

The Lesbian Edition

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Volume 4 Number 3

The common thread in many of the books reviewed this month is transition, especially transitions about identity, be it how we see ourselves to how our identities shift when partners and family members leave our lives, whether due to death, divorce, or other circumstance. Life is ever changing, and it's comforting to know that books will accompany us through our many journeys, providing support, escapism, and sometimes mirrors as we need them along the way.

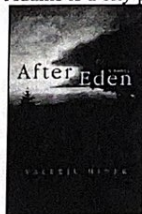
Suzanne Corson

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Fiction

I just loved Valerie Miner's *After Eden*, her latest work following 2005's Lammy nominated collection of short stories *Abundant Light* (reviewed in [TLE #12](#)). Emily Adams is a city planner from Chicago who has traveled to Northern California (think closer to Mendocino than San Francisco) for a vacation at the cabin she shares with her partner, Salerno. But when Salerno dies unexpectedly, Emily's life changes completely. The cabin was first Salerno's, part of a lesbian land trust with women who were more Salerno's friends than Emily's. But all rally around her as Emily decides what to do with the cabin, her life and job back in Chicago, and with Salerno's legacy as a musician. It's a sometimes heartbreaking, but ultimately rejuvenative story of a woman's journey through grief and rebirth, populated with an eclectic family of choice and a supportive brother who goes through his own changes, too. I highly recommend *After Eden*. University of Oklahoma Press, \$24.95, 9780806138145.



About BTWOF

Books To Watch Out For publishes monthly e-letters celebrating books on various topics. Each issue includes new book announcements, brief reviews, commentary, news and, yes, good book gossip. Books To Watch Out For is published by Carol Seajay.

The Lesbian Edition

covers both lesbian books and the whole range of books lesbians like to read. It covers news of both the women in print movement and mainstream publishing. Written and compiled by Suzanne Corson.

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The Gay Men's Edition

announces and reviews new books by and about gay men as well as other books of interest and gay publishing news. Written and compiled by Richard Labonte.

The Teahouse Fire by Ellis Avery is one of those books that doesn't jump off the shelf (or from catalog pages) as a book with lesbian content. It came to my attention via the publicist of Sharon Marcus, whose nonfiction *Between Women* we reviewed in [TLE #28](#). "Sharon's partner is a writer, too," she told me, "you should definitely review her novel." And how. *The Teahouse Fire* is an elegantly written historical novel set mostly in Japan during the mid-nineteenth century. Nine-year-old Aurelia arrives in Japan with her uncle and runs away when she learns her mother died back in New York and won't be joining them in Japan. Aurelia is taken in by a well-respected family known for teaching the tea ceremony and becomes the maidservant to sixteen-year-old Yukako. Aurelia, now known as Urako, becomes completely devoted to Yukako, sleeping by her side each night until Yukako's arranged marriage. Urako meets Inko, the attendant of a *geisha*, and learns how to receive and give pleasure to another woman. Over the years, the culture in Japan changes repeatedly, making the tea ceremony - and Yukako's family's livelihood - more or less relevant/respected. *The Teahouse Fire* beautifully tells of these changes, their impact on the family, the influence of Western culture - especially dress - on these characters, and the reception Urako receives from others: sometimes respected as a translator, sometimes rejected as a foreigner. Nominated for a Lammy in the Lesbian Debut Fiction category, Avery's first novel is a rich, fact and emotion-filled journey back in time. Penguin/Riverhead, \$24.95, 9781594489303.



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More Books for Women

Covers the finest in thinking women's reading, plus mysteries, non-sexist children's books, and news from women's publishing. Written by the owners and staff at Women & Children First, and friends.

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Q. How does BTWOF define "a lesbian book?"

A. We think that any book that belongs to a lesbian is a lesbian book, just as any bike that belongs to a girl is "a girl's bike."

BTWOF: The Lesbian Edition

Covers a wide range of books likely to be of interest to our readers as well as books with lesbian content and books by lesbian writers.



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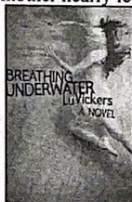
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Send books for review consideration for the **Gay Men's Edition** directly to Richard Labonte at 7-A Drummond St W Perth, ON K7H 2J3 Canada.

"I sank like a stone. Then the water smoothed out, shimmery and still as a mirror. Mama leaned over and smiled at her reflection." So ends the first chapter of **Breathing Underwater** by Lu Vickers, in which Lily's beauty-queen-wannabe mother nearly lets Lily drown when she falls off a fishing boat. This incident marks Lily indelibly as she comes of age in Florida. Her father's not much better, as becomes clear a few years later:



"Daddy didn't say anything about Mama calling me queer, either, but I didn't expect him to. He just filed that information wherever he filed stuff like the fact that Mama was crazy or that his own daddy had committed suicide. He was worse than lake water about swallowing things up, then going all smooth like nothing had ever happened."

This is a powerful book about a young girl just getting through it all. Alyson, \$24.95, 9781555839642.

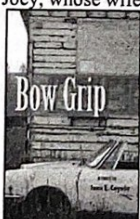
Felicia Luna Lemus follows *Trace Elements of Random Tea Parties* (Find of the Month in **TLE #5**) with **Like Son**, about a FTM in Los Angeles, estranged from both parents, who reconnects with his father shortly before his father dies. Frank Cruz, haunted by a photograph of Nahui Olin that is among his father's effects, moves to New York to begin his life again. There he meets Nathalie. They live together happily until the world changes on September 11, 2001.



"To be honest, seeing the site was the last thing I wanted to do. So in some ways I was glad she didn't want me to go. But when she came home later that afternoon, I knew I'd been wrong not to insist I go with her. She'd stopped shaking, but her somber stillness was somehow even more disquieting than the shaking had been. She wouldn't tell me what she'd seen. She wouldn't tell me anything. And, really, she didn't have to. The horrible weight of it all was visible in her eyes."

Like Son is about changes to both the interior and exterior landscapes of people, and how those around them react to these changes. I'm anxious to see what Lemus comes up with next after these first two powerful books. Akashic Books, \$14.95, 9781933354217.

Prolific short-story writer Ivan E. Coyote has published her first novel, **Bow Grip**. Joey, whose wife has left him for another woman, is a mechanic in his forties, living in Alberta. Joey's mother, sister, and friends all are trying to encourage him to get on with his life, but nothing really engages him until a stranger trades him a handmade cello for a car. This transaction turns out to be much more than it appears on the surface and sends Joey to Calgary to track down a mystery - and while there, to deal with unfinished business with his ex-wife who lives there as well. I loved this sensitive, introspective, emotional novel; Coyote's storytelling powers are in full bloom in *Bow Grip*. Arsenal Pulp Press, \$16.95, 9781551522135.



A Feminist Hullabaloo: Reuniting the Wild Sisters!

