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From: Carol Seajay <seajay@dnai.com>  
Subject: [eFB-News]  
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Attached:

Vol 22 #5 Post #1

Greetings, FBN subscriber!

This is the test run of FBN's new e-issues.

When you receive this message, please send a message to <eFBN@FemBkNews.com> telling us you received the introductory message.

As promised in FBN's last issue, we will alternate between print issues and electronic issues, bringing you the best of words-on-the-printed-page pleasure *and* real-time news updates in alternating formats.

FBN's first electronic issue should begin coming to you within the week, as soon as our addressing procedures pass their test runs.

Each electronic "issue" (in this case, Volume 22 Number 5) will be comprised of a number of email postings. Posts may include news items that would previously have run in FBN's "News" columns, topical book columns, time-dated information, news flashes, letters to the e-editor, and things that haven't yet occurred to us!

The posts for each issue will be spread over several months. Our prediction is that you'll receive a cluster of posts at the "beginning" of each e-issue, then news and information items will be spread of the following weeks.

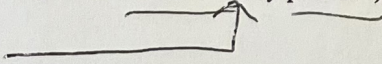
Each e-issue will overlap with the following print issue, allowing us to send you the breaking news, weeks (or months!) before we could get it to you via printed issue.

Each post will be limited to one topic. You may receive several posts in a single day or it may be several weeks between posts.



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Date: Wed, 22 Mar 2000 09:11:17 -0800  
To: jrusso@cats.ucsc.edu  
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Subject: [eFB-News] News: Naiad Cuts Back, Bella Blooms  
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X-Envelope-To: <seajay@dnai.com>

\*\*admin note: listed originally as post 1, this is *actually* post 2. :) tmr\*\*

Volume 22 Number 5 Post #1   
February 29, 2000

### Naiad Cuts Back, Bella Blooms

It's inconceivable that Barbara Grier (now 67) would retire and, of course, she isn't. She and Donna McBride have spent the last several years quietly setting the stage for a major transition, including the possibility of selling the press. But, after interviewing several likely candidates, they didn't find a buyer fully fitting their profile for the new owner who could carry Naiad Press into the next millennium.

Given that closing the press is inconceivable, the Naiad visionaries invented a new option: cutting back to a few (four) books a year and designating an heir-apparent for all of the remaining titles and brand-name Naiad authors.

In November Barbara approached Kelly Smith, who had recently completed a year-long internship at Naiad as part of her quest to learn the ropes of publishing and launch her own publishing company. The co-owner of the Detroit women's bookstore, A Woman's Prerogative, Kelly had announced the formation of Bella Books shortly after her return to Detroit last June, and the rest is -- or will soon be -- history.

Naiad, beginning in 2000, will publish only four books a year: one book in each of Claire McNab's series and one book each from Karin Kallmaker and Naiad Web-mistress/visionary Linda Hill. The other 28 or so titles that Naiad would normally publish will be shifted to Bella Books. All current Naiad authors have been invited to sign contracts with Bella and, as of this writing, most have accepted. Bella will launch its first six books this Fall and plans to publish 14 titles in 2001, and expand to 24 titles a year as quickly as possible.

"It's a feminist thing from the 70s," Barbara told FBN. "No money is changing hands, all of the books and authors will have homes and will be well taken care of, and the books will continue to be there for the readers and in the bookstores."

Bella, in part on Barbara's advice, will do some things differently, including farming out distribution to LPC, though it will continue to keep individual orders in house. Bella's vision is also different.

"There are many things Barbara and I agree on," Kelly told FBN, "But one thing we don't agree on is the content of the books: I prefer a more complex novel. Bella will have a more involved editorial process. We've built in more time for editorial work and for the authors have as much time to rewrite as they need to tell the whole story: to round out character and plot, etc." Part of the reason for the gap between Naiad's normal publishing schedule and Bella's launch is to allow time for that process. Bella's other acquisitions include a first novel by Bonnie Morris (Eden Built by Eves) and a mystery by Nikki Baker. Both will appear in Spring 2001. As of this writing, Bella has already raised half of the money for its launch. Bella's first titles are scheduled for September, 2000.

All in all, it's a brilliant plan for shifting both legacy and responsibility for a major feminist/ lesbian institution from one generation to another.

But while the majority of authors and forthcoming titles are shifting to Bella, Naiad will continue to own and sell all the backlist titles and will continue to publish (at least) four books a year and do some video sales as well. "I like power, as everyone knows," Barbara deadpans, "And this way I get to keep my hand in. If I had sold the press outright, I wouldn't get to do that." This was a telephone interview, but you know that look: Barbara Grier likes to do what she wants, and she wants to do many many things, including publishing books that are important and massaging and promoting the backlist. ("Thanks to Mr. Ripley's success in the movie houses, we sold 2000 copies of Patricia Highsmith's *The Price of Salt* last month," she elaborated.)



But it's also clear that Barbara intends to keeping Naiad flourishing, albeit on a smaller scale, for another decade. "We want to cut our work hours down to 40 or 45 hours a week and to leave the office each day before dark," she says, and then amends that to "Well, most days." To Barbara, now 67, and to Donna, 59, after 30-some years of round-the-clock dedication to the largest and most prolific lesbian publishing company in the world, that seems like a reasonable goal. --CS

[Watch for full-length story in the next print-issue of FBN.]

Volume 22 Number 3 Part 47)

Mysteries

By Neil Crowley

New Voyager/Publisher, MA

Wow! Boldly going, as usual, where no man (sic) has gone before, FBN leads into the new millennium. It's been a long time between columns and the mystery world waits for no woman, so let's catch up.

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African American detective mystery Carolyn Anne Owens and her corporate lawyer husband decide to quit their jobs because their companies are being compromised. On her husband's last day, he is murdered in an apparent mugging. Carolyn Anne investigates, uncovering a criminal conspiracy that stretches from D.C. to Louisiana. Cover story from The African American Bookstore, "Intelligent and evocative. A novel sure to take the bar on legal writers" (8/2000, p. 20-21, 20-21, St. Martin's.) Michaelbury's follow-up is The Sleep Between, in which Carolyn Anne is now a prison inmate. A routine surveillance job results in three murders and the kidnapping of her partner's wife. (8/2000, p. 20-21, 20-21, St. Martin's.)

African American poet Charlotte Turner, author of the jazzy and innovative mystery Rhode Island Red (8/99 pb, 0-440-60000-2, Warner), has a new paperback, Coq au Vin. Her sax player Harriet Hayes travels to Paris in the first novel. Next is A Woman, who has disappeared. The Detroit Free Press said, "A witty, comic, and moving love story to Paris and her publisher. Book just," (8/99, 0-440-60000-2, Warner.) In Drumsticks, third in the series, Harriet is back in New York City, trying to get over her ex-boyfriend with the help of a voodoo doll from a friend. (8/99, 0-440-60000-2, Warner.)

Valerie Amos, award-winning writer Eleanor Taylor Blend has two new entries in her series about middle-aged men and women: The Man MacAlister Tell His Tales (8/99 pb, 0-712-67113-4, St. Martin's) and Screen in Silence (8/99, 0-712-60000-0, St. Martin's).

Paul L. Wong, author of the excellent anthology, A Black Crime Index, Spanish Spies, and Private Eyes, has his own debut mystery, set in the Parisian town of Belmont. Lower City Blues introduces African American detective Charlotte Justice of the LAPD in the midst of the Los Angeles riots. The Los Angeles Times said, "Fast-paced, smart wit and a perfect... as much about race and urbanism in L.A. and it also... (8/99, 0-340-60000-4, Other Country Books.)

Other exciting new titles include the new Kate Waugh, mystery by Dawn Thomas. Although Crime Agony, New Orleans mystery by... (8/99, 0-340-60000-4, May, St. Martin's.) The previous Kate Waugh mystery, Murder's Mercy, is...



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 Subject: [eFB-News] Mysteries Column  
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(Volume 22 Number 5 Post #3)

## Mysteries

By Nan Cinnater

Now Voyager/Provincetown, MA

Wow! Boldly going, as usual, where no man [sic] has gone before, *FBN* leaps into the new millennium! It's been a long time between columns and the mystery world waits for no woman, so let's catch up.

Among the most anticipated mysteries of the season is **Night Work** by Laurie R. King, latest in her series about lesbian detective Kate Martinelli of the San Francisco P.D. With her relationship on the mend, Kate is free to concentrate on murder. The victim is an abusive husband found zapped by a stun gun, handcuffed, and strangled, with a piece of candy in his pocket. (\$23.95 cl, 0-553-10713-5, Bantam.) Previous books in the series are *Grave Talent*, *To Play the Fool*, and *With Child*. This is a series best read in order, so it might be worthwhile to invest in a prepack with three hardcovers and six backlist paperbacks (0-553-66766-1, Bantam). King's most recent paperback is the stand-alone novel **A Darker Place**, about theology professor Anne Waverly, who consults on cults for the FBI. Here she goes undercover to infiltrate a British cult called "Change." Anne is another of King's superbly complicated, enigmatic heroines, but the novel as a whole didn't work for me. Nevertheless, King's great writing and important themes make it a must-carry. (\$6.50, 0-553-57824-3, Bantam.)

Increasingly over the last few years, February books have come to include mysteries and thrillers by African American women (yay!). Better yet, some of these books are published outside of the February "ghetto." Grace F. Edwards' series about ex-cop-turned-grad student Mali Anderson is most notable for its vibrant Harlem background history, culture, and street life. In **Do or Die**, the fourth book in the series, the action is divided between a brief trip on the QE2 (apparently a romantic interlude where Mali "fights for her man") and murder in a Harlem jazz band. It happens to be Mali's father's band, and the victim is the singer, the daughter of another band member. Family and friendship ties require Mali to investigate. (\$22.95 cl, 0-385-49248-0, June, Doubleday.) Newest paperback in this series is **No Time to Die**, in which Mali finds a newly divorced friend dead in her apartment, apparently the victim of a serial killer. (\$5.99 pb, 0-553-57956-8, Bantam.) Edwards' previous paperbacks are **A Toast Before Dying** (\$5.99, 0-553-57953-3) and **If I Should Die** (\$5.99, 0-553-57631-3). Former Naiad author Penny Mickelbury scored in the mainstream with **One Must Wait**, now in paperback. African American defense attorney Carole Anne Gibson and her corporate lawyer husband decide to quit their jobs because their principles are being compromised. On her husband's last day, he is murdered in an apparent mugging. Carole Anne investigates, uncovering a criminal conspiracy that stretches from D.C. to Louisiana. Cover blurb from *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* says, "Intelligent and evocative. A novel sure to raise the bar on legal thrillers." (\$6.50, 0-312-97186-9, St. Martin's.) Mickelbury's follow-up is **The Step Between**, in which Carole Anne is now a private investigator. A routine surveillance job results in three murders and the kidnapping of her partner's wife. (\$22 cl, 0-684-85990-4, Simon & Schuster.)

