

From: Carol Seajay <seajay@dnai.com>  
Subject: [eFB-News] As We Go to Press  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Attached:

(Volume 23 Number 1 Post #16)

Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Subscribers,

It is with a great deal of regret that I send you this news: FBN's staff has all been laid off, the office has been moved to temporary quarters, and this series of posts we are sending you via email will, in all likelihood, be the last issue of FBN.

Coming to this decision has been a long and difficult process. I had hoped, until about a week ago, that I would be able to sell FBN to a buyer who had the means to carry it on, the resources to take it in a new direction, and personnel with a deep respect for FBN's mission and the ability to take it forward. But it wasn't to be so.

Instead I am left with the same set of financial realities that drove me to look for a new home for FBN in the first place. I like to think I could have navigated FBN through the changes in the book industry, the stressed state of independent and feminist bookstores and feminist publishers, and the shifting sands of corporate publishing, or that I could have managed my personal financial crisis (legal bills, divorce expenses, buying my house out at the top of the dot-com real estate hysteria). But it eventually became clear that I couldn't manage both at the same time. Over the last year or so we've researched a number of alternatives for FBN, explored new formats, done fund-raising...but I've finally had to acknowledge the writing on the wall (and that the font of that writing keeps getting bigger and bigger!) and made the difficult decision to close FBN and turn to more lucrative pursuits to make my living.

That said and done, I also want to say that it's been a wonderful, rich, challenging, exciting, and satisfying 24-year run (October 1976 to July 2000). I couldn't have done it without you, FBN's many friends, colleagues, cohorts, and co-conspirators, FBN's wonderful staff (of late and over the years!), FBN's many columnists and other contributors, the proofreader teams, and the tremendous support for FBN and feminist bookstores from the publishing community and the independent bookselling community and, of course, the subscribers. My deepest thanks to each and every one who has contributed to making FBN what it is over all these many years! And to all of you for the parts you have played in bringing the feminist, lesbian, and gay book world(s) into existence and keeping them visible and viable. It's incredible work and it's my fervent hope that we will all meet again (and again and again!) in the years to come.

In the meantime, I'm starting my new (yes, dot-com, though not book-related) job in August, but who knows how or when I'll bring my new Web skills back into the book world! That, of course, precludes doing a Fall issue. For those of you who wanted to place ads, announce books, etc., in that issue, I am making a commitment to keeping the bookstores' mailing list(s) available for the foreseeable future. (Though you might allow an additional two to three weeks for turnaround.) There are two options:

The Core List, which includes 125+ feminist, gay, and other specialty or political stores arranged by kind of stores, comes on labels and rents for \$25, prepaid only.

The General List includes all of the stores on the core list plus about 300 general independent bookstores with strong women's and gay sections. It is also delivered on labels and is in zip code order. It rents for \$65,

prepaid only.

Send orders and checks (sorry, no more VISA), to FBN at PO Box 882554, San Francisco CA 94188 or phone in your order (415-642-9993) to speed things along. Swear to the message machine that you're putting the check in the mail. The main phone line, the PO Box, and the email address (FBN@FemBkNews.com) will stay in place for the foreseeable future.

I send you love, gratitude, and courage in these challenging times.

Yours in spreading the words,

Carol Seajay

New Voyager, Fremont, CA

The hottest news of the authoring, mystery-wise, is that we will soon see a new Hilary Tamer mystery from Sarah Caudwell. It's been ten years since that author's debut had solved murder with grace less in *The Siren Song of Murder*, Caudwell's third elegant conveyer of mystery posing as a mystery. Her previous two, *True Was Adona Mordred* and *The Shortest Way to Heaven*, are equally remarkable. All three works feature an irresistible group of young London baristas who get into various scrapes and out of them with the help of their sometime mentor, Oxford Professor Terner. And only in these books, intricate mysteries seamlessly plotted and beautifully written, they are also more explicitly social. (Keeping up with technological changes, the last of them is composed of three.) In addition, they are very funny and present a fascinating gender conundrum. We expect great things from *The Solist* by Sarah Caudwell, which will be out in July. \$23.95 cl, 0-325-29234-5, Delacorte Press.