June 22-24, 2007 in Santa Fe, New Mexico
 Paula Gunn Allen, Mary Daly, Sonia Johnson, Cherrie Moraga
 + 10 more dazzling presenters.

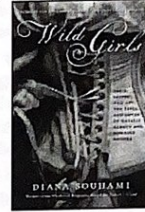
See www.feministhullabaloo.com or call 505.583.2470 for further information.



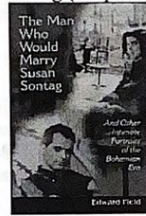


Lesbian Lives

Diana Souhami has been a consistent chronicler of lesbian lives with books such as *Gertrude and Alice*, *The Trials of Radclyffe Hall*, *Gluck*, and *Mrs. Keppel and Her Daughter*. Her latest, *Wild Girls - Paris, Sappho, and Art: The Lives and Loves of Natalie Barney and Romaine Brooks*, is now in paperback and tells the story of American expatriate heiresses Barney and Brooks, and their circle of openly lesbian friends and lovers in Paris. Barney famously held her Friday salons for more than fifty years, about the amount of time that her on-again, off-again relationship with Brooks lasted. Souhami explores Barney's quest to create a "Sapphic idyll" and discusses why all was not as ideal as it may have appeared. St. Martin's Griffin, \$18.95 paper, 9780312366605.



Also now in paperback, *The Man Who Would Marry Susan Sontag and Other Intimate Literary Portraits of the Bohemian Era* is only tangentially about Susan Sontag (in spite of her name in the title and her photo on the cover), but other lesbian



writers do figure more prominently in this literary memoir by gay male poet Edward Field. Post WWII Greenwich Village was a place where one could write poetry and be openly gay. Field discusses several of his contemporaries from this time, including May Swenson, Jane Bowles, Alma Routsong (who published her novel *Patience and Sarah* under the pseudonym Isabel Miller), and Jean Garrigue. Male writers in the story include Frank O'Hara, James Baldwin, and the "man" of the title, Alfred Chester. The narrative is intimate, revealing, and quite gossipy in parts, but especially for those who are interested in learning more about

Alma Routsong and her partners, it's worth a read. University of Wisconsin Press, \$21.95 paper, 9780299213244.



One Lesbian's Spiritual Journey

Sara Miles, a lesbian writer, editor (*Opposite Sex: Gay Men on Lesbians, Lesbians on Gay Men* and *Directed by Desire: The Collected Poems of June Jordan*), and former restaurant cook, worked as a journalist in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and the Philippines, moved to San Francisco where her daughter, Katie, was born, and fell in love with her current partner, Martha. And then:



"One early, cloudy morning when I was forty-six, I walked into a church, ate a piece of bread, took a sip of wine. A routine Sunday activity for tens of millions of Americans - except that up until that moment I'd led a thoroughly secular life, at best indifferent to religion, more often appalled by its fundamentalist crusades. This was my first communion. It changed everything.

"Eating Jesus, as I did that day to my great astonishment, led me against all my expectations to a faith I'd scorned and work I'd never imagined. The mysterious sacrament turned out to be not a symbolic wafer at all but actual food - indeed the bread of life. In that shocking moment of communion, filled with a deep desire to reach for and become part of a body, I realized that what I'd been doing with my life all along was what I was meant to do: feed people."

Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion is her story of how that morning at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church in her Mission District neighborhood in San Francisco changed her life. She joined the church and was baptized, much to the surprise of her partner, Martha, and their friends, and began a food pantry. The parallels Miles draws between her post-college restaurant work, her stays in Central America, and her work at St. Gregory's are clear, poetic, and deeply spiritual, in a way that is not at all off-putting. And while much is made of the significance of her first communion, she also discusses the challenges she encountered during her spiritual journey: "Conversion isn't, after all, a moment: It's a process, and it keeps happening, with cycles of acceptance and resistance, epiphany and doubt." Though her newly embraced Christianity is surprising to both her and those around her, she comes to find that it's congruent with who she is and how she's lived her life. *Take This Bread* is a beautifully written exploration of spirituality, the politics and social aspects of food, and of community. Random House/Ballantine, \$24.95, 9780345486929.

Excerpt from *Take This Bread* on Salon.com:

www.salon.com/mwt/feature/2007/02/17/take_this_bread/index_np.html?source=newsletter.

More Nonfiction

Diana Cage is on a mission to help dykes have better sex, with books like *Threeways* (reviewed in TLE #25), *Box Lunch*, the *On Our Backs Guide to Lesbian Sex*, and the numerous erotica anthologies she's edited. Now she wants to help us improve our dating lives with ***Girl Meets Girl: A Dating Survival Guide***. She starts by encouraging readers to figure out what kind of women they're looking for and what kind of things turn them on, continues on to where to meet women, gives special tips for hooking up online, and then talks about dates themselves: how to prepare, what to do on a date, who does what, and what to do if you do want to see the woman again - and what to do if you don't. Sex tips are included as are various transitions - dating friends, no strings attached arrangements, becoming girlfriends, and even breaking up. *Girl Meets Girl* is inclusive of different relationship ideals, styles, gender identities and expressions, proclivities, and desires, and is written in Cage's signature witty and cut-to-the-chase style. Whether you're new to dating women or back on the market after a long absence, *Girl Meets Girl* will help get you on the right track with confidence, ideas, and flare. Alyson, \$14.95, 9781555839895.



If you're looking for a queer florist in Manhattan, a lesbian therapist in Atlanta, the PFLAG chapter in Boston, a social group for dykes in Palm Springs, or places all over the U.S. to meet women on whom to try out the dating tips in *Girl Meets Girl*, you can find them all in the same place in the 29th edition of ***Gay Yellow Pages: The National Edition***. The more than five hundred pages of this book include a Women's Section, an Ethnic/Multicultural Section, and listings for both Canada and the United States. Renaissance House, \$23.95 paper, 9781885404237.

Bisexuality

Jennifer Baumgardner, co-author of *Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism, and the Future* and *Grassroots: A Field Guide for Feminist Activism*, explores her own bisexuality and how bisexuality is viewed by both heterosexual and queer society in her new book ***Look Both Ways: Bisexual Politics***. Indigo Girls fans will probably enjoy the dishiness of reading about the author's former relationship with Amy Ray, but there's much more than that here. She focuses on women's sexuality in this text and asserts that women who have relationships with both same-sex and opposite-sex partners can learn important things from each: "For myself, I can say that having had relationships with both men and women has given me information on how to be more liberated with men, and less sexist with women."



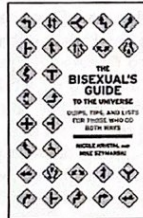
Baumgardner recounts the influence of second-wave feminism on women's sexuality and how being sexual with women was a political choice for many in the seventies. She interestingly ties this to the prevalence of eating disorders and cutting in the eighties and nineties, quoting filmmaker Elizabeth Subrin: "If we were all liberated in the seventies, how come my generation was sticking their heads in the toilet in the eighties?" She also explores the impact of openly bisexual singer Ani DiFranco on women's sexuality in the third wave.