African American poet Charlotte Carter, author of the jazzy and innovative mystery **Rhode Island Red** (\$6.99 pb, 0-446-60664-2, Warner), has a new paperback, **Coq au Vin**. Here sax player Nanette Hayes travels to Paris to find her beloved Aunt Vivian, who has disappeared. *The Detroit Free Press* said, "A witty, erotic, and moving love song to Paris and its glamorous Black past." (\$6.50, 0-446-60787-8, Warner.) In **Drumsticks**, third in the series, Nanette is back in New York City, trying to get over her ex-boyfriend with the help of a voodoo doll from a friend. (\$22.95 cl, 0-89296-679-3, Warner.)

Veteran African American mystery writer Eleanor Taylor Bland has two new entries in her series about middle-aged mom and Illinois cop Marti MacAlister: **Tell No Tales** (\$5.99 pb, 0-312-97113-3, St. Martin's), and **Scream in Silence** (\$23.95 cl, 0-312-20378-0, St. Martin's).

Paula L. Woods, editor of the excellent anthology of black crime fiction, *Spooks, Spies, and Private Eyes*, has her own debut mystery out in trade paper from Ballantine. **Inner City Blues** introduces African American detective Charlotte Justice of the LAPD in the midst of the Los Angeles riots. *The Los Angeles Times* said, "Fast-paced, more twisted than a pretzel...as much about race and racism in L.A. as it is about crime." \$12, 0-345-43793-4. Other Spring notables include the new Kate Shugak mystery by Dana Stabenow, **Midnight Come Again**. Aleut private investigator Kate Shugak is hiding out in a small fishing village when she becomes involved with Russian smugglers. (\$23.95 cl, 0-312-20596-1, May, St. Martin's.) The previous Kate Shugak mystery, **Hunter's Moon**, is



already out in paper. (\$6.99, 0-425-17259-7, Berkley.) Stabenow's eye for the details of Alaskan culture is unbeatable, and Kate is a great heroine. Stabenow also has two books out in another series, featuring Alaskan State Trooper Liam Campbell (the paperback *Fire and Ice* and hardcover *So Sure of Death*), but I prefer the fiery maverick Kate.

I loved Nevada Barr's new paperback, **Liberty Falling**, partly because I love the setting. Park ranger Anna Pigeon is on leave to be with her sick sister in New York City and is bunking with a fellow ranger on Liberty Island. She also spends a lot of time on partially restored Ellis Island, where the haunted feel of the abandoned buildings passed through by thousands of souls is reflected in some strange goings on. Then a girl falls from the top of the Statue of Liberty, and Anna has a hunch her death is not accidental. Barr's mix of character, action, and gorgeous nature writing is in perfect balance here. The book is well paced, the mystery is intriguing, and we finally get to meet Anna's sister, albeit not at her best. (\$6.99, 0-380-72827-3, Twilight/Avon.) For anyone who missed it, Barr's first novel, **Bittersweet**, not a mystery but a lush lesbian Western, is back in print in trade paper. (\$13.50, 0-380-79950-2, Bard.)

The latest in Margaret Maron's series about Southern judge Deborah Knott is **Storm Track**, coming in cloth from Warner in April. (\$22.95, 0-892-96656-4.) Maron's new paperback, **Home Fires Burning**, brings the problem of race prejudice home when Deborah's own nephew is suspected of torching an African American church. (\$6.50, 0-446-60810-5, April, Warner.)

Tami Hoag's latest gritty thriller, **Ashes to Ashes**, is on sale in paper in April. \$7.99, 0-553-57960-6, Bantam. For some, the appearance of a new Mrs. Pollifax mystery is cause for rejoicing, and now we have **Mrs. Pollifax Unveiled** by Dorothy Gilman, in which the matronly CIA agent searches Syria for a missing American woman. \$23 cl, 0-345-43652-0, Ballantine.

Rita Mae Brown has switched to Ballantine, and her latest, **Outfoxed**, is the story of murder at a fox hunt. Yes, there are talking animals, but they aren't cats; they are foxes and hounds. \$24 cl, 0-345-42818-8.

That master of the British mystery, Ruth Rendell, has a new non-series paperback, **A Sight for Sore Eyes**, and her trademark creepy psychological suspense has never been better. (\$6.50, 0-440-23544-8, Dell.) The Black Lizard imprint of Vintage Books is reissuing her classic suspense novels in trade paper, so perhaps fans of Minette Walters and Elizabeth George will discover the Grand Master. Titles in the series so far (each \$11): **A Demon in My View** (0-375-70491-4), **A Judgement in Stone** (0-375-70496-5), **Murder Being Once Done** (0-375-70488-4), **No More Dying Then** (0-375-70489-2), and **Some Lie and Some Die** (0-375-70490-6). Rendell's recent hardcover, **Harm Done**, far less creepy because it features decent, thoughtful Inspector Wexford, is her meditation on the causes and consequences of domestic violence. (\$24, 0-609-60547-X, Crown.)

Chris Rogers continues her hardboiled series about Texas bounty hunter Dixie Flanagan with **Chill Factor**. (\$23.95 cl, 0-553-10661-9, Bantam.) Her new paperback is **Rage Factor** (\$5.99, 0-553-58070-1, Bantam) and she debuted with **Bitch Factor** (\$5.99 pb, 0-553-58001-9). Although Dixie is an appealing character outspoken and funny I had the same reaction to **Bitch Factor** that I have to "buddy" action movies: all that raucous rough stuff becomes boring.

Although it sounds gimmicky, Margaret Lawrence's series about psychic private investigator Elizabeth Chase began with a fresh and believable first novel, **Murder in Scorpio**, that was much nominated for mystery awards. She is now on her fourth in the series, and may be reaching the critical mass necessary to find her audience. In **Aquarius Descending**, Elizabeth infiltrates a dangerous cult. (\$5.99 pb, 0-312-97284-9, St. Martin's.) In **Pisces Rising**, she investigates murder in a Native American casino, in the process learning about life and business on the rez. (\$23.95 cl, 0-312-20298-9, St. Martin's.) If you're serious about the series, you may want to carry **Murder in Scorpio** (\$5.50 pb, 0-312-95984-2) and **The Cold Heart of Capricorn** (\$5.99 pb, 0-312-96294-0), as well.

You never know if books about fat women are going to be truly positive, but Lynne Murray's series about investigator Josephine Fuller looks promising. Josephine evaluates potential charities for a San Diego philanthropist, which is a nifty new angle, and she is described in catalog copy as "a woman of size and proud of it." Other blurbs say "self-confident, self-accepting, strong...unapologetically independent." I'll take a chance. Murray's first two books are **Larger Than Death** (\$5.99 pb, 0-312-97277-6, St. Martin's) and **Large Target** (\$23.95 cl, 0-312-25456-3, April, St. Martin's).

Spring legal thrillers include **Moment of Truth** by Lisa Scottoline, about an inexperienced woman lawyer whose client frames himself for murder. (\$25 cl, 0-06-019609-2, HarperCollins.) Scottoline's previous novel, **Mistaken Identity**, is now out in mass market from Harper. (\$7.50, 0-06-109611-3.) Although she may not yet be the female John Grisham, Scottoline has become very popular in our store. Long-time sf and mystery writer Kate Wilhelm has an excellent series about Oregon attorney Barbara Holloway, the latest of which is **No Defense**. (\$24.95 cl, 0-312-20953-3, St. Martin's.) Real-life British barrister Janet Bettle debuts with **Unnatural Causes**, which critics said "accurately evokes the pressures on women lawyers...full of perceptive touches." (\$23.95 cl, 0-312-26244-2, June, St. Martin's.)

I love Stephanie Barron's series of mysteries written in the uncanny, pitch-perfect voice of the historical Jane Austen. She doesn't disappoint with **Jane and the Genius of the Place**, which creates intrigue out of 19th-century landscaping. (\$5.99 pb, 0-553-57839-1, Bantam.) Although Jane-mania has waned, the Elizabethan craze has now spawned a number of mysteries, including Karen Harper's **The Poyson Garden** (\$5.99 pb, 0-440-



22592-2, Dell) and **The Tidal Poole** (\$22.95 cl, 0-385-33284-X, Delacorte), with detection by Elizabeth Tudor herself, just before and just after she is crowned Queen of England.

Anne Perry remains the queen of Victorian mysteries, and her latest is **Half Moon Street**, featuring Inspector Thomas Pitt and his wife Charlotte in a mystery involving a cross-dressed corpse and the new art of photography. (\$25 cl, 0-345-43327-0, April, Ballantine.) Victoria Thompson is on her second in a "Gaslight Mystery" series that seems to have much of the same feminist appeal as Perry's books. Thompson's heroine is Sarah Brandt, a midwife in New York City circa 1900. **Murder on St. Mark's Place** (\$5.99 pb, 0-425-17361-5, Berkley) is the sequel to **Murder on Astor Place** (\$5.99, 0-425-16896-4, Berkley), which sold well for us. If you have enough Victorian mystery fans, you may want to carry **The Death of Colonel Mann** by Cynthia Peale. The sleuths are brother and sister Addington and Caroline Ames, Boston Brahmins in reduced circumstances, who investigate the murder of a blackmailing scandal-sheet publisher. Peale is the pseudonym of Nancy Zaroulis, author of the very feminist historical novel *Call the Darkness Light* among others. (\$22.95 cl, 0-385-49636-2, Doubleday.)

**Moghul Buffet** by Cheryl Benard is another in Soho Press's list of offbeat, international mysteries. This one involves the disappearance of an American businessman in Peshawar, Pakistan. "In a country where half the population is hidden beneath chadors, tracking a murderer can be difficult." \$12 tp, 1-56947-179-7.

Here are some promising but unknown first mysteries. **Jackpot Justice** by Marilyn Wooley won the St. Martin's Malice Domestic first novel award. Wooley is a clinical psychologist and so is her heroine, who does her first forensic evaluation on a young Native American accused of hate violence in a northern California town. (\$24.95 cl, 0-312-25455-5, April, St. Martin's.) **Brown-Eyed Girl** by Virginia Swift is set in Laramie, Wyoming, where the heroine, now a professor, used to sing in bars. This is described in the catalogue as "Fanny Flagg meets Barbara Vine." I kid you not. (\$24 cl, 0-06-019555-X, April, Harper.)

**The Fig Eater**, first novel by magazine editor Jody Shields, takes us to Vienna in 1910, where an 18-year-old girl is murdered. The wife of the police inspector, along with a teenage governess, secretly investigates. The wife, who's Hungarian, relies on gypsy folklore as well as police procedures to help find the murderer. This looks interesting, in an A.S. Byatt-meets-Caleb Carr kind of way. (\$23.95 cl, 0-316-78564-4, April, Little Brown.) The medieval mystery **Fortune Like the Moon** by Alys Clare introduces a new female sleuth in the increasingly crowded field competing with Ellis Peters' Brother Cadfael. A nun is murdered at Hawkenlye Abbey in Kent. The formidable Abbess of Hawkenlye teams up with a soldier of fortune sent by King Richard to solve the crime. (\$22.95 cl, 0-312-26162-4, May, St. Martin's.)

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(Volume 22 Number 5 Post #4)

Thanks to everyone who asked for contact information for Bella Books! You can reach Kelly Smith at:

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 Subject: [eFB-News] Gay Literature  
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(Volume 22 Number 5 Post #5)  
 Gay Literature

By Richard Labonté  
 A Different Light Bookstores

Every few months, someone interviews me for a story, or asks me while I'm working at the counter, or when discussing his own plans for a book, wonders...about the bust in the boom of gay books.