Some great beach books are now available in paperback, just in time for the summer reading season. Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes are back in the spotlight by Lyndi King, another wonderful mix of adventure, intrigue, and Steampunk. Just when I was worried that the series was growing dull, King gives us a flashback to 1878 the same time period as *The Philosopher's Apprentice*, when Holmes and Russell travel to Jerusalem on a mission to the crown. We get to see Russell again as Holmes' brilliant and unscrupulous, for practical purposes traveling in the Middle East disguised as a boy. As Holmes and Russell explore the buzzes and hazards of old Jerusalem, King weaves in history, theology, and ancient lore. When she's on her game, there's no one better. (\$9.95, 0-525-58165-4, Jane Saram.) By the way, King's novel *Night Work*, featuring exiled homicide detective Alan Marshall, may be her most witty feminist work so far. The plot raises questions about a feminist response to violence against women, and the chapter headings are from May Sarton's "Invocation to Kari" (\$23.95 cl, 0-553-10713-5, Saram.)

Patricia Thomas-Graham's *Blue Blood* (\$9.99 pb, 0-571-01671-7, Pocket) is the second in her "By Longue" mystery series about African American Harvard economics professor Blair Ghada. Now Blair learns that the wife of her mentor, a dean at Yale, has been murdered on the street in New Haven. Police suspect a Black scholar, but Blair has other ideas. I thoroughly enjoyed Thomas-Graham's debut, *A Center Ghada of Crime* (\$9.99 pb, 0-571-01670-8, Pocket), a traditional U.S. court economic suspense with a much parapsychic, and I look forward to a day at the beach with this one. Even under and more traditional is *Mama Purpura's Mysterious Shadows* by Nore De Loach (\$9.99 pb, 0-498-87732-6, Jane Saram). Mama is an African American social worker in Ivy City, South Carolina, and the murder is her daughter, Simone, an urban career woman who reluctantly joins in her mother's sleuthing. Two other "Mama" mysteries are in print from Saram: *Mama Rocks the Empty Cradle* (\$9.99 pb, 0-498-87732-8) and *Mama Steps the Past* (\$9.99 pb, 0-498-87721-2). There's nothing wrong with the down-home Southern series, but the books are too light and simple for my taste. In fact, the heaviest thing about them is the heinous Southern and Mama's constantly cooking.

From: Carol Seajay <seajay@dnai.com>

Subject: [eFB-News] Mystery Column

Cc:

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Attached:

(Volume 23 Number 1 Post #17)

Mysteries

by Nan Cinnater

Now Voyager, Provincetown, Mass.

The happiest news of the summer, mystery-wise, is that we will soon see a new Hilary Tamar mystery from Sarah Caudwell. It's been ten years since that academic barrister last mixed murder with finance law in *The Sirens Sang of Murder*, Caudwell's third elegant comedy of manners posing as a mystery. Her previous two, *Thus Was Adonis Murdered* and *The Shortest Way to Hades*, are equally remarkable. All three works feature an irresistible group of young London barristers who get into felonious scrapes and out of them with the help of their sometime mentor, Oxford Professor Tamar. Not only are these literate, intricate mysteries seamlessly plotted and beautifully written, they are also largely epistolary novels. (Keeping up with technological changes, the last of them is composed of faxes.) In addition, they are wildly funny and present a fascinating gender conundrum. We expect great things from **The Sibyl in Her Grave** by Sarah Caudwell, which will be out in July. \$23.95 cl, 0-385-29934-5, Delacorte Press/Dell.

Some great beach books are now available in paperback, just in time for the summer reading season. Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes are back in **O Jerusalem** by Laurie King, another wonderful mix of adventure, intrigue, and Sherlockiana. Just when I was worried that the series was growing dull, King gives us a flashback to 1918 (the same time period as *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*), when Holmes and Russell travel to Jerusalem on a mission for the crown. We get to see Russell again as Holmes' brilliant and unruly protegee, for practical purposes traveling in the Middle East disguised as a boy. As Holmes and Russell explore the bazaars and tunnels of old Jerusalem, King weaves in history, theology, and ancient lore. When she's on her game, there's no one better. (\$6.50, 0-553-58105-8, June, Bantam.) By the way, King's recent hardcover, **Night Work**, featuring lesbian homicide detective Kate Martinelli, may be her most overtly feminist work so far. The plot raises questions about a feminist response to violence against women, and the chapter headings are from May Sarton's "Invocation to Kali." (\$23.95 cl, 0-553-10713-5, Bantam.)

