



LIVING AS A LESBIAN

POEMS BY CHERYL CLARKE

SAPPHIC CLASSIC
FROM A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S PRESS
& *SINISTER WISDOM*

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Contact: Julie R. Enszer

Phone: 301/864-9482 email: JulieREnszer@gmail.com

Cheryl Clarke's *Living as a Lesbian* Reissued as Second "Sapphic Classic" from A Midsummer Night's Press & *Sinister Wisdom*

A Midsummer Night's Press and *Sinister Wisdom* are pleased to announce the reissue of Cheryl Clarke's *Living as a Lesbian* in a new edition with an preface by poet and scholar Alexis Pauline Gumbs; a new introduction by Nancy K. Bereano, publisher of Firebrand Books; an afterword by Clarke, with extensive notes on the poems; photographs of Clarke and a bibliography.

Living as a Lesbian is Cheryl Clarke's paean to lesbian life. Filled with the riffs of jazz musicians and bluesy incantations, *Living as a Lesbian* sings like a marimba, whispering "i am, i am in love with you."

Julie R. Enszer, editor of *Sinister Wisdom*, noted, "It is an extraordinary privilege for *Sinister Wisdom* to continue the **Sapphic Classics Series** with Cheryl Clarke's bold, erotic, funny, and important collection, *Living as a Lesbian*."

Living as a Lesbian is the second title in the **Sapphic Classics Series**, reprint edition of iconic works of lesbian poetry, co-published by A Midsummer Night's Press and *Sinister Wisdom*. Lawrence Schimel, publisher of A Midsummer Night's Press, said, "This is independent publishing at its best: collaborative, creative, and compelling, making sure that important and necessary voices get heard."

About Cheryl Clarke

Cheryl Clarke is a poet, essayist, scholar, and activist. Her most recent books are the critical study, *"After Mecca": Women Poets and the Black Arts Movement* (Rutgers University Press, 2004), and *The Days of Good Looks: The Prose and Poetry of Cheryl Clarke 1980-2005* (Carroll and Graf, 2006). She is the recipient of the 2013 Kessler Award from the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS) at the City University of New York. She lives and writes in Jersey City, NJ and Hobart, NY. She and her lover,

Barbara Balliet, co-own a used and rare bookstore in Hobart, N.Y., the Book Village of the Catskills.

About the Sapphic Classics Series

Sapphic Classics are reprint editions of iconic works of lesbian poetry. Inaugurated in 2013 with *Crime Against Nature* by Minnie Bruce Pratt, **Sapphic Classics** are published annually through a partnership between A Midsummer Night's Press and *Sinister Wisdom*. *Living as a Lesbian* by Cheryl Clarke is the second title in the **Sapphic Classics Series**.

About A Midsummer Night's Press

A Midsummer Night's Press is an independent poetry publisher, founded by Lawrence Schimel in 1991. A Midsummer Night's Press publishes books, primarily under two imprints: 1) Fabula Rasa: devoted to works inspired by mythology, folklore, and fairy tales, and 2) Body Language: devoted to texts exploring questions of gender and sexual identity. For more information: www.amidsummernightspress.com

About Sinister Wisdom

Sinister Wisdom is a multicultural lesbian literary & art journal that publishes three issues each year. Publishing since 1976, *Sinister Wisdom* works to create a multicultural, multi-class lesbian space. *Sinister Wisdom* seeks to open, consider and advance the exploration of community issues. *Sinister Wisdom* recognizes the power of language to reflect our diverse experiences and to enhance our ability to develop critical judgment, as lesbians evaluating our community and our world. Julie R. Enszer is the editor and publisher of *Sinister Wisdom*. For more information: www.sinisterwisdom.org

Living as a Lesbian

By Cheryl Clarke

Sapphic Classics from A Midsummer Night's Press & *Sinister Wisdom*
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