As 1999 nears its end, I'll agree that the rate of growth in gay-interest books has peaked; but there will be about as many books published this year as last year and the year before; and while (in regards to gayboy books) the major publishers are drawing back, the slack is being taken up by Alyson's growth and by the work of the likes of Circlet Press, Black Books, Ashekazic Press, Palm Drive Publishing, Painted Leaf, and a few more.

The trend other than alleged shrinkage, though, is that there's a sharp increase in nonfiction titles; memoirs continue to be strong, as do sociology/anthropology studies, cultural studies, parenting books, histories, and what I'd call cute-queer titles (list books, celebrity books, how-to-find-a-man books).

So while the 40 or so titles selected for your winter delectation are split pretty evenly between fiction and nonfiction, I selected just 20 percent or so of the potential nonfiction titles for this column, but nearly half of the interesting fiction. Seems we're in a phase of self-examination....

And there are no asterisks (\*) denoting the picks of the picks these are all titles that will nicely augment a gay male section in a good woman's bookstore.

#### Fiction

**Comfort & Joy** by Jim Grimsley It's a rare writer who gets to grow with one publisher these days, but the author of *Dream Boy*, *Winter Birds*, and *My Drowning*, all Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill titles, is bucking a trend, beautifully; this book's about Ford, spawn of an old rich Savannah family; his love for Danny, a trailer-park escapee grown into a hospital administrator; and how disparate families cope with unexpected news at Christmas. \$21.95 cl, 1-56512-250-X, Algonquin/Workman.

**Innuendo** by RD Zimmerman The fifth in Minneapolis author Zimmerman's Todd Mills series, featuring a TV investigative journalist and his homicide detective boyfriend, tackles the mystery of the death of an A-list actor in town to make a movie; was he killed because he was queer? \$21.95 cl, 0-385-32377-8, Bantam Doubleday Dell.

**Outburst** by RD Zimmerman Paper edition of the previous Todd Mills tale, a good addition to any store's mystery bookshelf, especially for fans of series where central characters develop in interesting ways. \$11.95, 0-385-31923-1, Bantam Doubleday Dell.

**Breakfast with Scot** by Michael Downing This isn't the first book to deal with gay male parenting or even the first novel but it's by far the sweetest and most entertaining. One of its many charms: the suddenly new parents, Sam and Ed, are severely embarrassed, even chagrined, by the unapologetic flamboyance of the eleven-year-old lad in their lives. \$24 cl, 1-58243-027-6, Bantam Doubleday Dell.

**Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister** by Gregory Maguire His previous, **Wicked**, was a dandy twist on the Wizard of Oz; here, it's the tale of Cinderella from the perspective of one of the sisters, exquisitely written with puckish humour. Exactly the kind of novel that deserves handselling. \$24 cl, 0-06-039282-7, HarperCollins; **Wicked** is \$14 pb, 0-06-098710-3.



**Christ-Like** by Emanuel Xavier Debut novel, compared to the work of Genet and Rechy, that parallels the life of its author: it's about Mikey Alvarez, sexually abused as a child, eventually abandoned by his family, who's living as a West Side Highway hustler and drug dealer but is saved from the streets of New York when he joins the House of X, a gang of godless gays who terrorize the underground club scene and ball circuit. It's harsh and gritty and raunchy, but dazzling. \$15.95 pb, 1-891305-14-X, Painted Leaf.

**Sanctuary: A Tale of Life in the Woods** by Paul Monette Welcome reprint of the late Monette's (*Borrowed Time, Becoming a Man, Last Watch of the Night*) fable about a fox and a rabbit who fall in love despite many obstacles; let's hear it for enchanted metaphors. \$9.95 pb, 1-55583-531-7, Alyson.

**Jerome** by William Taylor From a New Zealand author, this is the young adult story of two friends who deal, through online chats, emails, and faxes, with the death by suicide of a mutual friend. An aside: good to see that Alyson is keeping YA novels low-priced. \$9.95 pb, 1-55583-512-0.

**California Screaming** by Doug Guinan Paper edition of a bestselling sardonic satiric novel about the world's most eligible gay bachelor who has everything he wants except someone to adore him. But does he want someone to love him? Not literature, but a great book to sell to anyone looking for sheer entertainment. \$12.95 pb, 1-55583-539-2, Alyson.

**Hardball: A Novel About America's Two Favorite Pastimes** by T. Hitman "A sex-soaked celebration of America's favourite pastime," says the publisher, managing both to be redundant and to ignore the other pastime, which is sex and love among the starting lineup of the Seaside Top Sox. \$12.95 pb, 1-55583-533-3, Alyson.

**The Book of Lies** by Felice Picano The latest novel from the author of *Looking Glass Lives, Like People in History* and *A House on the Ocean, A House on the Bay* was first published in England; good thing Alyson has brought it home. It's about a young high flyer in the world of queer studies who in the course of researching the "Purple Circle" (read Violet Quill) uncovers an anonymous lost manuscript; identifying the author is a quest through the veiled lives of the male writers who fashioned the gay lit of the 1980s. \$24.95 cl, 1-55583-541-4, Alyson.

**Bardo** by Krandall Kraus "Past, present, future, truth, and potential merge in a mesmerizing psychological tour-de-force" about EG, a man in a state defined by Buddhist faith as *bardo*, merging his pasts, presents and futures: as an emotionally scarred veteran of gay life, as a sadistic gay paramilitary leader, as a lonely overweight Catholic lad, as an abused young man, as a breathtakingly beautiful boy. \$12.95 pb, 1-55583-504-X, Alyson.

**Two Gentlemen Sharing** by William Corlett From a British writer, a delightful novel of manners about the mayhem that erupts in a small English village when two men arrive to take up housekeeping. This is solid British farce, smart and sublime. \$12.95 pb, 1-55583-527-9, Alyson.

**Angel Lust: Where the Next Life and Eroticism Merge** by Perry Brass Brass, equally adept at self-help (*How to Survive Your Own Gay Life*), poetry (*Sex-Charge* and *The Lover of My Soul*), erotica (*Works*), and science fiction (*The Harvest*) returns with a blend of the mystical and the full-throttle erotic. \$12.95 pb, 1-892149-00-1, Belhuc Press.

**Chasing Danny Boy: How Irish Men Saved Sex** edited by Mark Henry As the erotic focus narrows, more books fix on what might be special interests. Thus, a first-ever collection of arousing writing from, by, and about the Irish. \$14.95 pb, 1-890834-31-9, Palm Drive Publishing.

**Gold by the Inch** by Lawrence Chua Paper edition of an acclaimed debut about a young Asian New Yorker who returns to Thailand, country of his birth, only to fall in love with a male hustler. "...resembles the gliding, poetic prose of Marguerite Duras," said Evelyn Lau. \$12 pb, 0-8021-3649-4, Grove.

**The Boys Across the Street** by Rick Sandford The author died in 1995, but the perseverance of friends has finally brought his book into print; it's about one man's obsession with a group of Yeshiva boys, about an exporn star who first eroticizes and then befriends the attendees of a Chadisic boys' school. \$24 cl, 0-571-19960-7, Faber & Faber.

Nonfiction



**Virgins, Guerillas, and Locas: Gay Latinos Writing About Love** edited by Jaime Cortez Contributors to this memoiristic anthology include Luis Alfaro, Jorge Ignacio Cortinas, and Francisco X. Alarcon, who present gay Latino love stories in the tradition of Essex Hemphill's *Brother to Brother*. \$14.95 pb, 1-57344-087-6, Cleis.

**Latin Lovers: True Stories of Latin Men in Love** edited by Erasmo Guerra It's not too much that there are two anthologies with like themes appearing in the same season; after all, there are plenty of stories to tell, myths to explode, romances to remember. \$15.95 pb, 1-891305-13-1, Painted Leaf.

**Boy Meets Boy** edited by Lawrence Schimel And here's a multiethnic take on the classic man-seeks-man anthology motif, assembled with verve and style by a prolific author, poet, and editor; the date from hell, love at first sight, and everything in between are profiled in an amusing, enlightening collection of true love (or not) essays from more than 20 contributors. \$12.95 pb, 0-312-20626-4, St. Martin's/Griffin.

**An Underground Life: Memoirs of a Gay Jew in Nazi Berlin** by Gad Beck A highlight of the ambitious University of Wisconsin memoir series is this account of the life of a bold, brave youth who lived through the Second World War, escaped the Holocaust, and was even part of Nazi Germany's underground resistance. \$24.95 cl, 0-229-16500-0, University of Wisconsin.

**In My Father's Arms: A True Story of Incest** by Walter A. de Milly, III "As tragic as a Greek drama and as engrossing as a Victorian novel," says Edmund White of this searing account of an outwardly perfect but inwardly monstrous 1950s Southern family, where the author's father uses the author as a sexual plaything. \$19.95 cl, 0-229-16510-8, University of Wisconsin.

**Traveling Souls: Contemporary Pilgrimage Stories** edited by Brian Bouldrey Twenty writers, women and men, tell their tales of pilgrimage, the search for the spiritual, the cultural, and the historical. They are satisfying their urge to travel, filling a hole in their souls. \$14.95 pb, 1-883513-08-1, Whereabouts Press.

**Nice Girls Don't Wear Cha Cha Heels: Camp Lines from Classic Movies** Fluff, of course, but fluff certain friends might enjoy: hundreds of the best worst movie lines of all time. \$10.95 pb, 1-55583-440-X, Alyson.

**Gay Essentials: Facts for Your Queer Brain** by David Bianco Here's a fine primer for Homo 101, a collection of syndicated columns in which Bianco answers questions from "How gay were the ancient Greeks?" to "How was ACT UP founded?" \$12.95 pb, 1-55583-508-2, Alyson.

**Friends & Family: True Stories of Gay America's Straight Allies** by Dan Woog The author interviews women and men, boys and girls, all of whom have in common that they are fighting for their lesbian/gay mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, friends. \$13.95 pb, 1-55583-491-4, Alyson.

**A Couple of Friends: The Remarkable Bond Between Gay Men and Straight Women** by Robert Hopcke and Laura Rafaty A nice complement to Woog's, this book explores the connections between fags and, well, we can't say hags, but certainly between men and women who've learned to lean on each other. \$14.95 pb, 1-885171-33-1, Wildcat Canyon.

**Apples: The Story of the Fruit of Temptation** by Frank Browning Paper edition (by the author of *Queer Geography*) of a marvelously readable book on the past, present, and future of the world's most popular fruit. \$14 pb, 0-86547-579-2, North Point.

**A Long Time Coming: Recollections of a Gay Observer of the Celebrity World** by Lawrence Quirk Deep deep dish, here, from a 76-year-old biographer and journalist who blends his stories of 1940s/1950s activism with his association with the likes of Joan Crawford and his romances with closeted male celebrities. \$22 cl, 1-56980-144-4, .

**Astolphe de Custine: The Last Marquis** by Anka Muhlstein In the early 1800s, this Frenchman was the first member of high society to live an openly conjugal life with another man, a fascinating but by no means singular element of his life, which included careers as a writer and journalist. \$16.95 pb, 1-885983-41-7, Helen Marx Books/D.A.P.