Pamela Thomas-Graham's **Blue Blood** (\$6.99 pb, 0-671-01671-7, Pocket) is the second in her "Ivy League mystery" series about African American Harvard economics professor Nikki Chase. Here Nikki learns that the wife of her mentor, a dean at Yale, has been murdered on the street in New Haven. Police suspect a Black sophomore, but Nikki has other ideas. I thoroughly enjoyed Thomas-Graham's debut, **A Darker Shade of Crimson** (\$6.99 pb, 0-671-01670-9, Pocket), a traditional (i.e. cozy) academic mystery with a fresh perspective, and I look forward to a day at the beach with this one. Even cozier and more traditional is **Mama Pursues Murderous Shadows** by Nora De Loach (\$5.99 pb, 0-553-57722-0, June, Bantam). Mama is an African American social worker in tiny Otis, South Carolina, and the narrator is her daughter, Simone, an urban career woman who reluctantly joins in her mother's sleuthing. Two other "Mama" mysteries are in print from Bantam: **Mama Rocks the Empty Cradle** (\$5.99 pb, 0-553-57720-4) and **Mama Stalks the Past** (\$5.99 pb, 0-553-57721-2). There's nothing wrong with this down-home Southern series, but the books are too light and simple for my taste. In fact, the heaviest thing about them is the fabulous Southern food Mama's constantly cooking.

Marcia Talley brings back her sleuth Hannah Ives in **Unbreathed Memories**, sequel to the engaging *Sing It to Her Bones*. Hannah is a breast cancer survivor who is considering whether or not to have breast reconstruction surgery when her sister Georgina becomes a suspect in the murder of a therapist. (\$5.99 pb, 0-440-23518-9, June, Dell.) Janet Dawson's socially conscious, thoroughly professional private eye, Jeri Howard, gets involved in a racing case in **Murder at the Track**, an excellent way to pass the time while waiting for another outing with Kinsey or V.I. and that's high praise. (\$6.99 pb, 0-449-00531-3, Fawcett). J.A. Jance continues her popular Southwestern series with **Outlaw Mountain**, featuring Arizona Sheriff Joanna Brady. A missing person's report about an elderly woman is the beginning of a tangled case of murder, corruption, and political maneuvering for this tough cop-cum-widowed mom. (\$6.99 pb, 0-380-79248-6, Avon.) **Bedford Square** is the latest paperback in Anne Perry's Victorian series about Scotland Yard Superintendent Thomas Pitt and his partner-in-crime-solving wife Charlotte. (\$6.99, 0-449-00582-8, Ballantine.)

**Border Prey** by Jessica Speart is unknown to me, but it has a great cover that looks like it might appeal to Nevada Barr fans. Fish and Wildlife agent Rachel Porter gets a hot tip about primates being smuggled over the Mexican border and begins a dangerous investigation. (\$5.99 pb, 0-380-81040-9, Avon.) Gen-X women now have their own detective: 26-year-old Vassar grad Alex Bernier, who works as a reporter in an upstate New York college town. Both college and town are threatened by a serial killer in **Distemper** by Beth Saulnier. (\$6.50 pb, 0-446-60861-0, June, Warner.) It sounds like this sequel spills the plot of Saulnier's first mystery, **Reliable Sources**, so it's probably worth stocking both and steering customers to the first. (\$6.50 pb, 0-446-60781-9, Warner.)

