

Largest Gay & Lesbian  
Selection in  
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Books*

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and Periodicals*

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## HELLO OUT THERE...

I would like to begin with a big "hello" to the lesbian and gay community. I've been on this journey most of my life and have come close to being out completely several times. Now I feel I have finally arrived.

At times it has occurred to me that I was a lesbian all along. But, of course, society teaches us that our identity as women is measured by our men. I have certainly put more energy into my straight relationships with women and my roles with men were clear. However, regardless of what kind of facade we allow/help society to build upon the foundation of our identity, I know it is only a matter of time before the truth is revealed.

It feels like a painless gentle earthquake, like the very substance inside is slowly shifting, settling, shifting again, and so on over the years. As in the beginning of time, all the elements shifted, settled, and began to evolve through, ultimately creating the identity of societies. I wonder if homosexuals are born with a different instinct that their evolution must go one step further, that the shell of social life they have been born into is indeed that --not natural, not authentic, but just a shell.

To me, it feels like the covering gets thinner every hour until

the real world can be seen through it. That, in combination with the inner groanings of the new self, brings near the knowledge of our instincts--the complete and utter metamorphosis of our beings. Of course this means the last stage before a rebirth, an occasion deserving joy and celebration.

Or, it can be the loneliest time of all. I've never felt like I was the only lesbian in the world, just the most isolated of them. The fact that lesbians are invisible complicates things all the more. Relationships with men continued to be the easiest way to go, sadly enough. But I've been lonely for too long. I want to be free from the facade to live as a whole person, in touch with God, in touch with myself, in touch with women, my final allies.

To quote the words of Joni Mitchell: "Only a dark cocoon before I get my gorgeous wings and fly away." Or fly to my life as a lesbian. I have indeed arrived at last.

- WENDY WILLIAMS

## ACTIVIST PACKETS

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force announces the release of political action packets to inform, inflame and inspire gay and lesbian activists and organizers working on the state level.

"Perhaps before AIDS we could ignore the politicians and let their disinterest in us pass for tolerance," said Sue Hyde, director of NGLTF's Privacy Project. "But given the Illinois legislative experience in which every bill regarding AIDS--from the repressive to the progressive--was passed by that state's legislature, we can not afford to let the politicians muddle through these issues on their own. Over and over again, we meet the government...but it should not simply grind on without knowing that we will not sit by while very significant decisions are made about us.

Focused on five central issues--sodomy laws, AIDS, family issues, hate crimes, and civil rights protection--the packets include fact sheets on legislative campaigns within the past year. Also included are resource materials to help activists develop effective statewide action networks and information of NGLTF organizing projects which deal with sodomy laws and hate crimes.

The packets are a part of NGLTF's on-going State Action Lobby, whose aims are to press the gay/lesbian agenda at the state level. Packets may be obtained by writing the NGLTF State Action Lobby, 1517 U Street NW, Washington DC 20009.