One goof in this book is her contention that transsexual and transgender people are willing to "give up potential physical sexual pleasure in the form of a functioning clitoris or penis in order to live as another gender" because "there is a singular pleasure in being looked at and appreciated for your sex appeal." While this may be true for some trans folk, I suspect most who choose surgery do so for themselves, not for a "singular pleasure" in how they will appear to others.

Her overall point in *Look Both Ways* is sound: "...gay people deserve to get married and have kids and receive social approbation for their relationships, just like straight people. Moreover, straight people deserve what gay people tend to have: the

privilege of equality in their relationships and freedom from rigid gender roles." And bisexual women can help build these bridges by insisting on these things in their own relationships, be they with same-sex or opposite-sex partners. But I find it puzzling why on one page, Baumgardner calls her relationship with Amy Ray "the most mutually supportive relationship I had ever had" and wonders if she could have what she had with Ray, "down to the orgasms and great phone calls - with a guy," and then a few pages later says, "I don't know if I will find the equal, supportive, loving, romantic, hot relationship I imagine for myself." She'd just told us she'd had it with Ray; did she mean to say she wonders if she'd ever find it *again*? It's as if she values what she got out of her relationships with women but deep down, would prefer to be with a man if she could have those same things with him. So, perhaps she's a straight-identified bisexual, the converse of the dyke-identified bi-women many of us know? Hmm... All in all, I appreciated much of Baumgardner's feminist analysis but question some of her conclusions about sexuality and gender. FSG, \$24, 9780374190040.

For a broader-based, lighter-hearted look at the subject, check out Lambda Literary Award-nominated **The Bisexual's Guide to the Universe: Quips, Tips, and Lists for Those Who Go Both Ways** by Nicole Kristal and Mike Szymanski. The



"Beginner" part of the book explores the history of bisexuality, includes quizzes to help one determine if they are bisexual, and looks at myths and stereotypes of bi folk. The "Intermediate" section talks about coming out as bi, looks at bisexuals in pop culture, and gives dating advice, while the "Advanced" chapters explore "Why You're Not Getting Laid" (e.g. why both straights and gays have problems with bisexuals), sex advice for being with both men and women, and bisexuality throughout history. Fun, irreverent, informative, and full of humor and heart, this is an enjoyable read. Alyson, \$15.95, 9781555836504.

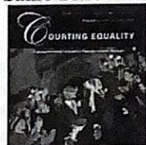
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Coffee-Table Books

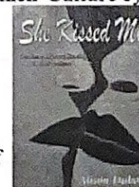
Lili Lakich has been creating her artistic metal sculptures with neon for four decades. Her work is beautifully displayed and discussed in **Lakich: For Light. For Love. For Life.** Inside are more than 200 full-color photographs of her work - everything from her goddess sculptures (Kali, Artemis, Elektra) through the pop culture icons (Elvis, Stevie Ray Vaughn, John Coltrane) to intimate portraits of her friends and lovers (Robin Tyler, Dell Richards, Mary Carter). For many of the pieces, there's a statement from the artist as well as a narrative about how the piece was created. The back includes a chronology of her career, a list of her exhibitions, commissions, and other work, and even a map of where some of her work can be seen in Southern California. This truly is a gorgeous book and hopefully it will be picked up by a mainstream distributor or publisher so more people can be exposed to this talented woman's work. Lili Lakich Studio, \$45, 9780615133515.



The book **Courting Equality: A Documentary History of America's First Legal Same-Sex Marriages** is one of those fabulous marriages (pun intended) between text and photographs. With text by Patricia A. Gozemba and Karen Kahn and photographs by Marilyn Humphries, *Courting Equality* provides both a record of the fight for marriage equality in Massachusetts and a celebration of the fruits of that labor. It blends the political, personal, spiritual, and to an appropriately lesser degree, the resistance to the granting of marriage rights in the Bay State. Kahn and Gozemba were themselves married in September 2005. Beacon Press, \$34.95, 9780807066201.



I hesitated putting **She Kissed Me: Lesbians Explore Kissing in their Culture** by Alison Dubois in this section because of its not-particularly-attractive cover, but this wonderful book deserves a spot on your coffee table anyway - perhaps you can leave it open to your favorite page. Dubois has collected an impressive collection of poetry, prose, and especially, photographs of lesbians of all kinds, kissing. Truly, the variety of lesbians depicted in these pages is quite impressive, inspirational, and heartwarming. The first part of the book has several photos each of three different couples while the remainder of the book is a true smorgasbord of the lesbian nation: interracial couples, younger women, older women, fat women, thin women -



with styles from pierced and punk to wedding gowned and tuxedoed. And the contributors are varied, too, with previously unpublished names side by side those of more familiar authors and photographers: Ellen Bass, Irene Zahava, Rachel Kramer Bussel, and Tee Corinne, to name a few. My only gripes are production related: I wish the credits for the photos were on the same page as the photos rather than on a list in the back, and the photos are not of a consistent quality - it appears some were low-resolution digital photos that didn't translate well to print. Worst, though, is the amateurish cover with an uninspiring gray and black illustration. But if there's ever a case for not judging a book by the cover, this is it - the content is lovely. Blue Horse Publishing, \$34.95 paper, 9780978642808.

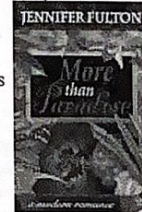
Young Adult

As if the new 25th anniversary edition of *Annie on My Mind* (FSG, \$8, 9780374400118) isn't cause for celebration enough, there's a fabulous brand new book by Nancy Garden which explores the lives of queer youth from the last five decades. **Hear Us Out: Lesbian and Gay Stories of Struggle, Progress, and Hope, 1950 to the Present** combines a narrative essay for each decade with two fictional stories from that same time. From girls writing love letters to each other in code during the fifties, to high schoolers attending gay-straight alliance meetings and pride parades in the current day, history comes to life with these boys and girls through the talented pen of Nancy Garden. Highly recommended - consider buying one for your local high school library. FSG, \$18 hardback, 9780374317591.

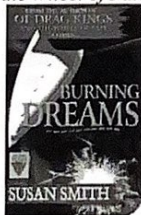


Friday Night Reads

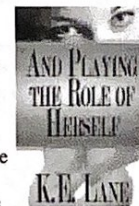
A remote jungle in the Foja Mountains of New Guinea is the setting for **More Than Paradise**, the latest romance adventure by Jennifer Fulton. Charlotte Lascelles is a botanist on a research expedition charged with exploring this mostly untouched-by-humans area near Papua New Guinea. Ash Evans, a pilot and ex-military badass-for-hire, is part of the team hired to assist the researchers on their mission. Bad girl/good girl dynamics ensue as does a new-for-the-both-of-them passion for the other. Ethical questions abound, about exploring one of the last "pure" places on Earth, the interests of science vs the interests of business, and who has the "rights" to what pieces of land. I was intrigued by the background info, so much so that I googled "Foja Mountains" after finishing the book. If you like your romances mixed with some adventure (and sprinkled with some spice) and exotic settings, you'll enjoy *More Than Paradise*. Bold Strokes Books, \$15.95, 9781933110691.