**Assuming the Position: A Memoir of Hustling** by Rick Whitaker Rather than ruminating on the salacious, the author, a college-educated one-time book publishing insider, writes about the circumstances that brought him into the world of sex for pay. \$18 cl, 1-56858-123-8, Four Walls Eight Windows.



**The Queer Press Guide 2000** edited by Paul Harris It aims to be an accurate, comprehensive, and annual guide to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender press in North America. \$15 pb, 1-891305-17-4, Painted Leaf.

**Health Care Without Shame: A Handbook for the Sexually Diverse** by Charles Moser For anyone whose sexual interests are nontraditional, a specialist in sexuality-related medicine explains what comes after the opening line, "Doctor, there's something I have to tell you first." \$11.95 pb, 1-890159-12-3, Greenery Press.

**The Kid: What Happened After My Boyfriend and I Decided to Get Pregnant, an Adoption Story** by Dan Savage Conservative straights condemn them and gay friends call them sellouts, but advice columnist Savage (*Savage Love*) and his partner press ahead with plans to adopt a son; this is their account of the rewards of parenthood. \$22.95 cl, 0-525-94525-3, Dutton.

**The Trouble with Normal: Sex, Politics and the Ethics of Queer Life** by Michael Warner A renegade social critic argues that gay marriage and other moves towards "normalcy" are bad not just for gays, but for everyone. \$23 cl, 0-684-86529-7, The Free Press.

**Women Who Become Men: Albanian Sworn Women** by Antonia Young From the "there's a lesson in here somewhere" column comes this gender-skewing account of women in remote regions of the Balkans who crop their hair, wear men's clothes, carry guns, drink brandy, act like men, swear off sex with women...and as a consequence are allowed to inherit and manage property and assume the male role in families without sons. \$19.95 pb, 1-85973-340-0, Berg Publishers.

**Left Out: A Political Journey** by Martin Duberman A leading radical and gay historian takes stock of his decades of activism, tracing his involvement through the major political and cultural conflicts of the mid-20th century; it's a pricey book, but the author's experience with feminism, gay rights, and the left are unparalleled. \$35 cl, 0-465-01744-4, Basic/HarperCollins.

**Firebird: A Memoir** by Mark Doty After telling a part of his life story in the AIDS memoir *Heaven's Coast*, the acclaimed poet spins a dark, heartbreaking queer comedy of his childhood, a family's collapse, and the consolations of a life of art. \$25 cl, 0-06-019374-3, HarperCollins.

**Tinker Belles and Evil Queens: The Walt Disney Company from the Inside Out** by Sean Griffin It's the loony right's worst fear confirmed there's long been a link between the Magic Kingdom and us queens, says author Griffin, from the 1930s use of "Mickey Mouse" as a code phrase for gay, to the phenomenal 1990s popularity of gay nights at Disney amusement parks. \$18.95 pb, 0-8147-3123-6, New York University.

**The Pink and the Black: Homosexuals in France Since 1968** by Frederic Martel Both women and men are the focus of a 30-year survey of how "gay" is defined in French politics, culture, and arts, and though no direct comparison with American values are drawn, the differences in how gays are treated (much better) is clear. \$19.95 pb, 0-8047-3274-4, Stanford University Press.

**Independence Park: The Lives of Gay Men in Israel** by Amir Sumaka'i Fink and Jacob Press Twelve gay men, some Arab and some Jew, ranging from age 22 to 72, describe their personal experiences as gay men in the Jewish homeland, more particularly in the Independence Parks of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, both well-known meeting places for same-sex encounters. \$19.95 pb, 0-8047-3854-8, Stanford University Press.

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 Subject: [eFB-News] Little Sisters Gets Its Day in Court  
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\*\*Admin note: Sorry Room of One's Own--Due to my data-entry error, you're receiving this post late. Apologies! tmr \*\*

(Volume 22 Number 5 Post #6)

### Little Sister's Gets Its Day in Court

Little Sister's is getting its day in court today the Supreme Court of Canada. It's the latest stop in the Vancouver gay/lesbian bookstore's fight against Canada Customs and Customs' censorship of gay and lesbian materials (including books Customs *thinks* are gay but aren't) and its practice of targeting shipments bound for gay and lesbian bookstores while letting the same titles when addressed to general bookstores into the country.

Little Sisters has been actively fighting Customs in the courts for 14 years. In 1998, the British Columbia Court of Appeals voted two-to-one to uphold Customs' censorship practices. But the dissenting judge, Justice Lance Finch, found the legislation upholding those practices to be constitutionally vague. And that's the issue that Little Sister's is bringing before the Court.

Little Sister's manager Janine Fuller said, "We believe that Canadians can be trusted to make up their own minds about what they choose to read. We are confident that finally Canada will join the rest of the free world by getting rid of this antiquated censorship law."

Other groups intervening on behalf of Little Sister's are The BC Civil Liberties Association (which is co-filing the complaint), PEN Canada, LEAF, EGALÉ, the Canadian Conference on the Arts, the Canadian AIDS Society, and the Canadian Civil Liberties Union.

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(Volume 22 Number 5 Post #7)

University Presses

By Mev Miller

Amazon Bookstore/Minneapolis

A note on ratings: One and two asterisks indicate the books are more suited for general stores while three and four indicate the books would do better in stores with a more academic audience. If a title is unrated, it means that I haven't seen the book in order to make an evaluation.

Well, normally I won't be writing a column for the email version of *FBN*, but during this transition period, many interesting titles have arrived. This column will mention some Fall arrivals suited for more general audiences. All of these titles are already published. New arrivals for Spring 2000 will be covered in the print version of *FBN* due this March.

Columbia University Press

Perhaps pointed more toward professionals in the field rather than toward women looking for self-help, **Getting Out: Life Stories of Women Who Left Abusive Men** by Ann Goetting chronicles the lives of 16 women and examines the abuse they experienced, the life histories that led to the abuse, and the various resources they drew upon to escape. Goetting's perspective is clear, "...battering takes two: a man and a patriarchy." She raises provocative issues regarding abuse and disagrees with the argument that there exists a comparable problem of battered men. \$24.95 cl, 0-231-11648-9. \*\*

Indiana University Press

Quick. How many contemporary women historians can you name off the top of your head? Uhhh...Gerda Lerner, Linda Kerber, hmmm. Well, if you're looking for graduation gift ideas or something unusual to round out your history section, you may want to consider **Voices of Women Historians: The Personal, the Political, the Professional** edited by Eileen Boris and Nupur Chaudhuri. This volume records the life paths of some 20 women who have become historians since the 1960s. It traces their educational experiences, contributions to the field, and struggles to balance professional and political activities during some difficult times. Unfortunately, though one should not "judge a book by its cover," the publisher may have done a disservice to the general appeal of this book by giving it a bland and uninspiring (OK, ugly) cover. \$19.95 pb, 0-253-21275-8; \$39.95 cl, -33494-2.\*

For this one, though, all I can say is *wow* what a beautiful book! **The Face of Our Past: Images of Black Women from Colonial America to the Present** edited by Kathleen Thompson and Hilary Mac Austin provides amazing photographs portraying the daily lives of African American women. Interestingly, they are organized by theme (such as family life, hair, work, resistance, education, play, and so on) not by strict chronology. It's a wonderful "photo album" and historical reference work. Don't let the price stop you! \$35 cl, 0-253-33635-X.\*

Minnesota Historical Society Press

Now, don't be tempted to dismiss this book as "regional." In many ways it speaks to common experiences among women in the blue-collar workforce. **The Girls Are Coming** by Peggie Carlson tells the autobiographical story of an African American college student from suburban Minneapolis who started working in 1974 as a pipefitter trainee for a Minnesota natural-gas utility. Carlson was one of four women hired after the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972. This memoir, sometimes humorous, tells the story of how women and men learned to work together and go beyond stereotypes. \$15.95 pb, 0-87351-376-2; \$24.95 cl, -375-4.\*

National Academy Press

Are lesbians at higher or lower risk for health problems like AIDS, STDs, breast cancer, etc.? **Lesbian Health: Current Assessment and Directions for the Future** edited by Andrea Solarz for the Institute of Medicine looks at the political pressures, community attitudes, and professional concerns affecting the study of lesbian health issues. It discusses how to determine which questions to ask about sexual orientation, the need to obtain information without violating privacy, the importance of considering racial and ethnic diversity in the study of lesbians, and mechanisms for supporting greater numbers of researchers. This book will be of most use to professionals rather than casual readers but is still important, as there are so few books which directly address lesbian health issues. \$19.95 pb, 0-309-06567-4; \$34.95 cl, -06093-1.\*\*\*

New York University Press



**Still Lifting, Still Climbing: African American Women's Contemporary Activism** edited by Kimberly Springer with a preface by Beverly Guy-Sheftall documents African American women's activism in the wake of the civil rights movement. Both grassroots and national movements are covered. This contemporary history (since the 1960s) includes mission statements, an acknowledgement of the work done by Barbara Smith in *Home Girls*, the "invisible" work done by women in the Black Panther party and the Million Man March, and important areas of activism in health, prison reform, media and culture, workfare, and more. \$22 pb, 0-8147-8125-X; \$65 cl, -8124-1. \*\*

Another volume in *The Cutting Edge*, a series of lesbian life and literature, has been published, **Passionate Communities: Reading Lesbian Resistance in Jane Rule's Fiction** by Marilyn R. Schuster. This is the first full-length study of Jane Rule's life and work. Schuster argues that Rule's novels provide a way of writing and reading *lesbian* that resists dominant discourses of gender and sexuality. \$20 pb, 0-8147-8133-0; \$55 cl, -8130-6. \*\*

Northeastern University Press

**Harsh Punishment: International Experiences of Women's Imprisonment** edited by Sandy Cook and Susanne Davies combines personal accounts of former and current prisoners with the writing of criminal justice scholars, practitioners, and activists to examine the status of women prisoners in the U.S., Canada, England, New Zealand, Poland, and Thailand. \$22.50 pb, 1-55553-411-2.

TMR

Rowman & Littlefield

**Just Sex: Students Rewrite the Rules on Sex, Violence, Activism, and Equality** by Jody Gold and Susan Villari chronicles the student movement to end all forms of sexual violence and mold a new sexual paradigm where explicitly consensual sex and sexual autonomy are the norm. Foreword by Andrea Dworkin. \$17.95 pb, 0-8476-9332-5.

**Comrades and Partners: The Shared Lives of Grace Hutchins and Anna Rochester** by Janet Lee chronicles the lives of two women whose lives were intertwined. Hutchins and Rochester were closeted lesbian lovers for 45 years, and this book explores the tensions and contradictions of their personal lives and their public lives as Communist Party activists. \$29.95 cl, 0-8476-9620-0.

**In A Room at a Time: How Women Entered Party Politics**, Jo Freeman (*The Politics of Women's Liberation*) acknowledges the many ways (in addition to suffrage) that women became involved in politics. Her examination of women's political emergence reveals the complexity of women's political party involvement and demonstrates that women are far from being accommodated by the system; they are an important part of it. Gloria Steinem gave this a great blurb. \$35 cl, 0-8476-9804-1.

Now available in paper: **Running for Their Lives: Girls, Cultural Identity, and Stories of Survival** edited by Sherrie Inness considers the coming of age process of girls around the world. \$22.95, 0-8476-9851-3.

