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## Learning to Sew at Thirty-Three

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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.