

Basic Feminist Lessons: Man-Hating

by Carolyn Gammon

When your lover calls
at 2 a.m. to confront you with Being a Man-Hater

Dig the sleep from your eyes, clear your throat
tell her to wait a moment while you make a hot drink
and when you've had your first sip

Ask her:

- Have I ever raped a man?
- Have I ever assaulted a man? Driven a broken bottle up his rectum?
- Have I ever smashed my fists through a man's face? Made him flee from his home to a shelter?
- Have I hoisted flashing neon cock-and-balls over Ste. Catherine Street and charged for entry?
- Have I kept men out of government?
- Have I offered them jobs at 62 cents to my dollar?
- Do I take sex holidays and pay to fuck economically deprived, "exotic" men?
- Have I ever given a course called "Human" and used only women's texts?
- Have I ever harassed men in the streets? Come up behind breathing hotly in one ear "I want your prick, darling"
- Have I ever taken a man to court over child custody for being heterosexual?
- Have I ever gone into the bathroom with a man's four year old son and made him suck on me until I come?
- Did I sexually molest my younger brothers while growing up?
- Have I ever said a man couldn't be Pope? And set up institutions to ensure it?
- Have I ever bought a plastic male blow up doll to haul out at lesbian parties and ridicule?
- Have I ever given a party to celebrate my loving a woman and watched videos all night of men being raped?
- Have I ever thrown darts at a glossy porn shot of a man's crotch pinned up in the union shop?
- Have I ever taken a gun into a university classroom, told the women to leave, yelled man-hating slogans, and shot every man dead?

Now, take a gulp or two of tea, and ask her
for as long as she's known you
and even though you may have felt
like doing some of the above ...

HOW

personally
politically
publicly
physically
economically
sexually
HOW
concretely
realistically
day-to-day

your Man-Hating
has manifested itself?

- Have you ever said you will never fuck men again?
- Have you stated your apartment will be man-free?
- Have you put up female images on the walls?
- Have you refused to go to parties where men will be?
- Have you gone to Take Back the Night marches and told men to stay at the back?
- Have you mused that you'd rather not have brothers?
- Have you said LESBIAN out loud while taking the Metro?
- Have you made comments about "men" generically?
- Have you worked politically with women only? Gone to women "only" festivals?
- Have you said you love women?

Just what sort of Man-Hating CRIMES have you committed?

If your tea has not gone cold
and she's still awake and on the phone
ask her, what then
is SO threatening about you hating men?

If she can answer that one
she's a feminist
and there's hope for your relationship

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Carolyn Gammon is a native of Fredericton. This poem is from her book of poetry, 'Lesbians
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Wimmin

A Brunswickan Supplement

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*I don't know what a feminist is, but
every time I open my mouth and say
something that differentiates me from
a whore or a doormat, people call me
one.*

Rebecca West