Also available: **Sun, Sex, and Gold: Tourism and Sex Work in the Caribbean** edited by Kamala Kempadoo. \$22.95 pb, 0-8476-9517-4.

TMR

Rutgers University Press

If you are a fan of the ever prolific Marjorie Agosín, you'll want to consider **The Alphabet in My Hands: A Writing Life**. In this memoir, Agosín recalls her life in a Jewish family in Chile during the overthrow of Allende by Pinochet. As she reflects on her teen and young adult years, she shows the reader a poet coming of age in two cultures and illustrates the spiritual power of language to transform and to create identity. \$24 cl, 0-8135-2704-X.\*

Teachers College Press

As feminists have known for years, education *is* political. In **Pedagogies of Resistance: Women Educator Activists, 1880-1960** edited by Margaret Smith Crocco, Petra Munro, and Kathleen Weiler, we meet six women who were agents for change and who laid some fundamental groundwork for understanding feminist pedagogies. This book challenges historical interpretations that have cast women as passive in the face of educational change. \$19.95 pb, 0-8077-6297-0.\*

University of Arizona Press

**Puro Teatro: A Latina Anthology** edited by Alberto Sandoval-Sánchez and Nancy Saporta Sternbach showcases the work of Latina playwrights such as Cherríe Moraga, Dolores Prida, and Monica Palacios. \$19.95 pb, 0-8165-1827-0.

TMR

University of Georgia Press

Now available in paperback: This title did quite well for our store in hardcover, so I imagine it will continue to do well now that it's available in paperback. **Because I Remember Terror, Father, I Remember You** tells the autobiography of Sue William Silverman who was repeatedly abused from the age of four to eighteen by her father, an influential government official and successful banker. Through her eyes, we see an outwardly normal family built on a foundation of horrifying secrets that long went unreported, undetected, and unconfessed. \$14.95, 0-8203-2175-3. \*



University of Idaho

Janet Campbell Hale, an acclaimed Native American writer, has released her first short story collection, **Women on the Run**. In the six stories collected here, Native American women pull themselves from the brink of failure and even death. They are bucking social convention, they are self-aware, and their lives are tinged with heartache. \$16.95 cl, 0-89301-217-3.

TMR

University of Illinois

**Straight with a Twist: Queer Theory and the Subject of Heterosexuality** edited by Calvin Thomas explores the issue of whether and how queer theory can speak for and include the straight. A demonstration of how straights are utilizing queer theory to question their privileged place within a heterosexual norm. \$18.95 pb, 0-252-06813-0.

TMR

University of Iowa

Nancy Reisman is a stunning writer. **House Fires**, which received the Iowa Short Fiction Award, has me utterly absorbed and impressed after only two pages. Tragically, the cover is quite bland; I hope that booksellers will get behind this book and handsell it. "The stories in **House Fires** are old-fashioned in the best sense. Expertly plotted and deeply imagined, they fulfill our desire to be told a tale. Reisman has written a generous, beautiful collection." Ann Patchett. \$18.95 pb, 0-87745-692-5.

TMR

University of Massachusetts Press

There's something fascinating about photography books, even when presented like a family photo album with biographical sketches. **Love Makes a Family: Portraits of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Parents and Their Families** with photographs by Gigi Kaeser and edited by Peggy Gillespie is a beautiful book in which families open their lives, reveal their hardships, and exhibit clear pride and love in their variety of family constellations and relationships. This is a book of courage and joy. \$40 pb, 0-55849-161-9. \*

University of Minnesota

In **The Interrogation of Joan of Arc**, Karen Sullivan challenges the transcripts of the trial for heresy of Joan of Arc. Historical scholars have taken the transcripts as Joan's testimony and belief, but Sullivan believes that what appeared in the transcripts was actually a collaboration of sorts between the clerics recording the trial and Joan's testimony. She identifies the construct of the trial as being one of the clerics' making; therefore its language and nuance was determined by them, not by this uneducated girl from Orleans. \$16.95 pb, 0-8166-3268-5.

TMR

University of Nebraska Press

**With My Own Eyes: A Lakota Woman Tells Her People's History** by Susan Bordeaux Bettelyoun and Josephine Waggoner tells the story of Bettelyoun (1857-1945) who became increasingly unsatisfied with the way her people's history was being represented by non-Natives. She narrated this history to Waggoner (another historian) in the 1930s. This is the first publication of this history. \$14.95 pb, 0-8032-6164-3.\*

University of New Mexico Press

**American Indian Grandmothers: Traditions and Transitions** edited by Marjorie Schweitzer includes nine essays that blend documentary history, oral history, and ethnographic observation to understand the complex world of grandmothering in Native America. As one might suspect, the commonality of experience continues to vary from tribe to tribe (seven are covered in this book), from generation to generation, and within changing late 20th-century economic and sociological factors. In the end, although often impoverished and marginalized, Indian grandmothers provide a vital connection to Native identity, history, and wisdom. \$19.95 pb, 0-8263-2078-3; \$45 cl, -2077-5. \*\*

Yale University Press

How much of our behavior is based on our own personal psyche and how much is based on cultural forces? Psychoanalytical perspectives and social science perspectives argue the extremes of this debate. I know that as I do my political work, this question often arises for me just why do people act and respond the way they do? Finally, a feminist has taken this question head-on and confirmed my own sense of it. **The Power of Feelings: Personal Meaning in Psychoanalysis, Gender, and Culture** by Nancy Chodorow draws on multidisciplinary experiences as a feminist, a teacher of sociology, and a practicing analyst. Chodorow articulates a new theory of meaning that celebrates individual uniqueness while recognizing how the external world of culture and society is drawn into the world of personal feelings. She argues that both culture and personal feelings create meaning for us. \$27.50 cl, 0-300-07959-1.\*\*



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By Carol Seajay

Debra Tobin and Brenda Kauer have purchased Rising Tide Press (Tucson AZ). The women, who had been searching for a business to co-own, spotted us as in their local feminist/lesbian paper, the *San Diego Journal*, and decided to plunge into the world of lesbian publishing.

Despite their newness to publishing, Tobin and Kauer are hitting the ground running, publishing Linda Kay Silva's *Storm Rising*, the sequel to *Tropical Storm*, which will quickly be followed by books by Nancy Spero, Nancy Kama, and several others. They've put together a manuscript review committee and their goal for this year is to publish 15-20 books.

Former owners Alice Frier and Lee Boopman will stay on for about six months to show Tobin and Kauer the ropes.

"We feel very fortunate to have been able to sell Rising Tide to two such brilliant and independent and strong women who have so much energy and enthusiasm for the press and the work," Frier told FBN. Frier and Boopman started Womankind Bookstore in 1979 and purchased Rising Tide Press in 1990. Womankind was originally a storefront bookstore on Long Island, but was later converted to a very successful mail-order bookstore focused on lesbian books. Lee and Alice sold Womankind to Linda Branson, the publisher of *Radical Journal*, last July.

Rising Tide's address, phone and fax remain the same: 4431 N. Oracle Road, Tucson AZ 85704, 520-833-1140, fax 520-838-1123. The email address is <customerservice@risingtidepress.com> or <eFBN@FemBkNews.com> is currently under construction.

New and backlist Rising Tide titles will continue to be available from BP, K&N, Adams, B&T, and Ingram. Discount rates: 40% for 1-25 books, 45% for 26-49, and 50% for 50+ books.

If you're going to the Small Press Book Fair in NYC, at the end of this month, stop by the Rising Tide booth (B-15) and say hello to the new owners.

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Date: Wed, 22 Mar 2000 08:59:59 -0800  
To: (Recipient list suppressed)  
From: Carol Seajay <seajay@dnai.com>  
Subject: [eFB-News] Rising Tide Sold  
X-Envelope-To: <Seajay@dnai.com>

(Volume 22 Number 5 Post #8)

Rising Tide Sold to New Owners  
By Carol Seajay

Debra Tobin and Brenda Kazen have purchased Rising Tide Press (Tucson AZ). The women, who had been searching for a business to co-own, spotted an ad in their local feminist/lesbian paper, the *Rubyfruit Journal*, and decided to plunge into the world of lesbian publishing.

Despite their newness to publishing, Tobin and Kazen are hitting the ground running, publishing Linda Key Silva's *Storm Rising*, the sequel to *Tropical Storm*, which will quickly be followed by books by Beverly Shearer, Nancy Sanra, and several others. They've put together a manuscript review committee and their goal for this year is to publish 1520 books.

Former owners Alice Frier and Lee Boojamra will stay on for about six months to show Tobin and Kazen the ropes.

"We feel very fortunate to have been able to sell Rising Tide to two such bright and independent and strong women who have so much energy and enthusiasm for the press and the work energy we no longer have," Frier told *FBN*. Frier and Boojamra started Womankind Bookstore in 1979 and founded Rising Tide Press in 1990. Womankind was originally a storefront bookstore on Long Island, but was later converted to a very successful mail-order bookstore focused on lesbian books. Lee and Alice sold Womankind to Linda Bronmer, the publisher of *Rubyfruit Journal*, last July.

Rising Tide's address, phone and fax remain the same: 3831 N. Oracle Road, Tucson AZ 85705; 520-888-1140, fax 520-888-1123. The email address is <milestonepress@gateway.net>. <[www.risingtidepress.com](http://www.risingtidepress.com)> is currently under construction.

New and backlist Rising Tide titles will continue to be available from BP, Koen, Alamo, B&T, and Ingram. Direct order discounts are: 40% for 125 books, 45% for 2649, and 50% for 50+ books.

If you're going to the Small Press Book Fair in NYC at the end of this month, stop by the Rising Tide booth (B-15) and say hello to the new owners.

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 From: Carol Seajay <seajay@dnai.com>  
 Subject: [eFB-News] Art Books Column  
 X-Envelope-To: <Seajay@dnai.com>

(Volume 22 Number 5 Post #9)

Art Books  
 By Tee A. Corinne

Hollis Sigler (b. 1948) is the daughter and great-granddaughter of women who had breast cancer. She is also a feminist artist and a lesbian. The paintings and drawings in Hollis Sigler's Breast Cancer Journal, texts by Susan M. Love, M.D., and James Yood, reflect her responses to the disease since she was diagnosed with it in 1985. It is a complex, moving story, both in image and word, which many will respond to. \$25 pb, 1-55595-176-7; \$45 cl, -175-9, Hudson Hills Press, distributed by National Book Network.

Marguerite Makes a Book illustrated by Kathryn Hewitt and written by Bruce Robertson is a marvelous children's book about the daughter of a medieval French manuscript painter who rescues the family by finishing her father's work when he can't. \$18.95 cl, 0-89236-372-X, Getty Trust Publications, distributed by Oxford University Press.

Beautiful Necessity: The Art and Meaning of Women's Altars by Kay Turner is a book that belongs in women's bookstores, on bedside tables, beside bathtubs wherever women reach for inspiration. Turner gives context to contemporary altars and presents examples from a broad spectrum of women. \$19.95 pb, 0-500-28150-5, Thames & Hudson, distributed by W.W. Norton.