It's been a long time since I picked up one of Elizabeth Peters' mildly madcap mysteries about early-20th-century Egyptologist Amelia Peabody. I was happy to find that **The Falcon at the Portal** is every bit as feminist and perhaps even more engrossing than earlier works in the series. The archaeological season of 1911 is not shaping up well for the Peabody Emersons, as they have been relegated to an inconsequential site with a very minor pyramid. Amelia's niece Lia and her young Egyptian husband, David, are away on their honeymoon when a scandal breaks, implicating David as a trader in forged antiquities. Amelia's son Ramses and her adopted daughter Nefret investigate. A large part of the appeal here is being immersed in a universe of Peters' creation, a well-networked universe spanning Britain and Egypt over more than a decade, full of colleagues, rivals, faithful servants, old friends, old enemies, and varied family members. It's like a reunion with people we feel we know, even if we haven't actually met them before. And Amelia's politics remain sufficiently antiracist and anti-imperialist for the 21st century. (\$6.99 pb, 0-380-79857-3, Avon.) This bodes well for Peters' new hardcover, **He Shall Thunder in the Sky**, in which Ramses is ostracized by the British expatriates in Egypt for his pacifist stance during WWI. (And don't her titles just keep getting better? Not that we didn't appreciate *The Mummy Case* or *The Last Camel Died at Noon*.) (\$25 cl, 0-380-97659-5, William Morrow.)

Another winning hard/soft combination (and what would Stephanie Plum have to say about that?) is the two June entries in Janet Evanovich's series of comic thrillers about Jersey bounty hunter Stephanie Plum. Evanovich had me hooked from the beginning with her sharp and sexy heroine, lean prose, and nearly unique formula of laugh-out-loud comedy mixed with genuine suspense. What a cocktail! My only quibble with her new paperback, **High Five**, is that it comes dangerously close to romance, focusing as it does on the two equally hot men in Stephanie's life, womanizing cop Joe Morelli and superpro bounty hunter Ranger. But it's not at the expense of comic mayhem and outrageous characters. (\$6.99 pb, 0-312-97134-6, St. Martin's.) In **Hot Six**, Ranger is on the lam and Stephanie wants to help him, but first she has to find him. Meanwhile, Grandma Mazur fights with Stephanie's parents and moves in with Stephanie and her hamster. (\$24.95 cl, 0-312-20540-6, June, St. Martin's.)

Twin sisters Pamela and Mary O'Shaughnessy, who write legal thrillers under the nom de crime Peri O'Shaughnessy, are becoming increasingly popular with feminist customers. Their heroine, Lake Tahoe attorney Nina Reilly, is a single mom with a complicated personal life, as well as an important criminal law practice. In **Acts of Malice**, Nina defends a prominent client accused of killing his brother on the ski slopes. (\$7.50 pb, 0-440-22581-7, June, Island/Dell.) In O'Shaughnessy's new hardcover, **Move to Strike**, Nina

defends her 14-year-old son's girlfriend against a charge of murder. (\$23.95, 0-385-33277-7, August, and North Delacorte/Dell.) Women who are just discovering O'Shaughnessy will want the previous books in the series: **Motion to Suppress** (\$6.99 pb, 0-440-22068-8), **Invasion of Privacy** (\$6.99 pb, 0-440-22069-6), **Obstruction of Justice** (\$6.99 pb, 0-440-22472-1), and **Breach of Promise** (\$7.50 pb, 0-440-22473-X). Dell is offering a mixed display with 20 copies of **Acts of Malice** and three each of the previous paperbacks, most of which were *New York Times* bestsellers in paper (\$233.95, 0-440-79796-9).

Sujata Massey has two new entries in her series about Rei Shimura, a Japanese American antique dealer living in Tokyo. In **The Flower Master**, newly out in paper, Rei takes a flower-arranging class, only to have her teacher murdered during the first lesson (\$6.99, 0-06-109734-9, HarperCollins). In **The Floating Girl**, Massey's new hardcover, Rei explores the world of Japanese comics and animation when a young woman is found drowned in the costume of a superheroine. (\$24, 0-06-019229-1, HarperCollins.)

