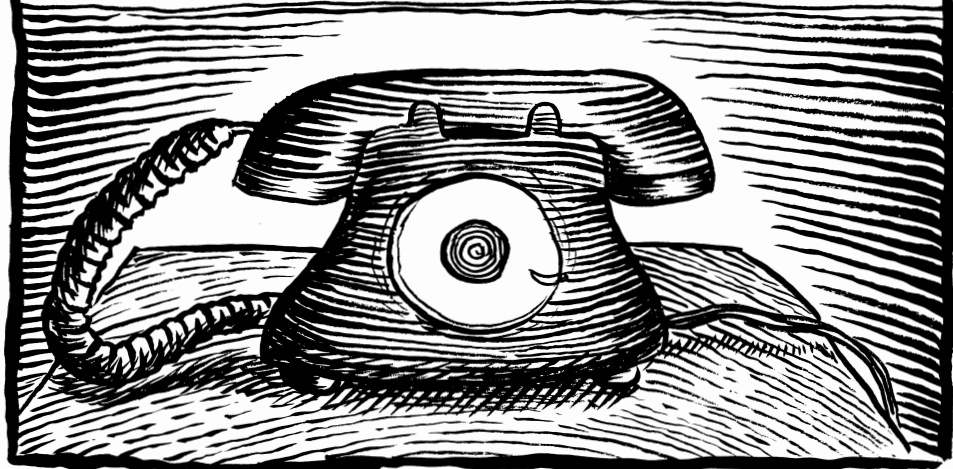


THE CHANGES

BY LYNDA BARRY ©1990

PEOPLE SAY YOU CAN CHANGE YOURSELF.
FOR EXAMPLE IF YOU HAVE A DEFECTIVE
PERSONALITY YOU CAN KEEP ON
STRIVING AND SOON YOU WILL WALK
IN THE RAYS OF A BEAUTIFUL SUN.



BUT IF A GUY YOU LIKE IS DEFEC-
TIVE AND DOES THINGS COLD BLOODED
TO YOU, PEOPLE SAY CLOSE THE DOOR
BECAUSE NO WAY IS HE EVER GOING
TO CHANGE. PERSONALLY I DON'T
GET THE DIFFERENCE.



DOUG SAYS NOW HE WANTS TO BE MY BOYFRIEND BUT DON'T TELL ANYONE BECAUSE IT'S TOO COMPLICATED. I TOLD ONE PERSON, NANCY NEWBY AND SHE SAID SEE HOW HE'S USING YOU BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE BUT DOUG, I BELIEVE IN YOU AND TRUST IS OUR MOST BEAUTIFUL THING. NOTHING CAN DESTROY IT.

HOW COME YOU KEEP STANDIN' BY THE PHONE?

SHUT UP!



SO WHAT IF YOU DIDN'T CALL ME TONIGHT AND SO WHAT IF YOU WENT TO THE GAME WITH CINDY LUDERMYER? I KNOW IT'S LIKE YOU SAID. YOU HAVE TO EXPRESS YOURSELF AND YOU DON'T WANT NO ONE TO BE A CHAIN ON YOU. AND I KNOW WHAT WE HAVE IS SECRETLY BEAUTIFUL BECAUSE BEAUTIFUL GOD LET YOU COME BACK TO ME. I PRAYED AND HE LET YOU COME BACK. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

I SAID SHUT UP!!!



MARLYS SPRING

BY LYNDA BARRY FOR GARY COVINO © 1990

I SHARE THE BED WITH MY LITTLE SISTER MARLYS WHO SOMETIMES JUST KILLS ME. LIKE THIS MORNING SHE WAS SINGING JERIMIAH WAS A BULLFROG OUT THE OPEN WINDOW OF OUR BEDROOM.



IT WAS THE FIRST WARM DAY OF THE YEAR. IN THE FRONT YARD THERE WERE FLOWERS. SHE SAID DID I DARE HER TO GO OUT ON THE ROOF AND DO THE BUTT DANCE IN HER PAJAMAS. THIS IS THE DANCE WHERE YOU STICK YOUR BUTT OUT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. SHE INVENTED IT.



SHE CLIMBS OUT THE WINDOW AND STARTS SINGING LA CUCARACHA THEN SHE BENDS OVER AND SINGS "SOMEONE LEFT THE CAKE OUT IN THE RAIN." A CAR HONKS AT HER AND SHE STICKS HER ARM IN THE AIR AND SHOUTS "BLACK POWER!" THEN THE DOOR FLYS OPEN AND IT'S MY GRANDMA YELLING IS MARLYS TRYING TO KILL HER?



AT BREAKFAST MY GRANDMA WON'T SHUT UP ABOUT HOW I HAVE NO RESPONSIBILITY. HOW COULD I LET MY SISTER BEHAVE THAT WAY, SHE COULD HAVE FALLEN OFF THE ROOF AND WHAT ABOUT THE NEIGHBORS. THEN SHE TURNS HER HEAD TO GET THE TOAST, AND MARLYS LOOKS AT ME AND SMILES. MAN. I NEVER KNEW I LOVED HER SO MUCH.



THE PLASTIC WALL

by LYNDA EVER LOVIN' BARRY © 1990!

EVER SINCE I FOUND OUT I HAVE A INFERIORITY COMPLEX I HAVE BEEN FEELING SO TERRIBLE. ALSO, MORE SELF-CONSCIOUS THAN MY LIFE HAS EVER KNOWN.



IT'S A THING WHERE I WISH I COULDN'T TALK BECAUSE EVERYTHING I SAY IS SO STUPID BUT I CAN'T CONTROL MY MOUTH. IT KEEPS OPENING AND BORING THINGS COME OUT. ALSO I HAVE NOTICED I AM UGLY COMPARED TO ALL MY FRIENDS. OUT OF EVERYONE IT TURNS OUT I AM THE DOG. I'M NOT SAYING THIS ONLY TO GET ATTENTION. I'M REALIZING FACTS.



THERE'S ALSO GOOD QUALITIES. READING COMPREHENSION, ARTISTIC AND NOT TO SOUND CONCEITED BUT GOOD AT POETRY. BUT HOW MUCH DOES THAT COUNT WHEN YOUR FACE + BODY + WHOLE PERSONALITY SUCKS? SUE AKER AND THEM ARE GOING TO GIVE ME A TRUTH SESSION ON THE REALITY OF THEIR OPINIONS ON ME WHICH SHE SAYS WORKED GOOD ON HER COUSIN CAROL FROM IDAHO. I HOPE IT WORKS FOR ME.



MOST OF ALL I JUST WISH FOR EVERYTHING ABOUT ME TO CHANGE. AND THEN I SWEAR TO GOD I WOULD QUIT ACTING INSECURE, AND BE MYSELF, LIKE IN ALL THE SONGS WHERE PEOPLE ARE BEING THEMSELVES. I WOULD STOP FAKING AND BE FOR REAL AND ACT FREE LIKE SUE AKER AND THEM, BECAUSE FOR RIGHT NOW I AM ONLY A PLASTIC WALL OF ILLUSION, WHICH I HATE. IF I HAVE A POSSIBILITY TO CHANGE, PLEASE GOD LET IT HAPPEN.