I really enjoyed Susan Smith's **Burning Dreams**, the sequel to *Of Drag Kings and the Wheel of Fate*. In *Dreams*, there's 350 pages of intentional family, healing of hurt loved ones, celebration of genderqueers, and just enough mysticism to intrigue even skeptics. Rosalind, Taryn, Rhea, Joe, Goblin, Egyptia, Ellie, and Linda are all back and are joined here by Rosalind's ex-husband, Paul, who doesn't know Ros is now with a woman, and Misha, Joe's brother-in-law. Reading this sequel without having read the first will be enjoyable enough, but to get the nuances of the past-life relationships between the characters, I suggest you read *Of Drag Kings* first. Both Bold Strokes Books, \$15.95. *Burning Dreams*: 9781933110622. *Of Drag Kings and the Wheel of Fate*: 9781933110516.



What happens when a TV network decides to make two of its female stars lovers? In K.E. Lane's **And Playing the Role of Herself**, Caidence Harris and Robyn Ward star in *Law and Order*-type action shows which occasionally share characters and plotlines. After Caid's co-star, Liz, discovers the phenomenon of lesbian fan fiction about her character, she pitches an idea to the show's writers. The powers-that-be decide that Caid would be more accepted as a lesbian by audiences than Liz and pair Caid with Robyn for a ratings-happy plotline. However, the writers aren't the only ones who think Caid and Robyn make a good match... (Whodathunk one of

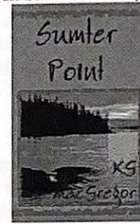


those would be Robyn's mother?!) A fun, lesbian romp through Hollywood. Regal Crest, \$21.95 paper, 9781932300727.

It's interesting that **Running with the Wind** by Nell Stark was on my to-read pile now, since I've been thinking about sailing a lot. Something about driving near the San Francisco Bay in the spring, watching the sailboarders and boats glide along... I digress. In Stark's book, Corrie is a sailing instructor in Rhode Island who nearly made the U.S. Olympic team. She carries much resentment around about her brother, who not only made the team but stole Corrie's girlfriend, too. Now, Corrie has friends-with-benefits sex among her sailing school compadres. Quinn is studying to be a veterinarian, but a friend coaxes Quinn to take some time off over the summer and learn to sail. A quick study, Quinn and her instructor Corrie find themselves gearing up for a regatta together while fighting off the attraction between them. A fun read with engaging characters - and a lovable dog named Frog, *Running with the Wind* could have benefited from a glossary of sailing terms for landlubbers. Bold Strokes, \$15.95, 9781933110707.



Like Maria V. Ciletti's *The Choice*, reviewed in [TLE #28](#), **Sumter Point** by KG MacGregor is set in a nursing home, but the similarities end there. In *Sumter Point*, Audie is a 24-year-old veterinary technician whose grandmother has been admitted to a nursing home after a stroke. Beth is a 33-year-old nurse there, and the older sister of one of Audie's high school classmates. Unlike in *The Choice*, both of these characters are out - Audie's grandmother is very accepting of it all, too - so their coming together is hindered by age and lifestyle choices (stable, responsible homebody vs carefree, partying, clubhopper). Questions of trust, growing up, and doing what's right even when it's hard inform this sweet story. Bella, \$13.95, 9781594930898.



Best Lesbian Romance edited by Angela Brown straddles the line between a Friday Night Read and Clit Lit. Many of the stories are quite erotic, while others are truly more romantic. Brown has collected a very talented group of writers for this book, so I'm hard-pressed to name just a few favorites, but "Dreamtime" by Fiona Zedde and "Not the End of Liner Notes" by Jewelle Gomez are definite stand-outs. In "Liner Notes," a woman inspired to dance when listening to Ella Fitzgerald sing Gershwin signs up for a swing class: "Queers don't have marriage, but we got classes in everything." I also loved the sweet, tentative, reconciliation in "All You Can Think About" by Rachel Rosenberg. Cleis, \$14.95, 9781573442619.



Clit Lit

It's been awhile since we've run a Clit Lit column, so there are many books here. Our community is definitely prolific with its erotica!

And always has been, apparently, as editors Victoria A. Brownworth and Judith M. Redding demonstrate in their new anthology **The Golden Age of Lesbian Erotica 1920-1940**. This collection includes some pieces you'd expect in a collection like this - excerpts from Gertrude Stein's *Lifting Belly*, Renee Vivien's *The Muse of the Violets*, and Gale Wilhelm's *We, Too, are Drifting* and *Torchlight to Valhalla* - but also includes translations of work from lesser-known-in-the-U.S. authors from France and Germany. The introduction is an informative piece of scholarship, and while the stories themselves are sometimes more sensual than explicitly erotic, there are definitely more graphic tales included, with a variety of styles and tastes, similar to what one might find in a modern-day Cleis or Alyson anthology. There's even a precursor to today's fan fiction: Edwina Leonard's "Silent Stars" from 1929, in which the protagonist has a threesome with sisters Lillian and Dorothy Gish. Brownworth also pays homage to Tee Corinne who asked Brownworth to take on this project when Corinne became ill. Magic Carpet Books, \$17.95 paper, 9780977431144.

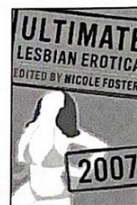


Cleis Press and series editor Tristan Taormino have been collecting the **Best**



Lesbian Erotica for more than a decade. Emma Donoghue is the guest editor for the 2007 collection, which features both edgy and sweet well-written stories of lesbian lust. Favorites of mine in this latest edition include "Sweet Thing" by Joy Parks, Anna Watson's "Homecoming Queen," and "Voodoo and Tattoos" by Lynne Jamneck. Most impressive, however, was the butch-femme twisting of familiar tales like *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Moby-Dick*, and *Lolita* in Peggy Munson's "Subtexts." Cleis, \$14.95, 9781573442596.

The stories in **Ultimate Lesbian Erotica**, Alyson's yearly erotica collection edited by Nicole Foster, are usually more cut-to-the-chase than in most anthologies, so if that's your cup of tea, you'll love the 2007 book, too. Stories I particularly enjoyed were *The Stock Contractor's Daughter* by Rakelle Valencia, "The Go-To Gal" by Teresa Noelle Roberts, and "Practice Makes Perfect" by Kristie Helms. A theme of this particular collection seems to be the unexpected: twist endings, dashed expectations, and the breaking down of assumptions. Hot. Alyson, \$15.95, 9781555839703.



