

1-1-1996

Learning to Sew at Thirty-Three

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Recommended Citation

Heller, Janet Ruth (1996) "Learning to Sew at Thirty-Three," *Grand Valley Review*: Vol. 14: Iss. 1, Article 21.

Available at: <http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/gvr/vol14/iss1/21>

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LEARNING TO SEW AT THIRTY-THREE

Janet Ruth Heller

The Sears sewing instructor looks aghast
As my bobbin falls out of its case and rolls into the hall.

A few minutes later, I jam my needle.
Condescendingly, Mrs. Dawson lifts the stubborn implement,
Changes the tension setting,
And gives the class a lecture
Entitled "100 Ways to Jam an Innocent Machine."

While she shows the advanced students
How to execute a blind hem and embroider floral patterns,
I struggle with simple zig-zags
And practice changing the presser foot.

I'm glad she does not know
That I'm a college professor.