

"unimportant" homosexuals? This question clearly cannot be answered now. Instead, we will have to wait and watch how this phenomenon continues to manifest in mainstream media. So, rather than attempt to answer this question, I would like to end on the words of Joan Nestle who writes: "By allowing ourselves to be portrayed as the good deviant, the respectable deviant, we lose more than we will ever gain" (123).

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¹I am referring to American and Canadian English language media, i.e. prime-time television, popular magazines, syndicated newspapers, etc.

²I am using chic here to refer to "lesbian chic"—a phrase coined by the mainstream media (see *New York* magazine, May 10, 1993) to describe the sudden fashionability of lesbians and lesbianism.

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I wanted to write
a dyke poem
in your face
rhetorical

a poem unbound
angry as my curves
aching as the words
you never see
me throw

I wanted to write
a dyke poem
strutting jeans
ungirdled
fists that caress
like fingers

a poem as inspiring
as Bonnie
as Thelma and Louise
as defiant
as Lila and Urmila
as erased by your herstory
as Malinche and Draupadi

I wanted poems
as hungry as Kali
fertile as Yemaya
bursting with women's sad miracles
like Mary

I wanted to write
a dyke

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