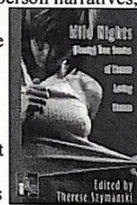
Bold Strokes Books is back in the erotic anthology game with the fourth edition in their **Erotic Interludes** series: **Extreme Passions**, edited by Radclyffe and Stacia



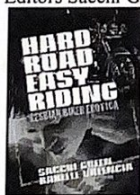
Seaman. As the title and cover suggest, many of these stories are kinkier than in previous Bold Strokes anthologies, but in others, the "extreme" refers to the lengths some of the women in these tales go to get what they want. Karin Kallmaker's "10 Quick and Easy Salads" is a good example of this, in which Cindy seduces her upstairs neighbor with Sweet and Sour Broccoli Slaw, Black Bean and Corn Relish over Field Greens, and Mixed Peppers with Arugula. This is the longest of the books in this column, with more than 300 pages of hot stories, including "Executive Agenda" by Radclyffe, "Prey" by Renee Strider, and the graphic story

"Jericho" by J.C. Chen. Bold Strokes, \$15.95, 9781933110585.

A theme emerged as Therese Szymanski was going over the submissions for **Wild Nights: (Mostly) True Stories of Women Loving Women**: first-person narratives, to appeal to the voyeur in the reader. So she packed this anthology full of them, including some in which the narratives themselves are the voyeurs. This is the case in one of the hottest stories in the collection, "Brownout" by Brigit Futrelle. BJ can hear her neighbor, Sarah, having sex with her boyfriend - and can tell that Sarah's faking her orgasms. One night, the power goes out in their building, and Sarah comes to BJ's place to borrow candles. In short order, BJ's showing Sarah what's she been missing... I also enjoyed the long-term relationship in "Forever" by Amie M. Evans and the, um, unusual narrator in Szymanski's "The Voyeur." Bella, \$15.95, 9781594930690.



Editors Sacchi Green and Rakelle Valencia definitely love a good ride. First they brought us *Rode Hard, Put Away Wet: Lesbian Cowboy Erotica* (reviewed in [TLE#21](#)), and now they're back with **Hard Road, Easy Riding: Lesbian Biker Erotica**. Whether you're in the driver's seat during a Dykes on Bikes-type run, riding on the back hugging the biker's waist, or watching from the sidelines longingly, you're sure to enjoy this love affair between women, their bikes, and the women who love both. My favorite was "Shifting" by Jess Davis, which combines Catholic schoolgirl fantasies with *The Wild Ones*. Harrington Park/Alice Street Editions, \$16.95, 9781560235743.



Barbara Johnson, Karin Kallmaker, Therese Szymanski, and Julia Watts have again teamed up for a volume of novellas in their New Exploits series for Bella After Dark. The first dealt with "fairy-tale lesbians" and the second with "magical lesbians." The newest, **Stake Through the Heart**, brings us new exploits of twilight lesbians. Kallmaker's "Castle Wrath" is a fun and spooky story about a "rather short, perky and modestly shaped American girl from Lodi, California," who is competing for ownership of a castle with a hottie from Manchester, England. "Running with Stone Ponies" by Barbara Johnson features a thoroughbred-horse breeder and a wealthy businesswoman who



has lived several lifetimes. Together they face a post-apocalyptic future. In Therese Szymanski's "Elsewhen," a police officer crosses paths with an elusive "superhero" who can't be captured on film. And Julia Watts tells the story of a runaway given the "gift" of eternal life in "We Recruit." Much fun all around. Bella, \$13.95, 9781594930713.

Speaking of vampires, two anthologies from Cleis Press, both edited by Pam Keeseey, are back in print: *Daughters of Darkness* (\$14.95, 9781573442336) with stories by Katherine V. Forrest, Jewelle Gomez, Pat Califia, and Robbi Sommers, and *Dark Angels* (\$13.95, 9781573442527) with work from Amelia G, Lawrence Schimel, Cecilia Tan, and Renee M. Charles.

Thought there's not a lot of lesbian content in *The Happy Birthday Book of Erotica*, edited by Alison Tyler, I wanted to mention it because it *did* give me all sorts of fun ideas for birthday surprises. It's worth checking it out for that alone. "Options" by Jacqueline Sinclair and "Birthday Spanking, with a Twist" by Rachel Kramer Bussel will also appeal for more lesbianic reasons. Cleis, \$14.95, 9781573442510.

Best Sex Writing 2006 edited by Felice Newman and Frederique Delacoste collects essays, many previously published online, about sex. By far the most interesting to me was "The Coming Boom" by Annalee Newitz, which discusses research about women's sexuality: everything from arousal drugs for women to studying women who "think off," that is, women who can come without being touched. Also of note is Emily DePrang's "Where the Truth Lies," in which the author was fired for sexual harassment, basically for just being a lesbian. Cleis, \$14.95, 9781573442374.

And also of note:

Ediciones B has released *El Kama Sutra lesbiano*, a Spanish-language version of Kat Harding's *The Lesbian Kama Sutra*. The translation is by Julia Quinn, and it's a \$38.95 hardcover (ISBN-13: 9788466615143). The English-language version of this book was reviewed in [TLE #23](#).

New in Paperback

Fiction

The Accidental, Ali Smith, Random House/Knopf, \$13.95, 9781400032181.

Far From Xanadu, Julie Anne Peters, Little, Brown and Company, \$7.99, 9780316159715.

Slipstream, Leslie Larson, Three Rivers, \$14, 9780307338013.

Nonfiction

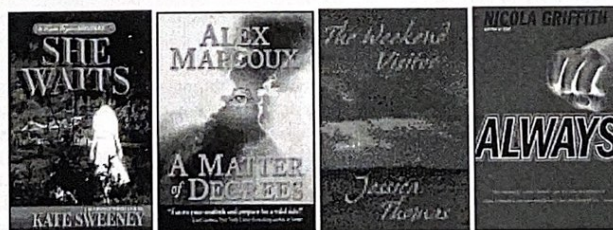
Covering: The Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights, Kenji Yoshino, Random House, \$15.95, 9780375760211.

Strange Piece of Paradise, Terri Jentz, St. Martin's/Picador, \$15, 9780312426699.

Tallulah!: The Life and Times of a Leading Lady, Joel Lobenthal, Harper/Regan, \$17.95, 9780060989064.

The Crime Scene

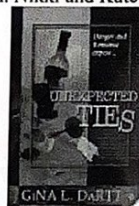
By Nan Cinnater



It's officially spring and I'm still catching up on lesbian mysteries from 2006, but I've got one long-awaited book that's hot off the press as well.

