

Joan
Med. Allison

#1 34

FUN HOME

JOAN. Oh. Cool.

MEDIUM ALISON. Yeah. He sends me books. We talk about them.

JOAN. He sends you books to read on top of your schoolwork?

MEDIUM ALISON. Yeah.

JOAN. That's a little weird.

ALISON. (*Realizing.*) Is that weird? That's really weird.

MEDIUM ALISON. Why?

JOAN. I don't know. Like, what books?

MEDIUM ALISON. Like...

JOAN. Colette??

MEDIUM ALISON. Yeah.

She hands her a book.

JOAN. Your father sent you *Colette*?

MEDIUM ALISON. Yeah. Why?

JOAN. I don't know. It's just... He's like the opposite of my dad. He's just like sending you lesbian books?

MEDIUM ALISON. No! I mean, yes, I guess *Colette* was a lesbian but—

JOAN. Oh, she was.

MEDIUM ALISON. Okay, but he sent it to me because he thought I'd be interested in the whole Paris... Arts... Bohemian... Scene.

START JOAN. Yeah but he didn't send you a book about Toulouse-Latrec, he sent you *Colette*. I think it's amazing that he's cool with you being a dyke.

MEDIUM ALISON. What? I don't think so.

JOAN. Oh, he's not?

MEDIUM ALISON. No. I don't know. Can we talk about something else?

JOAN. Sure. Why?

MEDIUM ALISON. Because— I have no idea how my parents feel about— I just figured it out myself.

JOAN. Oh.

MEDIUM ALISON. About two weeks ago.

JOAN. Huh. With who?

MEDIUM ALISON. With who what?

ALISON. (*A wave of retroactive humiliation.*) Oh god.

JOAN. Who were you with?

MEDIUM ALISON. (*Clueless, then getting it.*) Nobody. Nobody!

Oh my god, I'm so embarrassed.

ALISON. (*Fresh wave of retroactive humiliation.*) Oh god.

MEDIUM ALISON. I was in a bookstore.

JOAN. In a bookstore? Nice.

MEDIUM ALISON. (*Clueless, then getting it.*) What? NO! Two weeks ago I was downtown and I wandered into the bookstore, I was just browsing around and I picked up this book—

JOAN. Ah, *Word is Out*.

MEDIUM ALISON. And I was like, Oh, interviews. This looks interesting. And then I was like, These people are all—

(*Suddenly worried she doesn't know the right word.*)

Uh...

JOAN. Gay?

MEDIUM ALISON. Gay. Yes. And *then* I was like, "Oh my god!

I'm

MEDIUM ALISON.

JOAN.

a lesb—

a dyke

MEDIUM ALISON. Yes. A dyke. Yes. And I totally flipped out and shoved the book back onto the shelf and I left. And then I came back the next day and bought the book. And then I came back the next day bought all the other books in that section. And then I made myself go to the meeting at the Gay Union. And then, and then, it's now. Hi.

END

JOAN. Hello.

(*A beat. Then, re: Word is Out.*)

That's a powerful book.