Ahadada Books

eBook

Kittenhood

Catherine Daly
with Cathy Eisenhower, Elisa Gabbert, Danielle Pafunda, Kathrine Varnes

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Bio

Pussipo is an ethereal neighborhood of younger experimental female poets founded by Anne Boyer. Catherine Daly, Cathy Eisenhower, Elisa Gabbert, Danielle Pafunda, and Kathrine Varnes are pussipos. OuLiPo is the organization for potential literature. Some of the poems here were part of an OuLiPo-like rewriting game played by Pussipo members during the summer of 2006. Poems included here were based on an early version of this book by Catherine Daly. They may appear in revised forms elsewhere.

Set in Kitty's neighborhood, friends get together for a party. On the way to the party, players "Make a Wish," choose a "Favorite Quote," and enact other spaces. The closest of friends learn new things about one another each time the game is played. Like Kitty says, You can never have too many friends. Featuring the international star, Hello Kitty. Players strengthen friendships by learning new things about one another. 2-4 players.

Acknowledgements

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Kittenhood

I've stepped in a poodle.

It never rains in Indianapolis in the summertime

It never rains in California

Welcome

mat

to the neighborhood

my

her house has a red roof

a hot tin

up on the house top click, click, click

a cat

victory is staying as long as she can

dance desperation

Ideals

I love to garden love garden, Arcady
mortal, but not human our kitty
disposable green bin
ephemeral been
silage

flowers

or you can buy lovely to give as gifts
rather than making
flowers
how grow

I love to garden like heaven

a litter box of leaves and manure

leaves, letters

landscape of the generic
imagine
blank

play
ground field

Recess!

Ideas

ceilage, , the perfumed "wake"

in air — a woman passes

women's poetry is lost

under the bed dust bunnies

play

femi nism begins again each generation

generates

institutional

not yet

story disestablishment

establishment, man

surprise, pry this is my bed Arcady

night's ship, dreams' dk

two and two and

narrative of misplaced things

lost loss

the other animals weren't so innocent

This is my bedroom.

Be Clean

play in the fountain in the park

gatoring

the water plays

mermaid

about the

water sprite

animals manifest

animals everywhere animals

eternally swimming in the sky,

fish in the pool

fish meal in the field

fish food

fish, food

animals' bath time

animal time star-marked

Initiative

Good morning!

on my list to find

- ✓ sweet
- ✓ chocolate chip
- ✓ cupcake

to dos

to be done

Can you find

words

Be True

Truth

your truth ~mine

It is a delight to eat.
and drink
death

I enjoy breaking fasts.

branded cereal
dada
eggs p
breakfast k
c morning i
e m c t
r a m c

waffle milk of KINDNESS
unscrambling

They also like to eat and play in the park.

Be On Time

prompt

I wait for the bus.

Help the driver find his way!

to what destination
not a garden
without culture
a learning process
not a destination

Race!
Can you figure out which path bounced?

empty speech
covers tracks desire

Trace

Loyalty

These are my friends.

You are my friend. Name:

_____

Hello.

Make an image of yourself. Label: So that:

Keep Out

I've stopped raining
never raining it in the
California time

of dreams of were
of your ticket out of old

"Now about those dreams,"

have you, you,
who up on the hiding house
waited up
all neighborhoods
to click on

I've stopped waiting
for California

I keep out
& kept out direct
the roofers through
traffic with you behind
me & my red
path to waking
disposable, I love
to love disposably
mortals in the garden

my face has a red
path to human
I gave it to you
when you weren't
looking are you
looking ever or were
always not ever
as though I weren't

Kittenhood

a woman pasting joy
into institutions my one
finger disappeared from lack
of history

I said to make them
I had to say or they would go
unmade so keep out but
keep saying anyway I say
to myself in times
generational

this is my partial
house which path through
finds that it loses
capacity
up on the roof
connecting dots
aspiring to lost
disconnect me from
their story I make from
my own sky some
times

Cathy Eisenhower

Mystery House

the sky is poised
but motionless, dark b/c
it reflects the ocean
that's dark in California

it was a good set
before they got rid of
all the gold cardboard

I dream my teeth fall out

& fantasize of lying
on an out-of-context
couch, somewhere
other than this house

ask me anything!
I might reply

I might walk out
see the scene up close
get my ankle trapped
in a loop
of the garden hose
cars coming at me
w/ designer canines

someone has their sights on me
cross-hatch, periscope
I could be erased
w/ a silencer
& very little smoke
they could dub my scream in
later if it seems like
there should've been a scream

Kittenhood

but it's quiet now

no one's around
getting bored
or otherwise
writing this down what

this dumb house
needs is some of those
stairs that lead nowhere
we build them for ghosts
they also like
bad doors & roofs
that aren't there

Elisa Gabbert

Beware of House

the skip poisoned but motionless, dark foot,
it reflects the ocean dark, mid-hop
California stop, ankle rolling
marker adrift, geometry awash.