Margaret Bourke-White: Her Pictures Were Her Life by Susan Goldman Rubin chronicles the life of one of the preeminent photojournalists of the 20th century. Burke-White (1904-1971) photographed steel mills and other industrial sites before becoming the first staff photographer for Fortune magazine (1929) and later one of the first hired for Life. She recorded share-croppers, politicians, and the horrors of war including the opening of Buchenwald. These images changed how people understood the world in which they lived. \$19.95 cl, 0-8109-4381-6, Abrams.

Becoming: The Photographs of Clementina, Viscountess Hawarden by Carol Mavor is one of those odd books that mixes scholarship with memories and personal commentary. Hawarden (1822-1865) is best known to feminist audiences for her photograph used on the cover of Surpassing the Love of Men. Mavor teases meaning out of fragments of data and out of the intriguing images. \$19.95 pb, 0-8223-2389-3, Duke University Press.

If your customers like Becoming: The Photographs of Clementina, Viscountess Hawarden, they may also be interested in Pleasures Taken: Performances of Sexuality and Loss in Victorian Photographs by Carol Mavor. \$17.95 pb, 0-8223-1619-6, Duke University Press.

Elsa Dorfman is an iconoclast with a sense of humor. en famille, a poem by Robert Creeley, photographs by Elsa Dorfman, includes color photographs of many different kinds of family groupings, all of which emphasize warmth and human interaction. \$19.95 cl, 1-887123-26-1, Granary Books.

Dealing with the period between the two World Wars, We Weren't Modern Enough: Women Artists and the Limits of German Modernism by Marsha Meskimmon is an easy-to-read, compelling study of how women are written out of history. \$24.95 pb, 0-520-22134-6; \$60 cl, -22133-8, The University of California Press.

Adrian Piper: A Retrospective, text by Maurice Berger, covers 30 years in the life of a contemporary conceptual and minimalist artist who has used her identity as a light-skinned African American as context in some of her work. \$25 pb, 1-890761-02-8, University of Maryland, distributed by Distributed Art Publishers.

Eleanor Antin by Howard N. Fox is a survey of work by one of the early figures in Southern California feminist art. Working in video, performance, conceptual, and installation art, Antin explored issues of gender and class and asserted the importance of biography, autobiography, history, and texts. \$24.95 pb, 0-911291-27-X, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, distributed by Distributed Art Publishers.

American Venus: The Extraordinary Life of Audrey Munson, Model and Muse by Diane Rozas and Anita Bourne Gottehrer



reclaims a remarkable woman (1891-1996) who performed nude in four movies (1915-1920) and modeled (nude) for numerous public sculptures in the early years of the 20th century. \$27.95 cl, 1-890449-04-0, Princeton Architectural Press.

During the 1920s and 1930s, five U.S. women used photography in descriptive and defining ways: Doris Ulmann, Dorothea Lange, Marion Post Wolcott, Margaret Bourke-White, and Berenice Abbott. *Seeing America: Women Photographers Between the Wars* by Melissa A. McEuen examines the lives and work of these highly motivated women. \$29.95 cl, 0-8131-2132-9, The University Press of Kentucky.

*Inverted Odysseys*: Claude Cahun, Maya Deren, Cindy Sherman edited by Shelley Rice is a fascinating book which could easily have been improved with less white space and larger type. The subjects, Cahun (1894-1954), Deren (1917-1961), and Sherman (b. 1954), have used photographic and filmic images of themselves to confound rather than reveal identity. \$35 pb, 0-262-68106-4, The MIT Press.

Kiki Smith (b. 1954) became known in the late 1980s with sculptures of the human body. *All Creatures Great and Small New Work* by Kiki Smith edited by Carl Haenlein, focuses on the natural environment and the cosmos in a variety of media. \$34.95 cl, 3-908247-04-7, Scalo.

Work in yarn that rivals paintings is presented in *Helena Hernmarck: Tapestry Artist*, texts by Monica Boman and Patricia Malarcher. Swedish (b. 1941), Hernmarck creates visually rich wall-sized images full of magic, mystery, and illusion. \$40 cl, 91-7988-172-6, Byggforlaget Stockholm, distributed by the University of Washington Press.

*Carole A. Feuerman: Sculpture* by Dena Merriam and Eleanor Munro is a lush presentation of the super-Realist figurative imagery Feuerman has produced during the last two decades. \$45 cl, 1-55595-177-5, Hudson Hills Press, distributed by National Book Network.

Sandi Fellman *Open Secret*, foreword by Diane Ackerman, afterword by Jerry Aline Flieger, is one of the most breathtakingly beautiful photography books (close-up images of flowers) I have seen in a long time. Unfortunately, the price is breathtaking, as well. I hope this press or another will come out with a less comprehensive but more economically accessible volume of this artist's work in the near future. \$70 cl, 3-908163-01-3, Edition Stemmler, distributed by Abbeville.

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Subject: [eFB-News] Book Sense Book of the Year Finalists  
X-Envelope-To: <efbn@fembknews.com>

(Volume 22 Number 5 Post #10)

Ten Finalists Chosen for  
Book Sense Book of the Year Award

The American Booksellers Association has announced the finalists for the Book Sense Book of the Year award. The five finalists in each category (children's titles and adult titles) were culled from last year's Book Sense 76 lists and write-in votes.

Women's titles are well represented on the adult list, owing in part to feminist booksellers' nominations to the lists throughout 1999. ABA member stores will now vote to select a winner in each category. Ballots will be included in ABA's election ballot for the Board of Directors (mailed in March) or are available in *Bookselling This Week* and at <[www.bookweb.org](http://www.bookweb.org)>. Booksellers will receive "Book Sense of the Year Finalist" stickers soon to help sell these titles.

Among the finalists are, for children's books, the fabulous *Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride* by Pam Muñoz Ryan (Scholastic) see FBN's "Raves" column, Fall 1999, for a review. For adults, there's the runaway indie hit *Girl in Hyacinth Blue* by Susan Vreeland (MacMurray & Beck), *Ahab's Wife* by Sena Jeter Naslund (Morrow), and *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver (HarperCollins).

The two winners, each to be awarded \$5,000, will be announced at BEA 2000 in Chicago.

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 From: Carol Seajay <seajay@dnai.com>  
 Subject: [eFB-News] Music News  
 X-Envelope-To: <seajay@dnai.com>

(Volume 22 Number 5 Post # 11)

## Music News

Compiled and edited by Susan Frazier, Goldenrod Music Inc.  
 Original reviews by Susan Frazier, Melinda Pierce, and Brenda Fite

Last fall was a great time for music as a sideline in women's bookstores. With strong releases from the major labels and independents alike including new releases from bestselling artists Melissa Etheridge, Ani DiFranco, the Indigo Girls, Ferron, and SONiA of disappear fear sales were decidedly brisk! And there are some big names and lots of great music to choose from this spring.

There is something for everyone in the current crop of new releases. Fine world, Celtic, country, Native American, Cajun, and R&B titles take their place alongside the folk and pop genres.

**Quiet/Sheila Chandra.** A spellbinding fusion of Chandra's wordless vocals and instrumentation in ten richly textured, ambient soundscapes. This is a reissue of her composing debut on the innovative Indipop label. The album's strikingly different approach no lyrics and cyclic riffs instead of rock/dance percussion is a prelude to Chandra's work on Real World Records. Narada 48621.

**Telling Stories/Tracy Chapman.** This new recording by the Grammy Awardwinning women's music favorite, Tracy Chapman, was released in February. Chapman produces this one with help from David Kershenbaum and adds more instrumentation than on her previous recordings. **Telling Stories** includes eleven new tracks showcasing Chapman's heart-wrenching lyrics and sultry vocals. Emmylou Harris lends a hand with vocals on Chapman's song "The Only One," which deals with grief over the loss of a lover. Chapman will be on the road with a full band through 2000 to promote this one. Elektra 62478.

**The Very Best of Rita Coolidge: Millennium Collection/Rita Coolidge.** This new best-of collection will certainly bring back memories! Digitally remixed from the original master tapes, this new CD features all the covers Coolidge made hits in the 70s and 80s. Included are Carole King/The Chiffon's "One Fine Day," Boz Scaggs "We're All Alone," The Temptations' "The Way You Do the Things You Do," and Coolidge's signature track, Jackie Wilson's "(Your Love Has Lifted Me) Higher and Higher." Also included is a duet with Kris Kristofferson of Loving Arms. Sell this one to Rita Coolidge fans along with the new recording *Unbearable Love* by her trio Walela. A&M 490604.

**Rogue Amazon/Juliet Draper and Pam Jones.** Pam Jones said of her new CD single and Juliet Draper, "I love my sister, but... Move over Grace Jones, here comes Juliet!" Garnering a four-star review in *Dance Music Authority*, the album features the title track and a remake of Grace Jones' "I Need a Man" (one for the girls, one for the boys!). The remixes are taking off in the hippest clubs in France and Germany expect the American clubs to catch on soon. Rogue Amazon 1.

**On How Life Is/Macy Gray.** The buzz is in full swing about this debut album from Macy Gray, an artist who is garnering rave reviews from all the critics. Gray blends many musical genres, including R&B, rap, hip-hop, rock, and diva-style jazz. J.D. Considine of the *Baltimore Sun* writes: "Macy Gray is different than most R&B and hip-hop stylists out there. Her tone and phrasing remind me of Al Green. She has a tartness and playfulness to the way she sings." Epic 69490.

**Tip of My Tongue/Half Looking.** OK, so we're biased because this wonderful new band hails from Lansing, but don't let that keep you from checking out this rising young group. Think Natalie Merchant, think Ani, think Indigo Girls or R.E.M. no don't think of them, think Half Looking. Saucy, soul-stirring lyrics combined with edgy, driving melodies that blur the lines between folk, punk, blues, and jazz make for a fine debut album. Excellent choice for in-store play. JRR 1248.

**Spiritual Appliances/Sara Hickman.** Yay, a new one from Sara Hickman! This release shows a new maturity for



Hickman, who takes her witty lyrics and presents them with rich harmony and precise instrumentation. *Music Review Quarterly* writes "Sara Hickman should stand alongside Tracy Chapman, Michelle Shocked, k.d. lang, and Jane Siberry for jump-starting the women's folk movement in the late 80s." Shanachie 8034.

**I Am Shelby Lynn**/Shelby Lynn. Ten new tracks from a singer with a haunting vocal style who is also a genre bender. Take country music, add a little blues, blend in some R&B, and season with soul...and you've got a recipe for Shelby Lynn. Lynn is a singer-songwriter who is pushing the envelope, outgrowing her roots, and risking it all to find her true niche. Island 546177.

**Chers Amis**/Magnolia Sisters. An all-woman Cajun band...who can resist? The Magnolia Sisters are made up of Ann Savoy (a member of the Savoy-Doucet Band, which includes her husband Marc Savoy and Michael Doucet of Beausoleil fame), Tina Piline, Lisa Trahan Reed, Christine Balfi (of Balfa Toujours), and Jane Vidrine. This album is a lush acoustic mix of traditional ballads and catchy dance tunes. The Sisters are talented instrumentalists who present tight jams and harmonies. A nice selection for International Women's Day. ROUNDER 6070.

**Méav**/Méav. Méav is a classically trained Irish soprano who has performed with the choral group Anúna, The Irish National Concert Orchestra, and the productions of *Riverdance*. Her solo effort is an eclectic mix of Celtic and classical music, featuring ancient and traditional tunes. Speaking of her ability to blend old music and new styles, Méav says "I don't see it as wacky or anything. It's just another element that can enhance performance and open things up to a new audience." Hearts of Space 11098.

