

lesbians, lesbians, lesbians and more lesbians
stepping out of dark, silent corners
opening our smothering curtains
struggling to be ourselves; to define our own spaces
standing confidently with our sisters
and uniting with others fighting for their rights



WE REFUSE TO REMAIN SILENT OR INVISIBLE

catherine hughes



looking through the glass of a transparent elevator
at a grey sky
rain falls hard
it doesn't reach
I do not get wet

the face beside the floor selection panel
moved spasmodically at the tone
of the bell indicating
the arrival at the selected level
I move aside

the smell of another face
knowingly chose ground
automobiles below stop for no one
light change. . . rain
slide metal

a face in paper watches
as bells
bring all the faces down
up face and straight ahead
adusting suit

the sky opens
and shines on the pool
of sweating suits
in lines on time
sink

I do not get wet. . .

Stephen Miller

The Gentleness Of Dentists

Her face is perfectly harmless,
her hands tiny birds
dancing around my teeth
and even as the drill bears down
she smiles like the Virgin Mary,
asks politely for co-operation.

Inside, the nerves are vulnerable.
Gagged, muted and blinded with light
I hear her conspiring strategies
with her assistants,
all young women with straight teeth and clean faces.

Her voice is cotton candy,
her gentleness is all around me
while inside, her machine rips away
all that is tough,
gouging down to soft, helpless tissue
where pleasure hides behind a mask of pain.
Some of us have a hard time
afterwards,
fumbling with out checkbooks,
thanking them for their kindness.

Lesley Choyce

