

Getting Down at the Fat Girl's Ball

by Betty Rose Dudley

Make my body shiver, make my heart quake,
Watch the fat girls shimmy, see the fat girls shake,
Out on the dance floor strutting their stuff,
Good Goddess almighty, just can't get enough.
See the fat girls shimmy, watch the fat girls shake,
Make my body shiver, make my heart quake.

April walks in the room with such confidence,
Way she moves her body, ain't no coincidence.
You can tell by her outfit,
She's doing high femme,
By the look in her eye,
She ain't lookin' for men.

Kim's out doing it in her sporty wheelchair,
All over the floor, she's everywhere,
Popping a wheelie among fancy twirls,
Using her arms to dance with the fat girls.

Sue does cool butch, just standing there,
Arms folded across her chest as if she don't care.
When the music starts and the girls begin to dance,
Sue throws off aloof and takes her chance.

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Here comes Cecelia, a pc dyke,
She don't do butch or femme, she just knows what she likes.
In cotton clothing with sturdy shoes,
Out on the dance floor,
It all gets moved.
It all gets used.

June's been dancing since before most were born,
A silver-haired dyke who can toot her own horn,
She moves on the floor with such a mean stride,
The girls are lined up to join her for a ride.

Just standing there is Jo, 'cause she don't dance,
She just came to the party, looking for romance.
pretty soon some girl will pull her on the floor,
Where she'll move her body 'til her feet are too sore.

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Betty Rose Dudley: I am a fat, white dyke from a working-class family in Missouri. I currently live, work, write and love in San Francisco; all with the help and support of my dyke roommates Eddie and June, the fat women's community, which centers mainly around the women who cause Making Waves, Robust and Rowdy, LIAHO (Let It All Hang Out), and Fat Lip Readers' Theatre to happen, and, especially lately, the women of Mothertongue Feminist Readers' Theatre.

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CONTENTS Number Fifty-one Summer 1994

- 3 Notes to Our Readers
 - 4 A Spell to Bring Us Together, by Anne Haines
 - 5 Going to P-Town, by Tina Passman
 - 11 A Longing, by Rita Schiano
 - 14 Two Poems by Suzanne Sherman
 - 19 Beyond Endurance, by Carolyn Gammon
 - 29 How to Be a Lesbian in 1957 in 7th Grade, by Helen Laurence
 - 31 A Sisterly Affair, by Janet Mason
 - 37 Wildflowers, by H. Hadar
 - 42 Getting Down at the Fat Girls' Ball, by Betty Rose Dudley
 - 44 A Symbolic Interaction, by Amie Yoke
 - 45 Tunk Lake, by Lisa Vice
 - 55 Life Among the Hangers, by Robbin Anthony
 - 58 Two Poems by Denise Neco Leto
 - 63 Coming Out to Aaron and America, by Judy Freespirit
 - 67 Lonesome? by Laurie Fitzpatrick
 - 72 Two Poems by Alicia Litwin
 - 74 Alone, by Patricia Demetri
 - 75 The What's It To Ya? Club, by Frances Snowder
 - 86 Two Poems by Barbara M. Burrows
 - 89 Why I Dance, by Gail S. Bernstein
 - 91 Untitled, by Kathryn Eberly
 - 95 Two Virgos Ascending, by Jenn Christiansen
 - 103 For Jada, by Constance Lynne
 - 104 Heart to Heart, by Bobbi Vitello
 - 106 lover's haiku, by Shelley Adler
 - 107 Snapshots, by Judith Berns
 - 112 Honey Lover, by Eliza Galaher
 - 115 Of Gays, Monogamy and Religion: An Open Letter to Dr. Stacy Johnson, by Leslie Salas
 - 117 Chris, by Elizabeth Dillon
 - 119 Two Poems by Kristin Peterson
 - 121 Book Reviews: I read about it in *Common Lives* . . .
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A drawing by Mary Vermillion appears on page 18. Photographs by Sonja deVries appear on pages 3 and 66. Drawings by Vanessa K. Scott appear on pages 13, 28, and 88.

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