**Scottish Fire**/Bonnie Rideout. Once again, Rideout proves herself an exceptional Scottish fiddler. **Scottish Fire** is a refreshing mix of jigs, reels, strathspeys, and airs, featuring Rideout's champion fiddling and accompaniment by famous pipers Mike Green and Jerry O'Sullivan. The *Glasgow Herald* writes, "Her playing is so intensely personal and emotional that one feels like an eavesdropper." Maggie's Music S222.

**Nos**/Virginia Rodriques. This is the follow-up recording to Rodriques's *Sol Negro*, which sold more than 35,000 copies! **Nos** showcases Rodriques's vocal range and celebrates the rich cultural music of Carnival in Brazil. Rodriques embarks on a U.S. tour of the major cities this spring, which includes some double bills with Philip Glass. Hannibal 1448.

**Native North American Child**/Buffy Sainte-Marie. A re-issue of one of Sainte-Marie's earlier releases, the first of many to come from Vanguard. This CD features two previously unreleased tracks, "Way, Way, Way" and "IskatayoSawow (Cree Call)." Vanguard 79340.

**Peacemaker's Journey**/Joanne Shenandoah. Let's hope Shenandoah's CD **Peacemaker's Journey** can be successful in bringing the Iroquois prophecy of peace around the world. A brand-new release from this Grammy award winner, featuring original compositions sung in her native language, Iroquois. Guitar, bass, and a wealth of strings are added to this musical story, which chronicles the Peacemaker, who brought peace to the Iroquois Nations. Highly recommended! Silver Wave 923.

**Permanent Marker**/Ember Swift. "Aggressive folk" is one of the descriptions given to the music created by Toronto-based singer Ember Swift. Swift and her band perform an energetic mix of folk, punk, and rock and add some great political and social messages along with it. **Permanent Marker** has some tracks that are certainly Ani-esque, but for the most part it plays like a modern rock/punk opera. Expect to see her touring extensively both in the U.S. and Canada. EMS 9906.

**Paradise Road**/Lindsay Tomasic. This Michigan native (now living in California) has an impressive musical resume. Tomasic is the composer of many TV promos, trailers, and themes including the theme song for *The Roseanne Show*. She has worked with Lauren Wood, Liz Phair, and Vicki Randle, and she has a smooth vocal style reminiscent of Deidre McCalla. Her latest CD, **Paradise Road**, is largely autobiographical with interesting stories of hometown life. Great for in-store play! Datolite Records 1.

**Faire Celts: A Woman's Voice**/Various Artists. Another great compilation of women's Celtic music from the folks that brought us *Celtic Voices: Women of Song* several years back. This year's rendition features Connie Dover, Sinead O'Connor, Karen Matheson (Capercaillie), Kim Robertson, and Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh of Altan. Also includes a beautiful version of "A Woman's Heart" by Mary McLaughlin. Narada 48733.



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In memoriam, Marion Zimmer Bradley, 1930-1999.

Awards: Connie Willis won the 1999 Hugo Award for best novel for her Victorian time-travel tale, *To Say Nothing of the Dog*.

#### Act

Allow me to apologize profusely for forgetting to include *Through Alien Eyes* by Amy Thompson in the last column. It's the sequel to *The Color of Distance*, and it continues Thompson's wonderful exploration of first contact between humans and Tendu. In the new book, two Tendus travel with Juna (who had been stranded on their planet in the first book) back to Earth. As in the first book, the Tendus' ecologically focused perspective continually calls into question human relationships with the rest of our biosphere. Often these questions reveal human shortsightedness regarding the environment, but the Tendus also reconsider their own priorities on occasion. (\$13.95 tp, 0-441-00617-5.) *The Color of Distance*. (\$6.50 pb, 0-441-00632-9; \$13, tp, -00244-7.)

*Bloodrights* by N. Lee Wood tells the story of Antonya Termane, who was orphaned as a baby when her uncle usurped her father's rule and invaded her mother's realm. She was raised by the Brothers of Blessed Reason, her existence kept secret from her family's enemies. She learned skills most women were never taught: reading, writing, and mathematics, but yearned to be a warrior. When she left the monastery, she ventured into the world that was under her uncle's dictatorship, ready to reclaim her land. With the aid of the lone defender Kerric of Myro, she would lead a small fighting force in an attempt to topple a tyrant and set the people of two lands free. \$22.95 cl, 0-441-00650-7.

Winner of the Bram Stoker Award and finalist for both the Nebula and World Fantasy Awards, Nina Kiriki Hoffman presents a novel of two people who live outside ordinary reality and who are about to discover life's extraordinary possibilities in *A Red Heart of Memories*. Matt (Mia) Black possesses the unique ability to speak with inanimate objects and to witness the inner dreams of other people. She spends her days traveling from place to place alone, yet never lonely, for she can communicate with all that surrounds her. She finds a kindred spirit in Edmund Reynolds, a wandering witch on a spiritual quest to help those in need. Together, they will embark on an odyssey of the imagination. \$21.95 cl, 0-441-00651-5.

#### Avalanche

Like her previous work, *Avalanche Soldier* by Susan R. Matthews explores the struggle of obedience, honor, and faith among career military personnel. As a member of the elite paramilitary forces, Sall is responsible for protecting the religious shrines scattered throughout the mountainous wilderness regions of the troubled state of Shadent. As a devout member of the Orthodox Dremming, she freely accepts, as part of her faith, that life is a dream and that true believers will one day be awakened by the coming Messiah. But there is another faith on Shadent that preaches heresy, and its existence has sparked bitter acts of terrorism and civil unrest. Suddenly Sall's life has been split in two. Her leading



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 Subject: [eFB-News] Science Fiction Column  
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(Volume 22 Number 5 Post #12)

Science Fiction and Fantasy

By Laura Quilter/Exploratorium, CA, and Heather Whipple/Reed College Library, OR

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Ace

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Avon/Eos

Like her previous work, **Avalanche Soldier** by Susan R. Matthews explores the struggle of obedience, honor, and faith among career military personnel. As a member of the elite paramilitary force, Salli is responsible for protecting the religious shrines scattered throughout the mountainous wilderness regions of the troubled state of Shadene. As a devout member of the Orthodox Dreaming, she freely accepts, as part of her faith, that life is a dream and that true believers will one day be awakened by the coming Messiah. But there is another faith on Shadene that preaches heresy, and its existence has sparked horrific acts of terrorism and civil unrest. Suddenly Salli's life has been ripped in two. Her brother



vanished under a cloud of suspicion is believed to have embraced the false religion. As a soldier sworn to safeguard Orthodox interests, Salli must track him down and return him to the fold. But as a disciple of the one true Messiah, she must confront the crisis that now assaults her conscience and her creed. For there is a woman in the enemy enclave who inspires fervent devotion a personage of great power who impossibly, yet undeniably, shows signs of being the prophesied One. \$6.50 pb, 0-380-80315-1.

The Arthurian saga is one of the most enduring legends of Western civilization a stirring tale of destiny, duty, faith, and majesty that has been told and retold by some of the greatest storytellers of all time. In her sweeping four-volume work **The Hallowed Isle**, acclaimed author Diana L. Paxson brilliantly reinvents the classic myth by reimagining the great king, his life, and his legacy from the unique perspectives of four distinct tribal cultures that shaped Britain in the violent days of the sixth century. **The Book of the Sword: The Hallowed Isle Book One** (\$10 tp, 0-380-78870-5), **The Book of the Spear: The Hallowed Isle Book Two** (\$10 tp, 0-380-80546-4, April), **The Book of the Cauldron: The Hallowed Isle Book Three** (\$10 tp, 0-380-80547-2), and **The Book of the Stone: The Hallowed Isle Book Four** (\$11 tp, 0-380-80548-0).

Mary Gentle's latest work is a four-volume novel of alternate history, focusing on Ash, a female mercenary and war leader in 15th-century Burgundy. **The Book of Ash** is presented as a 21st-century translation of previously unknown medieval documents that tell of a conflict between Europe and a North African empire. In addition to the battles and action, Gentle also explores broader questions, including slavery, gender roles, ethics, and the relations between fiction, myth, history, and truth. The first two volumes are currently in print; the last two will follow in August and November. **The Book of Ash #1: A Secret History** (\$6.99 pb, 0-380-78869-1) and **The Book of Ash #2: Carthage Ascendant** (\$6.99 pb, 0-380-80550-2).

**The Annunciate** by Severna Park. ThreeSys is a triple star system where people are divided into three classes Meshed, Jacked, and Jackless a caste system based on technological access. Three of the Meshed begin to distribute what they claim is an end to all wars and aggression. What they're actually selling is Staze, an opium-like, instantly addictive drug that wraps the user in dreams and lethargy. In response, some Jacked and Jackless have retaliated against this and other abuses of power, mercilessly hunting down and killing Meshed humans. In an attempt to save themselves, the three Meshed drug distributors go in search of the Annunciate, a mysterious, enigmatic being who offers the elusive promise of a new world clean of sin and violence. This may not actually turn out to be a good thing. \$23 cl, 0-380-97737-0.

Kathleen Ann Goonan's third novel of nanotechnology and music, **Crescent City Rhapsody**, is more prequel than sequel to the first two (*Queen City Jazz* and *Mississippi Blues*) and fills in the gaps to explain how the world of the Nan Queen came to be. \$23 cl, 0-380-97711-7.

#### Bantam Spectra

Published for the first time in a single volume, **Biting the Sun**, Tanith Lee's duet of novels set in a hedonistic Utopia, are as riveting and revolutionary as they were when they first appeared two decades ago. It's a perfect existence, a world in which no pleasure is off-limits, no risk is too dangerous, and no responsibilities can cramp your style. But when you're expected to make trouble when you can kill yourself on a whim and return in another body, when you're encouraged to change genders at will and experience whatever you desire you've got no reason to rebel. Ravenous for true adventures of the mind and body, desperate to find some meaning, one restless spirit finally bucks the system and by shattering the rules, strikes at the very heart of a soulless society. \$5.99 pb, 0-553-58130-9.

In **Rift** by Kay L. Kenyon, Reeve Calder has spent his life on a high-tech space station, watching as terraforming gradually fails on his home planet of Lithia a failure that doomed the colonists stranded



there to short, brutish lives. Reeve's dream has always been to rebuild Lithia. But when a mysterious explosion destroys the station, forcing Reeve to crash-land on Lithia's blood-hued soil, he soon learns that the reality of saving a dying planet is quite different from what he imagined. His staunchest ally may be a feral girl who alone seems enthralled by what Lithia is becoming, and whose enigmatic past holds the key to startling possibilities. \$5.99 pb, 0-553-58023-X.

Catherine Asaro's **The Veiled Web** is a departure from her previous space opera series but retains close connections to the romance genre, something to be expected from all Asaro's work. Set in the early 21st century, the novel combines the worlds of dance, artificial intelligence, the net, and a respectful if not deep exploration of harem culture (strict segregation of women within a family from the outside world). The combination doesn't always work well, tending toward a shift from one topic to the next rather than full integration. I would recommend this book to readers of historical fantasy/romance who might be wary of cyberpunk; it's a good introduction to some SF concepts like the Internet and artificial intelligence but it's mostly old hat for regular SF readers.