So what's a girl to do, now that Naiad Press is publishing only a couple of mysteries a year? Where can we turn for lesbian mysteries? (Especially this summer, while Bella Books is still gearing up to publish former Naiad authors.) Naturally, we turn to other lesbian presses to fill the gap. Firebrand Books is offering a gritty lesbian thriller called **Bleeding Out** by Baxter Clare. Los Angeles Homicide Lieutenant L.A. "Frank" Franco is tough enough to take on a serial killer, relying on her drugs of choice: booze, exercise, football, and music to get her through. But as the search for the serial killer intensifies, Frank discovers she's letting someone into her life: brash young Detective Kennedy, who volunteers to pose as the decoy for the killer. \$13.95 tp, 1-56341-118-0.

Rising Tide Press adds to their large lesbian mystery list with **Storm Rising** by Linda Kay Silva. (\$12 tp, 1-883061-27-X) Silva's heroine, homicide detective Delta Storm, is also featured in *Tropical Storm*, published by Rising Tide, as well as in several out-of-print titles. Silva is herself a former police officer, and her detailed knowledge of police procedure combined with a flair for compelling plot and characters have earned her a strong cult following. This summer Rising Tide is also offering **Called to Kill** by Joan Albarella, sequel to *Agenda for Murder*, featuring Vietnam vet-turned-college teacher Nicky Barnes. (\$12 tp, 1-883061-28-8.)

From New Victoria we have **Salt Rock Mysteries** by Magdalena Zschokke, billed as a combination of "a Caribbean island, ancestral secrets, murder, drug-smuggling, and a sensuous love story." Economic historian Jane McMillan is studying salt production in the Turks and Caicos Islands when she uncovers a long-hidden family scandal and meets the alluring Michelle. (\$11.95 tp, 1-892281-07-4.) Spinsters Ink brings us **Booked for Murder**, the latest Lindsay Gordon mystery by Golden Dagger Award winner Val McDermid. McDermid is a wonderful writer who combines hip cultural references with a lesbian/feminist sensibility, in this case in the high-stakes London publishing world. (\$12 tp, 1-883523-37-0.)

Perhaps the hippest lesbian detective around is Mary Wings' Emma Victor, heroine of *She Came by the Book* and *She Came to the Castro*; but feminist readers and booksellers have been frustrated for years when they tried to find her earlier out-of-print adventures. Happily, Alyson Press is bringing back the very first Emma Victor mystery, **She Came Too Late**. In this witty and complex (sometimes too complex) debut, Wings presents Boston feminist hotline volunteer Emma, who against all rules agrees to meet a caller in person but is too late to stop a murder. \$10.95 tp, 1-55583-547-3, June.

Surprisingly, Bantam is publishing a very good lesbian series about British veterinarian Kellen Stewart. In **Stronger Than Death** by Manda Scott, Kellen realizes that there are too many deaths among her colleagues to be accidents. All clues point to the past they share with Kellen's ex, pathologist Lee Adams, which leaves Lee the only suspect. In spite of strong writing and well-developed characters, I didn't care for the first in the series, *Hen's Teeth* (which has since been followed by *Night Mares*). Like a lot of mystery readers, I'm more squeamish about the suffering of animals than the murder of humans, and the animals have a hard time in Stewart's books. \$5.50 pb, 0-553-57969-X, July.

**They Wrote the Book** edited by Helen Windrath is a collection of essays by 13 (of course) British and North American women authors on the art and craft of mystery writing. Contributors include lesbian favorites Sarah Dreher, Ellen Hart, and Val McDermid, as well as Marcia Muller and many other excellent but lesser-known writers. The surprising thing is how much fun these essays are to read, even if you're not familiar with the authors' work. Unfortunately, I suspect it will be a hard sell to all but aspiring writers and the most dedicated fans. \$12 tp, 1-883523-35-4, June, Spinsters Ink.

(Volume 23 Number 1 Part #10)

All Stars

by Tee A. Corinne

When a pharmaceutical company routinely purchased 10,000 copies of Hollis Sigler's *Lesbian Cancer Journal* for distribution free to health professionals, Hollis Sigler (b. 1943) became the most visible openly lesbian artist of the year 2000, and her book went into a second printing. At the very least it means that individuals who might not seek out any art book under ordinary circumstances will encounter excellent art by a woman who they will come to know as a lesbian when they read the last 100% Sigler's *Bread of Cancer Journal*, texts by Susan M. Love, M.D., and James Ford. \$25 pb, 1-55595-178-7; \$45 cl, -175-5, -1800-996. Distributed by National Book Network.

