

Deirdre Flint

"Introduction To Belly Dancing"

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I signed up for her class to please an inattentive lover,
I kicked him to the curb three classes in.

Two years and four men later, I'm the queen of non-
commitment

But I still go to class on Wednesday nights from eight
to ten.

Thursday through Tuesday I'll buy those magazines
With the half-translucent models and the articles on
pleasing men,

I curse myself at every meal do penance and do buns
of steel

And on Wednesday nights I find myself again.

Watch her whirl, watch her sway

Sometimes we go to see her gig down at the Marrakesh
cafÃ©

Every movement is a sentence in a fine erotic prayer
I think some answer to my soul is written there.

My classmate Annie says she thinks our teacher leans
towards women

No surprise that's how our Ann does sway

She's not the only one to have designs upon our
teacher

Your heart leaps like Barishnikov whenever she smiles
your way.

Breathlessly she rushes in kicks off her boots takes off
her sweater

Hey, she says, I've gained 5 pounds I think it makes the
dance much better

We follow her directions, show with pride our
imperfections

And I think she thinks we're beautiful.

Watch her whirl, watch her spin

She'd send a guy with a foot fetish three sheets into
the wind

And the candlelight throws diamonds in her jasmine
scented hair

I think some answer to my soul is woven there.

Sometimes she joins us at the table at the Marrakesh
And the business cards pour in she never reads them
She never thinks about those guys
Who'd gladly leave their well-carved lives
To follow in the naked footsteps of this one
r Who'd never need them.

Watch her whirl, watch her spin
Even the veils pay her homage as they dance against
her skin
And I long to breathe the secrets that her hands tell to
the air
I think some answer to my soul is waiting there.
Yes I long to breathe the secrets that her hands tell to
the air
I know some answer to my soul is waiting there.

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