Pico, potsie, ekaria dukaria.
It was good shelter before they got rid
of all the gold foil, and the free-hand tally,
before they uncurled each fur
ransacked the cul.

Two-dozen teeth fall out

& lie, Tupperware, margarine
cold on an out-of-context
somewhere Formica, this house—

asked anything!
The appliances include.

The perimeter,
the aerial view,
the ankle trapped
rolling a loop
the current, the hose
cars careening, a round
of over-the-river, and through
the wolf's mouth, the hide head
hound's howl,
a dogged house.

Kittenhood

Cross-hatch, periscope
in flames on the lawn,
wrecking the ninety degrees,
smoked, w/ a silencer
& very little smoke.
They could slug, they could dub in.

But it's kenneled now.

A flea bag, a bed bug,
hollowed out bored.

This dumb house,
gap toothed and hissing,
punch-eyed and dewlapped
wet with haint nobody here
but us chickens. So hobble,
hobble, hobble off. Roofless.

Danielle Pafunda

Don't Have Money to Burn?

Before you put another log on the fire,
remember California and the fake logs
read these tips for making a fireplace
wax coated, foil wrapped, instructions
more affordable and convenient
poisoned, motionless in Supermarket geometry

How the smoke's fur uncurled
understood chinks in the mortar

Who could count the teeth as they fell?
Plinkity, plunk, tink

inventing windows in a kitchen with exchangeable
jello molds of Tupperware

Think appliance!
Keep your teeth!
Wash clothes without chapped hands!

If you don't own a fireplace but wish you could sit in front of
the wolf's mouth or
a crackling fire this evening, consider
(Ariel, singing: what is a *fire* and how does it—)
an electric version
(—what's the word? *Burn!*)
you can simply plug into an outlet.
Cars careening outside, you beside
a traditional-looking hearth, a high-definition recording of a real burning fire
or the lawn in flames, your choice,
often with a 3-D log set and audio for authenticity.
(When is my *turn?)*

Bored, flea-bitten, authentic hissing
from the —what's the word? —
wires, wires transmitting

Kittenhood

real fires we shoveled out
in fact:
dumb, gutter bound, definition
fine as ash.

Katherine Varnes

Study

a shrine
monumental monstrosity
for our time
liquor cabinet / radio / tv

Who sits behind whom,
who sees the screen,
who sees the pictures on it.

Can you spot the differences between this page and the one before you?

Intelligence

in

tell

is that so?

chaffing and winnowing
chuff can be cut
I wrote a note for you in code.
Can you read the message?
Use the key.

Code Key:
Who is hiding?

I am waiting.

Use the code to find
who it is.

Work

Can you do these problems?

Can problems be
treated
this way, to completion.

otherwise we are chained to trained to
the village, the neighborhood, inside, school
how to succeed at writing

only pour it out

school
work

Enforcing Exclusivity

the in group
shared even dreams
odd, dreams

up on the roof, like Greek Mythology

over the brick house

at night
in the Pacific time zone
green witches watch mean time

posing with the garden,
alongside the birds

Tip Top roofers are an hour and a half late
Tip Top roofers have arrived two hours late
they will patch the leak with sheet metal
and tar
you were looking
I was wearing red pasties
the pastries are another story
the tarts we filled with jam

the Queen said to make them
I prefer miniature pecan pies

this is my honey
house
below the sky
and the skylight

where we connect

House?

the sky doesn't move as we do

I got my teeth fixed for the screen test

I gave in and let the screenwriter
move the red couch
outside

he calls it entertaining flow

the security cams only catch cats
the fake alarm barks

the house is empty because everyone's writing at Starbucks
which increases the housing value:
you can live in a smaller house
with outdoor rooms
rooms at Starbucks
couches on the porches
of the nouveau riche