She Waits by Kate Sweeney introduces ex-private eye Kate Ryan, now a freelance nature photographer. Kate stops in Galena, Illinois, to do a favor for some friends and help out Maggie Winfield, who doesn't need or want help, thank you very much (Intaglio, \$15.95, 9781933113401). Maggie's Aunt Hannah disagrees and insists that Kate stay and look into the strange happenings that have threatened Maggie's life. The cover seems to indicate a supernatural element, and indeed there is a ghost, which I normally would hate - but I didn't care. This classic cozy grabbed me from the first page, as Kate quickly becomes immersed in a family and neighborhood where she - and I - feel welcomed and at home. There's such a strong sense of bonding among the "good guys" (who eventually include Kate's psychically sensitive sister and bemused brother-in-law - and even the ghost), and the characters are so likeable and well drawn, that I can't wait to spend time with them again. Luckily, **A Nice Clean Murder**, second in the series, in which Kate's brother-in-law inherits a cottage in Ireland, is now available. Intaglio, \$16.95, 9781933113784.

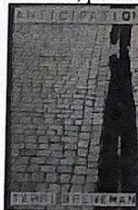
Gina L. Dartt's **Unexpected Ties** is another thoroughly enjoyable cozy whodunit, with an interesting lesbian relationship and some hot sex thrown in. Nikki and Kate are a new lesbian couple in a small town in Nova Scotia, and therefore the talk of the town. Kate is a mature, patrician business owner embarking on her first lesbian relationship, while Nikki is younger, country-raised, and working as a police dispatcher. The relationship issues are nicely portrayed, as they get to know each other's families and friends, weather the gossip, and bridge their own differences. The mystery is a classic one, beginning when the heir of the town's most powerful family is poisoned at a charity dinner. This is the sequel to **Unexpected Sparks**, but it stands quite well on its own. Bold Strokes, \$15.95, 9781933110561.



A Matter of Degrees by Alex Marcoux incorporates two of my least favorite things: supernatural elements and vast conspiracy theories. Readers of *The Da Vinci Code* will recognize a lot of the building blocks of this "ultimate conspiracy," including Mary Magdalene, the Knights Templar, and the Freemasons. Marcoux takes it a step further, however, into the realm of reincarnated ancient entities (Egyptian? Sumerian? Alien?) and other places where I was unwilling to follow. The book opens with a flashback to the ancient state of E.DIN, followed by a straight-woman network reporter doing a story on secret societies, including the Freemasons. Lesbian writer Jessie Mercer gets involved when her brother Steve dies of an apparent suicide. Jessie learns that Steve had been cooperating with the network reporter, prompting Jessie to try to infiltrate the Freemasons. The story is fast-paced and Marcoux's research is impressive, especially on details of the Masons' secret rituals. If you liked *The Da Vinci Code* for the conspiracy plot, not just for the locations, you should give **A Matter of Degrees** a try. Harrington Park Press, \$19.95 paper, 9781560236115.

When you live in a gay and lesbian vacation destination like Provincetown, you can become very possessive of your home. I'm hypercritical of books set in Provincetown, because of course nobody who visits can know the town like I do. Jessica Thomas gets over this high bar, partly because her lesbian heroine, private eye Alex Peres, is a Portuguese Provincetown native, not a visitor, and Thomas understands the difference. In **The Weekend Visitor**, third and best in a series that includes **Caught in the Net** and **Turning the Tables**, Alex is hired by dour Mary Sloan to help young Maureen Delaney get evidence against her rapist. Maureen's story raises more questions than it answers. Meanwhile, Alex also has another case that takes her to New Orleans and the picturesque bayou country. I have some quibbles - New Orleans seems untouched by Katrina; Alex still relies a little too much on an inside track with the police (her brother is in line for chief) - but overall **The Weekend Visitor** was well plotted, intriguing, and enjoyable. Bella, \$13.95, 9781594930546.

In **Anticipation** by Terri Breneman, lawyer Toni Barston is new to the Fairfield, Missouri, prosecuting attorney's office. She is assigned to work with seasoned investigator Victoria Boggs, known as Boggs, to prosecute a serial killer. Predictably, Toni and Boggs feel an immediate attraction. Then the suspect escapes from custody and begins to kill again. The mystery is well plotted and suspenseful, but the romance drove me crazy. These women are both so closeted that one actually Googles the other to get clues to her sexual preference. (What's the matter with old-fashioned gaydar?) One of the main things they share is their sense of humor, which includes making fun of fat women and people who live in trailer parks. Call me politically correct, or just cranky, but by the end, I was tempted to root for the serial killer. Bella, \$13.95, 9781594930553.



Aud Torvingen is back and better than ever! Aud is a Norwegian-born martial artist and former cop, the enigmatic lesbian heroine of Nicola Griffith's *noir* classics *Blue Place* (Harper, \$13.95, 9780380790883) and *Stay* (Vintage, \$12.95, 9781400032303). *Always*, third in the series, is in bookstores now. In this beautifully structured novel, Griffith alternates between two stories. In one, Aud travels to Seattle to rendezvous with her mother, a Norwegian diplomat, and take care of some real estate business. The other story follows a women's self-defense class Aud is teaching in Atlanta. As often happens in real life, the self-defense class serves as a crash consciousness raiser for the students, although Aud remains more existentialist than feminist. The Seattle story is full of revelations: meeting Aud's mother is something akin to meeting Xena's mother, if she looked like Judi Dench as M and behaved like Helen Mirren as the Queen. I'm only halfway through my advance copy, but Griffith has already delivered more than enough insight and incident for one novel, and the tension is mounting. *Always* works fine if you haven't read the other two books in the series, but why deprive yourself? Riverhead, \$26.95, 9781594489358.



Learning from Our Mistakes

The Lambda Literary Finalist Reading at the San Francisco Public Library each April is one of my favorite events, a wonderful celebration of our local queer literati. This year's event was no exception, with great readers to entertain us all, but it ended up being controversial, and ultimately, instructive, with a positive outcome.

Peggy Munson, finalist in the Lesbian Debut Fiction category for her novel *Origami Striptease* (reviewed in [TLE #24](#)), was billed as one of the readers at this year's event. Since she is disabled and can't travel to read in person, she and her publishers (Greg Wharton and Ian Philips/Suspect Thoughts Press) arranged for her to "appear" via a DVD in which she reads short excerpts from her novel. I was sitting with Greg and Ian at the event, and when it became clear that the event was ending without showing Peggy's DVD, we were all confused, wondering if she had been forgotten.

Later we learned that Lambda Literary Foundation Board President Katherine Forrest took responsibility for the decision not to screen the DVD for the reading; she had, apparently, been told that it was "straight" erotica. She has since told BTWOF that this decision was a mistake which she deeply regrets, especially since emerging writers like Munson are exactly the kind of voices that she and the Foundation want to support.

The excerpt Munson reads in the DVD includes reference to the female narrator performing oral sex on a genderqueer character named Jack. I can see how someone, hearing this out of context might think it was "straight," but in this case, the context was clear: the novel was a finalist in the Lesbian Debut Fiction category (all of the judges in that category had read the book and deemed it an appropriate finalist in that category), and it was the winner of Suspect Thought's Project:Queerlit contest. So it wouldn't have taken a giant leap to believe that the excerpt on the DVD was, in fact, queerer than it may have appeared at first glance. With so many outside the community making assumptions about queer folks, it's important that we not do the same to each other inside our community.