Post-Dylane! *Watch Out For Cadmons* by Alison Bachdel (b. 1960) will be out any minute. I personally can hardly wait for this newest collection by lesbian feminism's best-known visual storyteller. \$11.95 pb, 1-56541-122-8; \$24.95 cl, -128-7. Firebrand.

Green John by Alicia Foster presents the work of British-born painter Guendolen Mary John (1855-1936), who studied art in London but spent most of her adult life in Paris. She supported herself as a model during her early professional years but achieved success through her paintings, most of which are of women. I'm especially taken by her self-portrait drawings in the book. \$13.95 pb, 0-681-02944-X, Princeton University Press.

Leonid Firsi by Esther Salcedo elegantly showcases the work of Firsi, who was born in 1898 in Argentina, was raised in Toronto, and worked in France much of her adult life. Active on the edges of Surrealism, Firsi was a self-taught painter whose images have a dreamlike quality with, sometimes, hints of lesbian ambition. \$14.95 cl, Firestorm Press. Distributed by Books International, 1-800-548-7552.

Due out in June from the author of *Eden Built* by Faye (b.1935) pb, 1-55563-477-0, Alyson. *Get Real* by Bonnie L. Stone is a delightful memoir of growing up being diverse in a family where the father and aunt had acted as extras in Hollywood films in the 1930s and 1940s. It is a story of growing up lesbian, writing about culture, and having small parts in movies herself. Half-Jewish, half-Welsh and Aboriginal, smart and funny, Morris (b. 1961) takes the reader to North Carolina, Maryland, Israel, and updates New York with movie stories as anchor and metaphor. \$14.95 pb, 1-56580-034-2, Coffee House Press. Distributed by Consortium.

*This is Blythe*, photographs by Greg Geron, shows a doll dressed in a variety of ways and positioned in diverse locations around the world. This book could be seen as very silly. It is. It is also funny and dear. For those of us who enjoyed playing with dolls, this book is imaginative and fun. In one image, a blond Blythe leans against a post with the Eiffel Tower in the background. \$12.95 pb, 0-8118-2820-9, Chronicle Books.

Recently released in paperback: *Abstract Expressionism: Other Politics* by Ann Eden Gibson presents artists active in the U.S. art movement, which was strongest in NYC in the 1950s-1960s. Gibson discusses many under-recognized women and men and includes compelling information on the effects of gender, race, and sexual

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

(Volume 23 Number 1 Post #18)

Art Books

by Tee A. Corinne

When a pharmaceutical company recently purchased 10,000 copies of Hollis Sigler's **Breast Cancer Journal** for distribution free to health professionals, Hollis Sigler (b. 1948) became the most visible openly lesbian artist of the year 2000, and her book went into a second printing. At the very least it means that individuals who might not seek out any art book under ordinary circumstances will encounter excellent art by a woman who they will come to know as a lesbian when they read the text. Hollis Sigler's **Breast Cancer Journal**, texts by Susan M. Love, M.D., and James Yood. \$25 pb, 1-55595-176-7; \$45 cl, -175-9, Hudson Hills. Distributed by National Book Network.

**Post-Dykes to Watch Out For: Cartoons** by Alison Bechdel (b. 1960) will be out any minute. I, personally, can hardly wait for this newest collection by lesbian feminism's best-known visual chronicler. \$11.95 pb, 1-56341-122-9; \$24.95 cl, -123-7. Firebrand.

**Gwen John** by Alicia Foster presents the work of Welsh-born painter Gwendolen Mary John (1876-1939), who studied art in London but spent most of her adult life in Paris. She supported herself as a model during her early professional years but achieved success through her paintings, most of which are of women. I'm especially taken by her self-portrait drawings in the nude. \$13.95 pb, 0-691-02944-X, Princeton University Press.