Attack House

you call this a skiff? a houseboat?

my hackles raise more than this seascape

Pico is the equivalent of a black 'n white cookie
the gold foil is from specially frustrated ding dongs

appliances are not included,
this is a free set of knives
this is a purchase with purchase
this is a ransacked cul de sac
this is the bottom
of my purse
string

give me a contract with teeth!

heckle the flipper
who thought
the fuse box
mattered less
than cheap slate

strap that ankle
and blow
stucco
over the

city roost

Dollar Conflagration

Flagrant money waster, your coin's

escaping up the chimney

in smoke, your eyes water
but not the desert sewn with salt

before you dump a duraflame
is it hot wood Cali bans
or wood shingle

enameled wood stove, radiate
heated floor tiles, steam

baby, the circuit's overloaded with taps this season
shuck, shuck, jive

keep the fire burnin'
who put out the fire
who sent the last wire to *Variety*

eternal flame at the Kennedy graves
Ambassador Hotel ceiling stove in
every bungle brought low

Goodbye Girl / Howdy Cat

Jack and Jill are inside
the pink-frosted Keats house
with their heads over
and the twins sleep in their room, rhyming.

She turned into a wolf wearing a cardinal's red hat.
Black smoke and white smoke issued from the room.

Get a Job

this is our neighborhood of comfort food and art

that we could make ourselves, or our pets or children could make

or the only art children make

with crayons on trains

to keep quiet

My art class. A cute picture!

1. Across
3. Across the color of bananas, lemons, and my nose.

pastel 4. Across

tube of paint 5. Across

she painted it for us, we color it

so we handle it with our sore eyes, purpled by prose

2. Across
6. Across my hat

2. Down

1. Down

3. Down is the color of “could,” marshmallows, and daisy petals!

4. Down

5. Down

Answers in back.

Kittenhood

First tape two or three sheets of newspaper together to make one sheet that's large enough to lie on. Then make three more layers of the same size.

Lie down on the paper and ask someone to outline your body.

Drawing around your body is one way to sense where your body begins and ends,

neighborhood

the first stage of developing of self-control: you need to know your body boundaries

self-control

body

boundaries

Help Mother

Super Market

After school, I ride to the supermarket.
unscramble the list
sort
Fresh
delicious delicacy
find all the goodies listed
up, left, right, down, and diagonal.

and then the errands, shops
get out get about

visit the institutionalized
dead

superman, supermarket

stores where food is purchased
rooms where food is prepared
and bedrooms
where it is not

Keep Out of Debt

girls keep out
boys keep out

keep the other
save out
pick from the others
I want to pick out a new dress.
select

If Work Stops Values Decay

be my fashion stylist

I just bought some new clothes.
Help me accessorize.

Trace the way.

the neighborhood soft as her fur
the weather soft
fog as cat paws, grey
leopard skin coat
pill box hat

in the dark, she

twocats

humping on a fence

no no you got it all wrong

upside down

are you crazy you told me I told you

Save

you call this perfect?

she needs a stylist
you be her stylist
choose her fashion
she can't shop enough shopping for herself by herself
you be a fashion

Sale

boutique

shop, store, style
party
what did I buy?
I'll buy that.
I love to shop at all my favorite stores.

Find the Pair

They are all mixed up.

Find ONE pair.
an EXACT match.

careful looking
observation
same, different
who's in, who's out
what's hot, what's not

I am looking
for some party shoes.

Prosperity Follows Service

The flower shop always has lovely things!

Finish picking out flowers to put in the bouquet.

connect the dots
bouquet
when never occurred but we experience, and only partially through language
image
describing type of simple flower, flower in her hair
if you're going, be sure to
where?

Connect the dots.
Color the pretty picture.
Flower find!

Flowers are hidden in the picture.
Dogtown Commons
godwanus

blossoming apple trees in the paradise
scrumped

Circle the flowers as you find them.

Industry

the world's businesses are familiar
I am your familiar
all cats are
the devil's
all businesses in my neighborhood are familiar
to me
I'm a regular

Look at all the pretty flowers I planted.

DT SQ

direct traffic
    you sit behind me

you can fight fire but only direct traffic
what's underneath what's gone

who used to stay to long on the village green, watched by everyone in the best houses
pissing in public
    mark   mark
what is an accident but an exclusion of the real
in ordinary discourse? the policeman on his box
in the intersection

Mister Policeman directs traffic in my neighborhood.