What is additionally troubling is how this censorship contributes to the invisibility and silencing of disabled queers. Munson was not there to present her work in person, to answer questions, and/or provide additional context - she *could not* be there in person. Organizations such as the Lambda Literary Foundation were founded to celebrate our writers' voices, which do, of course, include the voices of writers with disabilities.

Both Forrest and LLF Executive Director Charles Flowers have apologized profusely to both Munson and her publishers and, even better, they've done their best to make amends. Munson's DVD has been screened at the Lambda finalist readings in New York City and Boston. Flowers has also announced, that in addition to this year's Lambda Literary Awards ceremony being wheelchair accessible, for the first time in Lammy history the ceremony will be sign-language interpreted. This is definitely a positive outcome for what both Forrest and Flowers say was an unfortunate, regrettable mistake.

I love this excerpt from Munson's [blog](#) on the matter:

"It may not seem like a big deal, and in some ways it isn't - not this one thing. This moment is simply a useful springboard to talk about the repetitiveness of such events (and the Lambda Literary Foundation, for the record, sent me an apology). Oppression is a summation of phrases and gestures over a lifetime. Random exclusionary gestures mirror a collective consciousness of systemic oppression and violence, and this is what all marginalized people feel so palpably. This is what I'm talking about. And it

is, of course, an ideology any queer organization should be actively fighting against in all of its forms."

What she said. May we all learn from this and go forward with greater openness and fewer assumptions. -- Suzanne Corson
See the video in question for yourself:
www.blip.tv/file/203730.

Banned Books

The public library in Bentonville, Arkansas, has removed Felice Newman's *The Whole Lesbian Sex Book* from their shelves after a father complained that his teenage sons came across it while looking for books on military academies. Initially the librarian moved the book to a less accessible location, but the library's advisory board voted unanimously that the book should be removed and a more "suitable" book on the topic found.

The father is threatening to sue the city for \$20,000 (\$10,000 per child, as allowed by the obscenity statute in Arkansas). The city is refusing to pay the complainant since "the book is not pornographic." The *Library Journal*, which this library uses to select books for their collection, agrees, saying that Newman's book is "suitable for all public libraries." Author Felice Newman remarked, "Boys have been pouring over sexually explicit materials in libraries since - well, since there have been libraries. Why was a copy of my book in the military section? Well, sometimes young people browsing the library shelves will tuck away a favorite book where they can find it later. These two young guys are the very reason libraries must be uncensored, and librarians must be free to order the books they feel will benefit the public."

For more information:
www.nwaonline.net/articles/2007/04/19/news/042007bzuterfolo.txt
To send the librarians a supportive note:
www.youseemore.com/bentonville/email/emailthelibrarian.asp.

Update: *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* by Alison Bechdel and *Blankets* by Craig Thompson have been returned to the shelves at the Marshall Public Library in Marshall, Missouri. These graphic memoirs were removed last October at the request of local residents at a public hearing. As a result of the hearing, a materials selection committee was formed to put policies for the library in place, and that committee has reinstated these books to the library's collection.

For more information:
www.marshallnews.com/story/1193923.html.

Venus Magazine: From Black LGBT Pride to Ex-Gay

Charlene E. Cothran founded *Venus* magazine 13 years ago, the name a tribute to her friend Venus Landin who was killed by her ex-lover in 1993. The mission of the magazine was to celebrate and empower African American LGBT people, and Cothran promoted the magazine at Pride festivals, clubs, and other queer events. Recently, Cothran renounced her lesbianism and changed the focus of the magazine to helping those same people embrace God and leave gay life. Reaction has been fevered from both former readers and advertisers (most advertisers cancelled their ads after Cothran's announcement of the change) and ex-gay proponents. The queer media and bloggers write about the loss of one of the few print publications especially for LGBT communities of color; of the problems with Cothran's reasoning and arguments, especially those which state that homosexuality and Christianity are incompatible; and perhaps most poignantly, that Cothran has chosen to retain the name of the magazine, which is seen as a slap in the face toward her murdered friend, who was a lesbian activist in Atlanta. In a time where queer print publications are fighting for survival - and with so few that target LGBT communities of color - this change is definitely disheartening.

Venus Magazine:

www.venusmagazine.org.

An interview with Charlene E. Cothran on Clay Cane's (black gay male writer) blog:
<http://claycane.blogspot.com/2007/04/interview-with-ex-gay-charlene-cothran.html>.

Our Authors Online

GLBTPromo.com interviews Lambda Literary Award nominee Laurinda D. Brown:
<http://glbtpromo.com>.

T Cooper discusses touring for the paperback release of *Lipshitz 6* with *Publishers Weekly*:
www.publishersweekly.com/article/CA6435437.html&.

AfterEllen.com profiles Nicola Griffith:
www.afterellen.com/people/2007/5/nicolagriffith.

...and playwright Trey Anthony:
www.afterellen.com/people/2007/3/treyanthony.

San Francisco Chronicle interviews Sara Miles:
www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/g/a/2007/02/26/findrelig.DTL.

Bookslut.com interviews Alison Bechdel:
www.bookslut.com/features/2007_03_010764.php.

Read Rachel Kramer Bussel's interview with Peggy Munson:
<http://feministing.com/archives/006963.html>.

Watch S. Bear Bergman perform (video) from *Butch Is a Noun*:
www.sbearbergman.com/~zevlet/video/WhatButchIs-big.mov.

Listen to Alicia E. Goranson read (audio) from *Supervillainz*:
http://forum.wgbh.org/wgbh/forum.php?lecture_id=3117.

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Awards

Justine Larbalestier is the recipient of the Popular Cultural Association's 2007 **Susan Koppelman Award** for her book *Daughters of Earth: Feminist Science Fiction in the Twentieth Century* (reviewed in TLE #27). This award is given for the best anthology, multi-authored, or edited book in feminist studies in popular culture.