DAW

C.J. Cherryh has written the beginning of a brand new trilogy set in her *Foreigner Universe*! In **Precursor**, both human and atevi return to space to rebuild and rearm the ancient human space station and starship, and make a desperate bid to defend their planet against alien attack. \$23.95 cl, 0-886-77836-0.

In **Ties of Power** by Julie E. Czerneda, Sira, the most powerful member of the alien clan, has dared to challenge the will of her people by allying herself with a human. But can she hope to carve a new life for herself when the clan is determined to reclaim her genetic heritage at any cost? \$6.99 pb, 0-886-77850-6.

Del Rey

Barbara Hambly follows up on her popular novels *Dragonsbane* and *Dragonshadow* by revealing the damaging aftereffects of that quest in **Knight of the Demon Queen**. Once the most powerful mage in the land, Jenny Waynest is now a broken woman. Though sickened by the memory of how the demon had possessed her body to slake his sadistic lusts, she knows a part of her was corrupted by his touch. That part mourns the demon's defeat and longs for his return, though he has already cost her everything she holds dear: the trust of her husband, Lord John Aversin; the chance to be a mother to her mage-born son; and the magic that had given her life its purpose. Lord John has torments of his own: memories of the beautiful and cruel Aohila, demon queen of a rival hell, whom he'd tricked into providing the help he needed to free Jenny. Now, condemned to death for trafficking with demons, John cannot forgive Jenny for what she suffered. Nor can he forgive himself for opening the door to a far greater evil. \$24 cl, 0-345-42189-2.

Manic D Press

Marci Blackman's **Po Man's Child** can't be praised enough; it includes enough magical real/supernatural elements that it can be slipped in the science fiction column. \$12.95 tp, 0-916397-59-9.

MeishaMerlin

*MeishaMerlin is an interesting science fiction publisher who will be publishing, among others, a childhood favorite of mine, writer Sylvia Louise Engdahl. Storm Constantine is also with them, as is Kristine Kathryn Rusch and Janet Kagan. MeishaMerlin Publishing, PO Box 7, Decatur GA 30031; <<http://www.angelfire.com/biz/MeishaMerlin/>>.*

**What Ho, Magic!** by Tanya Huff, who is popular with Mercedes Lackey and Marion Zimmer Bradley fans for her fantasy series, which, incidentally, is also very queer-friendly. Huff is also popular with the



urban/new-age fantasy/mystery groupies. New titles from her are to be enjoyed. \$16 tp, 1-892065-04-5.

Another strong title: **Queen of Denial** by Selina Rosen. \$12 tp, 1-892065-06-1.

St. Martin's

The woman for whom the Tiptree Awards were named published a story under her own name, Alice B. Sheldon, in *The New Yorker* many, many years ago. This story, along with several other uncollected stories published under her James Tiptree, Jr., pseudonym are being released in **Meet Me At Infinity: The Uncollected Tiptree: Fiction and Nonfiction**. Several autobiographical essays are also included in this book which spotlights the magnetic and colorful personality of its author. \$25.95 cl, 0-312-85874-4.

*Suzanne Corson*

*Boadecia's Books/North Berkeley CA*

Tor

Pat Murphy has a new book the first in a planned trilogy called **There and Back Again**. Pat describes it as "hobbits in space." I also detected a little Dorothy in its themes of home. Pat's usual fine writing and tight plotting make this a pleasure to read. For true science fiction fans, Pat's science background and work at the Exploratorium make her science fiction *not* infuriating to the science-minded. (The gimmick is that this space opera is written by Max Merriwell, a planned sequel pretty much already written will be by Mary Maxwell, and the final volume in the trilogy will be by Pat Murphy.) Although hobbits are rather desexed, Murphy manages to include and imply a lot of dyke sex. And as a founding mother of the Tiptree Award, Pat managed to avoid Tolkien's sexist and racist tendencies. \$24.95 cl, 0-312-86644-5.

**Sea Dragon Heir** by Storm Constantine is the start of a new series. It's fantasy with enough self-consciousness to critique the genre's mythic patterns and processes so that human motivations are also given responsibility for the outcome. As with all her work, Constantine continues to explore the interworkings of politics, sexuality, and individuality. \$24.95 cl, 0-312-87306-9.

Isabelle Carmody's **Obernewtyn** is the first book in a series (previously published in Australia) about a young woman with telepathic powers caught in a society fearful of technology and "mutants" such as herself. Once she is sent to the labor camp for other such "Misfits," she learns of the possibility of rebellion and the chance that somewhere else the old knowledge may still be learned. \$22.95 cl, 0-312-86958-4.

**The Merlin of St. Gilles' Well** by Ann Chamberlin Book One of the Joan of Arc Tapestries a retelling of Joan of Arc with goddess flavor. \$23.95 cl, 0-312-86551-1.

**Rhapsody** by Elizabeth Haydon first in a new fantasy series (which has been optioned for film, by the way). \$24.95 cl, 0-312-86752-2.

**Household Gods** by Judith Tarr and Harry Turtledove is about a modern woman transferred back in time to a Roman town in A.D. 170. Tarr writes great historical novels, and Turtledove is also known for his realistic alternative history. Both are scholars and have advanced degrees in medieval Latin literature and history, respectively. \$27.95 cl, 0-312-86487-6.

Warner Aspect

**The Quiet Invasion** is the new novel from the award-winning author of *Reclamation*, *Fool's War*, and *Playing God*, Sarah Zettel. Humans are now living on Venus, barely. Terraforming is not very viable, but the first children have been born there. From the point of view of an alien (possibly the same culture introduced in *Fool's War*), Zettel delves into the ethics, politics, greed, fear, hope, and celebration



imbued in the experience of first contact. \$23.95 cl, 0-446-52489-1.

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Fuller said that the case went well. "We had a great cross-section of people interviewing on our behalf," she said, referring to PEN Canada, LEAF, EGALE, the Canadian Conference on the Arts, the Canadian AIDS Society, and the Canadian Civil Liberties Union, who testified for Little Rister's. Each organization had only 15 minutes in which to testify, but they did beautifully according to Fuller. "They were all very eloquent speakers," she said.

Fuller went on to say that the Court has some new justices, and she got the impression that they were understanding the complexity of the case and the ways in which Customs' practices undermine Canadians' free speech rights.

"I think we will get some kind of relief as a result of this," she said. "And I don't think I'm being naive."

The Court will deliver its decision in three to twelve months.

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X-Envelope-To: <seajay@dnai.com>

(Volume 22 Number 5 Post #13)

## Little Sister's and the Supreme Court of Canada

We spoke briefly with Little Sister's manager Janine Fuller about the bookstore's appearance in the Supreme Court of Canada last week. This case was the latest in the bookstore's 14-year battle with Canada Customs' over its discriminatory censorship practices.

Fuller said that the case went well. "We had a great cross-section of people interviewing on our behalf," she said, referring to PEN Canada, LEAF, EGALE, the Canadian Conference on the Arts, the Canadian AIDS Society, and the Canadian Civil Liberties Union, who testified for Little Sister's. Each organization had only 15 minutes in which to testify, but they did beautifully according to Fuller. "They were all very eloquent speakers," she said.

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(Volume 22 Number 5 Post # 14)

Suzy McKee Charnas Wins the 1999 Tiptree Award

The winner of this year's Tiptree Award is *The Conqueror's Child* by Suzy McKee Charnas (Tor), the final volume of the Holdfast Chronicles. The Chronicles follow Aldera, a woman who has escaped from the Holdfast society, where the women are slaves and the men are brutalized monsters. *The Conqueror's Child* chronicles the formation of a new society on the ruins of the Holdfast culture.

Tiptree Award Shortlist

- If I Told You Once* by Judy Budnitz (Picador)
- "In the Second Person" by Sally Caves (*Terra Incognita*, Winter 1999/2000)
- "Pinkland" by Graham Joyce (in *Crossing the Border* edited by Lisa Tuttle, Indigo)
- The Woman with the Flying Head* by Yumiko Kurahashi (M.E. Sharpe)
- "5001 Nights" by Penelope Lively (Fjord)
- The Iron Bridge* by David E. Morse (Harcourt Brace)
- "Sexual Dimorphism" by Kim Stanley Robinson (*Asimov's*, June 1999)

The Tiptree Award was established in 1991 and is presented annually to the short story or novel that best explores and expands gender roles in science fiction and fantasy. It honors Alice Sheldon, who wrote under the pseudonym James Tiptree, Jr., in the bad old days when science fiction writers had to write under men's names to get any attention.

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(Volume 22 Number 5 Post # 15)

The Publishing Triangle's Twelfth Annual Triangle Awards  
 Doris Grumbach, Jeff Weiss Win Lifetime Achievement Awards

The twelfth Annual Triangle Awards, honoring the best lesbian and gay fiction and nonfiction published in 1999, will be presented on March 30 at the Tishman Auditorium of the New School for Social Research from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The awards ceremony and reception are free and open to the public.

The Publishing Triangle will award the \$3,000 Bill Whitehead Award for Life time Achievement and the \$1,000 Robert Chesley Memorial Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Gay and Lesbian Playwriting in addition to the Ferro-Grumley Fiction Awards (each \$1,000) and Grahn-Shilts Nonfiction Awards (each \$1,000).

Doris Grumbach will be awarded the Bill Whitehead Award. Now in her 80s, Grumbach has been writing books since the early 60s. Her latest memoir, *The Pleasure of Their Company*, will be released by Beacon this May.

Jeff Weiss is the recipient of the Robert Chesley Prize. For 36 years, he has written and performed plays with openly gay content including *That's How the Rent Gets Paid*, *Convergent Lives*, and *Hot Keys*. He writes with his collaborator and life partner Carlos Ricardo Martinez.

Shortlist for Ferro-Grumley Fiction Awards:

**Best Lesbian Fiction**

*What She Left Me* by Judy Doenges (University Press of New England)  
*Shy Girl* by Elizabeth Stark (Farrar, Straus, & Giroux)  
*Tipping the Velvet* by Sarah Waters (Penguin Riverhead)

**Best Gay Fiction**

*Breakfast with Scot* by Michael Downing (Counterpoint)  
*The Coming Storm* by Paul Russell (St. Martin's)  
*Allan Stein* by Matthew Stadler (Grove)

Shortlist for the Gran-Shilts Nonfiction Award

**Best Lesbian Nonfiction**

*To Believe in Women* by Lillian Faderman (Houghton Mifflin)  
*The Kinship of Women* by Hilary Lapsley, Margaret Mead, and Ruth Benedict (University of Massachusetts Press)  
*A Woman Like That: Lesbian and Bisexual Writers Tell Their Coming Out Stories* edited by Joan Larkin (Bard Books)

**Best Gay Nonfiction**

*Victory Deferred: How AIDS Changed Gay Life in America* by John-Manuel Andriote (University of Chicago Press)  
*Dangerous Liaisons: Blacks, Gays, and the Struggle for Equality* edited by Eric Brandt (The New Press)  
*Pictures and Passions: A History of Homosexuality in the Visual Arts* by James M. Saslow (Viking)

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