
1996. Where do I stand today?
My lover brings me a book of lesbian lists and all I can do is laugh. "You can't call Catherine the Great a lesbian," I say, "that's just bad history."

I work part-time as a reference librarian in a small town north of Toronto. I work mainly with high school students. And when they approach the desk I don't want to disappoint them by saying that sexuality is really just a social construct, you know. That we all deploy identities strategically. "Here," I want to say, "have you read Vita's love letters to Virginia?"

Caitlin Fisher is a Ph.D. student in Social and Political Thought at York University.

Catherine Jones is a reference librarian and activist.

PFLAG

*Parents, Families and
Friends of
Lesbians and Gays*

Metro Toronto Group
264-401 Richmond St. W.
Toronto, ON M5V 3A8
416-351-1384

***Come out and join us
for support and sharing.***

*Meetings on the first
Wednesday of every
month at 7:30 pm.*

*Glenview Presbyterian
Church, lower lounge.*

1 Glenview Avenue, Toronto.

*On the third Friday of every
month at 7:30 pm.*

*These meetings also
involve a speaker.*

*St. Clements Anglican
Church, Reception Room.
59 Briar Hill, Toronto.*

LOIS FINE

Nine Years

Recently we've taken to costume
and polaroid pictures to savour the moment

your body alive in red and satin charges your skin with lost
electric impulse

I feel you like the first time I swung in behind you at a picnic
bench outside the Chez Moi nine years ago when I kissed
your neck and we both felt it like a thousand volts and later
we talked about that moment for weeks and months and
years still talk about it try to bring it back and then you put
on that red thing with satin and clips and I am back there at
the Chez

only now the volts are grounded through nine years of us

nine years of groceries and toilet paper and my underwear
lying beside yours in a pile on the floor

nine years of staying up too late trying to know every inch of
what you think about every inch of what you think

nine years of finding a word for you a way to introduce you
to my great aunt Toby a name that would mean I love you
and not sound like some business partner still searching for
the word

wife doesn't do it either keep going back to lover because the
word is ours we've always claimed it we as community

nine years of children other women's and ours and creating
family refusing to be dysfunctional to yell at children more
than at each other to order children to fetch for us to fetch
our love to judge our fights refusing to claim their child-
hood from them instead loving them only loving them
knowing in the end with kids everyone just does their best
even our parents trying to have a few laughs in it all

nine years of finding not touching not allowing not getting it
just right not getting it at all

nine years of hands searching out bodies searching out places
inside each other not hiding not running staying there
looking in your eyes bodies inside each other show me who
you are I won't go anywhere I'm right here touch me right
here touch me

Lately we've taken to slow costume
revealing ourselves
ready now to see each other
nine years later

Lois Fine makes her home in Toronto but still prefers Montreal bagels. She is a hopeless romantic, a mother, a worrier, and a writer. She is proud to be in an almost nine year relationship with her lover Rachel Epstein.