The 2007 **Publishing Triangle Awards** were bestowed at a ceremony in New York City on May 7. The winners (in bold) and finalists for this year's awards are as follows:

The **Judy Grahn Award for Lesbian Nonfiction**
Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home* (Houghton Mifflin)
 Catherine Friend, *Hit by a Farm* (Marlowe & Company)
 Marcia Gallo, *Different Daughters* (Carroll & Graf)

The **Randy Shilts Award for Gay Nonfiction**
 Bernard Cooper, *The Bill from My Father* (Simon & Schuster)
 Rigoberto Gonzalez, *Butterfly Boy* (University of Wisconsin Press)
Kenji Yoshino, *Covering* (Random House)

The **Ferro-Grumley Award for Fiction: Women**
 Rebecca Brown, *The Last Time I Saw You* (City Lights)
Lisa Carey, *Every Visible Thing* (William Morrow)
 Ivan E. Coyote, *Bow Grip* (Arsenal Pulp Press)

The **Ferro-Grumley Awards for Fiction: Men**
Christopher Bram, *Exiles in America* (William Morrow)
 Martin Hyatt, *A Scarecrow's Bible* (Suspect Thoughts Press)
 Stephen McCauley, *Alternatives to Sex* (Simon & Schuster)

The **Audre Lorde Award for Lesbian Poetry**
 Robin Becker, *The Domain of Perfect Affection* (University of Pittsburgh Press)
 Kate Lynn Hibbard, *Sleeping Upside Down* (Silverfish Review Press)
Jennifer Rose, *Hometown for an Hour* (Ohio University Press)

The Thom Gunn Award for Gay Male Poetry
Justin Chin, *Gutted* (Manic D Press)
 Jim Elledge, *A History of My Tattoo* (Stonewall)
 Greg Hewett, *The Eros Conspiracy* (Coffee House Press)

The Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction
Martin Hyatt, *A Scarecrow's Bible* (Suspect Thoughts Press)
 Alex McLennan, *The Zookeeper* (Alyson Books)
 Eduardo Santiago, *Tomorrow They Will Kiss* (Little, Brown)

The Publishing Triangle's Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement alternates each year between female and male writers. This year, the award goes to Andrew Holleran. His work includes the highly-acclaimed 1978 debut novel, *Dancer from the Dance* and last year's novella *Grief*. In addition, Nancy Bereano, founder of Firebrand Books, won a special leadership award in recognition of her "long and distinguished service to GLBT literature."

Calls for Submissions

Windy City Times 4th Annual GLBTQ Pride Literary Supplement, edited by Kathie Bergquist and Owen Keehnen, is accepting poetry and fiction submissions in keeping with this year's theme: Transgressions. Up to three poems (500 words max.) or fiction of not more than 500 words may be submitted via MS Word attachment to WCTPride@gmail.com. Deadline May 30.

Sinister Wisdom #74 Activism Latina Lesbian Style. Guest Editor: Juanita Ramos. Chicana/Latina/Latin American lesbians living all over the world are invited to submit material. We want to know how our sisters define what lesbian activism means to them in whatever way they see fit. Deadline: October 1, 2007. Writing guidelines at www.sinisterwisdom.org. Send submissions for #74 only to: Juanita Ramos, P. O. Box 678 W.V.S., Binghamton, NY 13905-0678. Email: companeras1994@yahoo.com.

Felice Newman of Cleis Press is looking for explicit erotica depicting sex between lesbian lovers. "The sex can be dirty, romantic, or playful; vanilla or BDSM; edgy, taboo, or cross-orientation; involving twosomes, threesomes, or moresomes. And, yes, even sweet or tender. ... This is a collection of literate, intelligent, provocative, arousing sex stories depicting hot lesbian sex in the context of ongoing partnerships. I'm looking for stories so compelling that lesbian readers who've stopped having sex will wonder why they waited so long." Send short stories, novel excerpts, or literary nonfiction of up to 5000 words. Previously published stories welcome; please note where they appeared (name of publication and date). Include your name, email address, phone number, and a brief (50 word) bio note. Send stories as Word or RTF document attachment to: lesbiansex@cleispress.com, subject line: Lesbian stories. Deadline: July 1, 2007.

Editor Kristin Redmon is in the process of collecting autobiographical materials and arranging photoshoots for *The Bearded Lady Book*, a photo essay book about women with facial hair or beards. Contact Kristin at thebeardedladybook@hotmail.com for more information.

Answers to Lesbian Literary Quiz, Part 3

In the last few issues, we've printed some literary quizzes, courtesy of the women from last winter's York Lesbian Festival. In TLE #28, we ran the final part of the quiz, which provided "last lines" from lesbian novels. Here are the answers to that quiz:

- 1: *The Female Man* - Joanna Russ
- 2: *Leave a Light on for Me* - Jean Swallow
- 3: *Crocodile Soup* - Julia Darling
- 4: *Bastard Out of Carolina* - Dorothy Alison
- 5: *Orlando* - Virginia Woolf
- 6: *Common Murder* - Val McDermid

- 7: *Trumpet* - Jackie Kay
- 8: *Rubyfruit Jungle* - Rita Mae Brown
- 9: *Mrs. Dalloway* - Virginia Woolf
- 10: *Desert of the Heart* - Jane Rule
- 11: *Patience and Sarah* - Isabel Miller
- 12: *The Fires of Bride* - Ellen Galford
- 13: *The Well of Loneliness* - Radclyffe Hall
- 14: *Stir-Fry* - Emma Donoghue
- 15: *Oranges are Not the Only Fruit* - Jeanette Winterson
- 16: *Lessons in Murder* - Claire McNab
- 17: *Tipping the Velvet* - Sarah Waters
- 18: *The Accidental* - Ali Smith
- 19: *Beebo Brinker* - Ann Bannon



That's it for this issue of *The Lesbian Edition*. Thanks again for all you do to help spread the word about Books To Watch Out For. When you mention us on your blog, add our website to your online profile favorites list, give gift subscriptions to friends, and tell your reading group members about our three editions, it helps increase our visibility - and helps people you know and love learn how to find out about great new books to read.

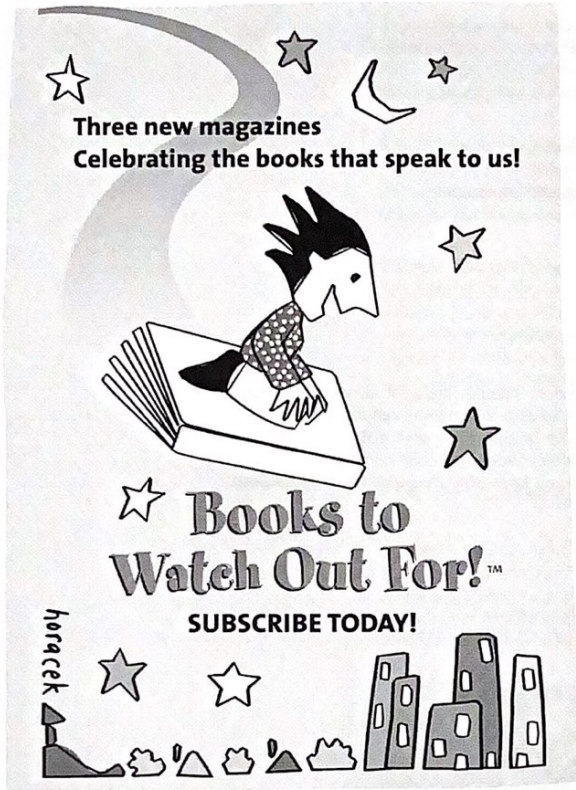
Until next month,

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for *Books To Watch Out For*



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