

## *John Gallaher*

### A GUIDEBOOK TO *EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS*

You don't have to vocalize every thought  
you have, you know, Mira said, down  
in the mud room just past the drum room.

We've a secret, we said. No problem, we said.  
So maybe hostility keeps us going? And certain  
kindred ideas, Katie said. But we've jumped

ahead in time. The change was slight.  
It'll be a souvenir folder of city views, we decided.  
And that bit about water under the bridge,

that was great. So, several friends later, we find  
the scenery's still good. And how six of us  
were unfaithful somewhere near the sandy

beaches. So what are your goals? we asked Mira,  
there in the shower. Katie decided  
to write it in a book and add to it

from her imagination. The skyline of San Francisco  
can be seen in the background. She was smiling now.  
Pasties in space, we say. So Bill had sex with Steve

who was wearing a dress. And the power  
of the atom, as Bill told us. They're on vacation, they said.  
So the earth may be round, but

the moon's obviously flat, we say. Everything's been proven  
by a recent study. Just look at it up there, Mira continues,  
with her hand in her pants. For many years

it was considered the greatest bridge in the world.  
At least that's what Jane says. And she should know.  
And 49 moons could fit inside the earth, you know.

But Shelly could fit 50, they say. And she's  
a penchant for accouterments  
and outdoor activities. We've pictures, and excellent

intentions. They did a little dance in the kitchen.  
Their understanding as the work progressed  
was a blessing. A mass of things. A communion.