

Survival hints not for the neurotic

Having fun poking fun at lesbians

The Lesbian Survival Manual. Cartoons by Rhonda Dickson, \$8.95 from the Naiad Press.

This is a compilation of Dickson's Lesbian Survival Hints. If you are neurotic enough to want them in ascending numerical order, you'll be sadly disappointed. The book begins with Hint #30 and ends with Hint #69 passing the teens, twenties and a few other numbers enroute.



LESBIAN SURVIVAL HINT #49:
THE "LESBIAN POLICE"
SHOULD NOT BE YOUR ONLY CONCERN.



LESBIAN SURVIVAL HINT #109:
YOU CAN ALWAYS SPOT THE NOVICE
ON HER FIRST TIME OUT.

Books

Along the way we are given a mirthful look at Lesbians with Lesbians with Cats, Lesbians with Lesbians into S/M, and the politically incorrect lesbian among other lesbian things.

If you're into innovative party games, at the next lesbian potluck (see Hint #96) you could always pull numbers from a hat and see who could correctly quote the Lesbian Survival Hint from memory. Just be sure to do it in a politically correct fashion and watch out for the lesbian police.

Open book exam tests dyke knowledge

Don't worry, though — quiz isn't timed or proctored

B Y C Y D A T H E N S

Who wears the tux? The Original Great American Dyke Quiz (accept no substitutes!)
By Julia Willis, Banned Books, \$8.95.

This multiple choice quiz, complete with pictures is divided into four parts: "How it all began," "Falling in love," "Staying in love," and "Living in your world."

There are no warm-ups, nor is the exam timed or proctored. You're on your own for this open book test. Actually, it's impossible to take it without opening the book.

Of course, with questions like "Are talk lines a viable alternative to dating?" and such answer choices as "Pretend not to notice that

her mother is attracted to you," it is extremely likely that a case of the giggles (or just plain uproarious laughter) will distract you from racing through the book in record breaking time.

The scoring system comes with a "less than zero" option for the careless. And there are no extra points allowed for coloring the drawings and staying inside the lines.

The 101 questions here provide

A) More laughs than *Mad Libs*.

B) Great fun and hilarity.

C) A chance to experience dyke humor firsthand.

Please open your book to page two and begin the test.

Too much romance, not enough sci-fi

Author should get priorities straight

B Y C Y D A T H E N S

Priorities: The Controllers Series By Lynda Lyons, \$8.95 from the Naiad Press, Inc.

This book is the first of what is planned as a series of science fiction novels based on the exploits of android-chasing future cops.

Lt. Valentine Hart is second-in-command at the International Control and Registry Center (ICRC). The Controllers, as they are called, are an elite group of law enforcement personnel whose primary purpose is to bring down renegade androids. Although human, Valentine seems much more android-like than the androids she makes her living "killing."

The book's first line, "I am in love with Amelia," is reminiscent of *Moby Dick's* "Call me Ishmael." Jann, the woman who makes this confession, sticks around just long enough for

the prologue and is never seen or heard from again, unless we're supposed, by some stretch of the imagination, to believe that she's the narrator of this tale.

A major pitfall is that there is too much going on here and not enough sci-fi meat. We are inundated with information about the fumble-fingered secretary of Amelia Roberts, director of the Controllers, and the crush that Valentine develops of Amelia. There are quite a few folks who have a crush on the shy and retiring Amelia.

The intriguing question of whether or not Amelia is an android is never really answered.

The "Bondian" adventures of our heroines serve as little more than a backdrop for sensual innuendo. At best this soap opera tries harder to be a lesbian science fiction novel, than a good science fiction novel.

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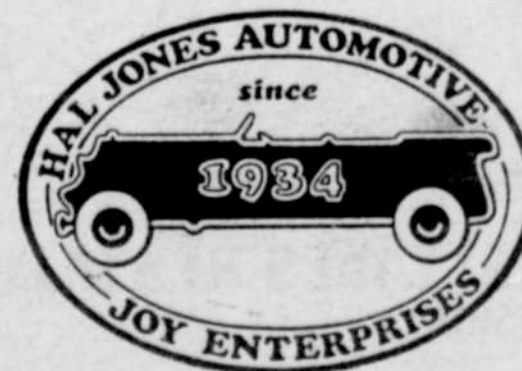
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