WHICH, IT'S NONE OF OUR BUSINESS.' Sydney replies, 'OH. SO IF STUART HAD SOME BIMBO OVER WHILE I WAS AWAY, YOU WOULDN'T BOTHER MENTIONING IT TO ME?'  
 Panel 16: Mo says, 'OH, COME ON! YOU'RE NOT GONNA TELL MO! MAYBE SHE ALREADY KNOWS. MAYBE THEY HAVE AN ARRANGEMENT.' Sydney replies, 'AND IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S A REAL AFFAIR.' Mo replies, 'WHAT'S NOT LIKE IT'S A REAL AFFAIR?'  
 Panel 17: Mo says, 'OH, LOIS... WE WERE JUST DISCUSSING, UH... IN A PURELY THEORETICAL WAY... WHETHER AN ONLINE AFFAIR COUNTS.' Sydney replies, 'COUNTS? SPARROW, YOU'RE SO 20TH CENTURY.'  
 Panel 18: Mo says, 'SOON... HI, KIDS! WELCOME BACK! HOW'RE THE FOLKS?' Sydney replies, 'UNH. MPH.'  
 Panel 19: Mo says, 'OKAY! TONIGHT'S TOPIC: EXTRA-CURRICULAR SEX - IS IT CHEATING IF IT'S ONLY VIRTUAL?' Sydney replies, 'LOIS! WHY DON'T YOU SEE IF ANYONE WANTS MORE HORSERADISH REMOULADE!' Mo replies, 'OF COURSE IT'S CHEATING! IT WOULD BE A DIVERSION OF EMOTIONAL ENERGY.'  
 Panel 20: Mo says, 'I WOULDN'T CALL IT CHEATING. IT'S MORE LIKE REMOTE, INTERACTIVE MASTURBATION.' Sydney replies, 'HMM... HAS SHE BEEN DOING A LOT OF "ON-LINE RESEARCH" LATELY, MO?'  
 Panel 21: Mo says, 'OW! JESUS, SPARROW!' Sydney replies, 'DARN, THAT WAS SOME TASTY REMOULADE.'  
 Panel 22: Mo says, 'WHOOPS.'

Diversity Projects in Amherst, MA is a non-profit organization which distributes multiple copies of this acclaimed exhibit. You can also purchase the new 1999 Love Makes a Family Wall Calendar for your classroom or home with photos and quotes from the exhibit (and soon-to-be published book). Calendar sales benefit Family Diversity Projects and GLPCI (Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International). For more information, please email us at famphoto@aol.com or visit our website at www.familydiv.org/LoveFamily and visit our other exhibits as well through the links. (2/99)

## NEW GROUPS

**ACTIVE? LOVE THE OUTDOORS?** Into hiking, biking, swimming, kayaking/canoeing, climbing, skiing? Want to meet new friends? Gay women's outdoor social network forming in the Burlington/Plattsburgh region. Singles/couples. Informal. Get connected! Call 518/562-5442 (2/99)

**HIV+ SUPPORT GROUP IN ST. JOHNSBURY** on Thursdays. Call Rick at 748-9061. (2/99)

## LOOKING FOR

**HELP WANTED**  
 Volunteer positions available for Pride '99 Committee. Job descriptions include: Volunteer Coordinator, Vendor Tent Coordinator, Entertainment Coordinator. For More Info Contact: Tracy at 864-3455 or VT PRIDE, PO Box 1433, Burlington, VT 05402

## Curbside

BY ROBERT KIRBY

**STOP MAKING SENSE (©1998 BY R. KIRBY)**

SOMETIMES I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF YOU, NATHAN... IT'S LIKE YOU'RE ON A DIFFERENT FREQUENCY THAN ALL THE REST OF US..

CELEBRITY SKON

SO, ARE YOU EVER GOING TO TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK?

... THINK? ABOUT WHAT?

ABOUT THE STORY OF MINE I GAVE YOU THIS MORNING! GEEZ, NATHAN! WHAT ELSE?

OH, THAT. IT - IT WAS OK..

COGENT ANALYSIS. ALTHOUGH I GOT A BIT BORED BY THE END.

AW C'MON, DREW, YOU KEEP GIVING ME ALL THIS REAL SERIOUS STUFF TO READ AND IT'S JUST NOT MY THING! BUT I STILL THINK YOU'RE GOOD!

THE WAY YOU PUT THE WORDS, I MEAN...

THANKS, I THINK..... YOU KNOW, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT... MAYBE MY PROBLEM ISN'T SO MUCH THE LANGUAGE AS IT IS THE CONTENT..... GOD KNOWS THE WORLD IS A DEPRESSING ENOUGH PLACE ALREADY... MAYBE I COULD SELL SOME WORK IF I TRIED SOMETHING... LIGHTER IN TONE.....

HMM... THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE YOU'RE MAKING SENSE... IN FACT, I THINK YOU AND YOUR BAND COULD BE MY NEW ROLE MODELS... YOU AREN'T TRYING TO BE "SMART" OR "RELEVANT" YOU JUST GO ON OUT THERE AND TRY TO ENTERTAIN... YOU DON'T CONCERN YOURSELVES WITH "ART" OR EVEN TECHNICAL SKILL...

YEAH, I THINK THAT'S BECAUSE WE-- WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!

YEAH, SEE, THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT... IT'S JUST SO SERIOUS AND ALL....

YOU KNOW, I USED TO WRITE THESE CUTE, FUNNY LITTLE ESSAYS, WAY BACK BEFORE MY SPIRIT GOT ALL TWISTED AND BITTER...

**STUDY OF LESBIANS AND THEIR SISTERS**  
 University professor is looking for volunteers to complete a survey about how lesbians and their sisters are similar or different. To participate, please contact: Esther Rothblum, Box 1278, John Dewey Hall, University of Vermont,

Burlington, VT 05405, tel. 802-656-4156, email esther.rothblum@uvm.edu and leave mailing address. (1/99)

**BISEXUAL WOMYN WANTED**  
 for documentary about bisexual womyn and their lives. As bisexuals we need visibility. This project is about being out

and proud, bringing to light the issues of our sexuality, and recognizing that our sexuality is no less valid than homosexual or heterosexual. If interested please contact Lillian - producer/director at HOWL, 434-3953

more CLASSIFIEDS 30 on page

http://www.visi.com/~oprairie/