Twin Policemen!

the prison is the civilization
the structure by which we color
and learn

even if our children are twins
look, the lines
and between them, blank
the page underneath shows through

Which two policemen are exactly the same?
stop stop stop stop stop stop stop

Integrity

There is a fire station in my neighborhood.

Fight the fire!
power
fight fire
with fire no
water
“the greater the water you add”
friends

Help me and my fire fighting
friends put out the fire. Find the way
from the hydrant to the flames.

(it is a hose)

Hugs and Kisses Tic Tac Toe

I get a check up at the hospital.

Use the bandages as a grid.
badinage
dance
Like the example to the right.

Hugs (x) and Kisses (o) help
speed up the healing!

send a letter to your pen
pal
x
or o
SWAK
sealed with a kiss
x

"special delivery"

Connect the dots to see who
has a special delivery

from a hidden city
mendacity

MAIL

Charles Olson as a baby in his father's mail bag.
Send Charles.

Never Try Never Win

I like to play.
Everyone takes a turn.

My friends and I spend
a fun filled day at the amusement park.

COTTON CANDY

led into adulthood through small pleasures
each one also a danger

cavities
gravitas

how handsome the lies!

a neighborly day for beauty

I get a make-over at the beauty parlor.

Make-Over Time!

What does she feel like after she gets a makeover?

Using the clues on the page, fill in the blanks.

The answer will be revealed in the rectangle.

1. Washes her hair with
2. Place where she gets the makeover
3. Makes her fingernails pretty
4. Makes hair smooth and silky
5. Puts in her hair to make
6. Smells pretty
7. Cut hair at the beauty parlor
8. Used to get tangles out of hair

A make-over makes her feel like a _____.

Answers in back

practice in front of a mirror

play while others sing, “won’t you be my neighbor?”

Making pretty music is fun!

reception justifies adjustments

do you hear me?

Kittenhood

I love to learn about the history of art.

Later on she will go to see the dinosaurs.

Can you find all of these museum words?

artwork

dinosaurs

fossils

painting

sculpture

prehistoric

quiet

learn

history

school

scientist

artist

Some pretty pictures

Never Try Never Win

everyone take a turn
cute animals at the zoo

petting animals
in the public / private space, not the wild

not as special as going elsewhere

is always exciting
hide and seek

the animals are playing

can you help her find — ?

she likes to visit the farm
to see what she is doing

Kittenhood

I – and my Friends of the library – like visiting the library to check out books
the free space
contested
of books to check out

reading is fun, but remember to be quiet
in this place
how quiet
not rambunctious
turn off your cell

check out books
reading is fun but remember to be quiet
can you move your lips?

sing in the choir class
everyone takes a turn

Kittenhood

my neighborhood has a movie theatre
how many screens
children's matinee

what's gone the young will never know
what's marked
in dogtown
what hectors the poor

screens and popcorn
fresh hot popcorn

butter
s p

draw a scene from your movie on the movie screen
movie time fun

we get ready to take trip

can you figure out which route I should take?
fastest / most direct?
which mode?

ticket

the train finally came

my neighborhood has fun parades on special days

festival days
end in parade

Moraine with Cat

DOGTOWN

poetic realism reached its limit

lost never happened “here”

experiences because of circumstances

Thanks for visiting the border, the bound

limit

Thanks for visiting my neighborhood!

Your dreams were your ticket.

Dogtown

the waist of a cat

cat-town camptown
the cats own
the D city com-
PLEX

hk's neighborhood and who occupied
it, the fancy deities

if London or hong kong was practically the height of capitalism
which the fishermen skirted, only staying – still in their boats
— on stilts above it in the wintertime

the last remnant of colonialism never passes
it is all colonialism and hermes scarves
sell more per square inch than any book

it is all a game, it is not a message,
it is a maze, not a letter, a word-find

the cats are feral
the cats should be spayed
and neutered
no one owns them

you call this a cat house?

what are these birds not poetry just food in this neighborhood
the only ones are in the zoo

the food so far removed from the animal
it must be ok for cats to eat
children
spots

sponsored by the sausage company
running the fish meal on Fridays

wake me up before I Go

To Rockport

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