**Leonor Fini** by Esther Selsdon elegantly showcases the work of Fini, who was born in 1908 in Argentina, was raised in Trieste, and worked in France much of her adult life. Active on the edges of Surrealism, Fini was a self-taught painter whose images have a dreamlike quality with, sometimes, overtones of lesbian eroticism. \$14.95 cl, Parkstone Press. Distributed by Books International, 1-800-546-7952.

Due out in June from the author of **Eden Built by Eves** (\$15.95 pb, 1-55583-477-9, Alyson), **Girl Reel** by Bonnie J. Morris is a delightful memoir of growing up loving movies in a family where the father and aunt had acted as extras in Hollywood films in the 1930s and 1940s. It is a story of growing up lesbian, writing about culture, and having small parts in movies herself. Half-Jewish, half-Welsh and Norwegian, smart and funny, Morris (b. 1961) takes the reader to North Carolina, Maryland, Israel, and upstate New York with movie stories as anchor and metaphor. \$14.95 pb, 1-56689-094-2, Coffee House Press. Distributed by Consortium.

**This Is Blythe**, photographs by Gina Garan, shows a doll dressed in a variety of ways and positioned in diverse locations around the world. This book could be seen as very silly. It is. It is also funny and dear. For those of us who enjoyed playing with dolls, this book is imaginative and fun. In one image, a blond Blythe leans against a post with the Eiffel Tower in the background. \$12.95 pb, 0-8118-2823-9. Chronicle Books.

Recently released in paper: **Abstract Expressionism: Other Politics** by Ann Eden Gibson presents artists active in the U.S. art movement, which was strongest in NYC in the 1930s-1950s. Gibson discusses many lesser-known women and men and includes compelling information on the effects of gender, race, and sexual

orientation on their art. Especially useful are brief artists' biographies. \$19 pb, Yale University Press, 0-300-08068-9.

**Seeing Through the Seventies: Essays on Feminism and Art** by Laura Cottingham (b.1958) contains nine essays on contemporary art issues by one of the hottest young lesbian art critics around. Subjects include "L.A. Womyn: The Feminist Art Movement in Southern California, 1970-1979," lesbian photographer Claude Cahun, and "Feminism, Art and the Body Politic." \$21.95 pb, 90-5701-222-7; \$41.95 cl, -212-X. G&B Arts International. Distributed by Gordon and Breach.

**The Drag King Book**, photographs by Del LaGrace Volcano, text by Judith "Jack" Halberstam, is a Lammy finalist. Contains images of women/lesbians/transpeople in male drag, photographed by LaGrace Volcano (formerly known as Della Grace, b. 1957) in San Francisco, London, and New York. \$25 pb, 1-85242-607-1, Serpent's Tail. Distributed by Consortium.

**Maria Sibylla Merian: New Book of Flowers**, epilogue by Thomas Bürger, contains flower drawings made with watercolor and ink. Merian (1647-1717), daughter of a publisher and engraver, separated from her husband and created an independent life for herself and her two daughters. \$25 cl, 3-7913-2080-7, Prestel.

**Anna Klumpke: A Turn-of-the-Century Painter and Her World** by Britta C. Dwyer is a biography of U.S.-born portrait painter (1856-1945) whose great romance was with the French animal painter Rosa Bonheur (1822-1899). Most of her paintings are of women including the early worker for women's rights Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Klumpke made the definitive portraits of Bonheur. \$35 cl, 1-55553-386-8, Northeastern University Press.

Forthcoming in June: **Amazons in the Drawing Room: The Art of Romaine Brooks** by Whitney Chadwick with an essay by Joseph Lucchesi focuses on the paintings of Romaine Brooks (1874-1970), rich, international, and lover of, among others, Natalie Clifford Barney. \$24.95 pb, 0-520-22567-8; \$50 cl, -22565-1. University of California Press.

**As Time Goes By: Portraits 1982/1988/1997**, photographs by Barbara Davatz with texts by Nicole Müller, Sigrid Pallmert, and Patrick Frey, definitely has a queer sensibility. People are shown growing older, changing partners, and then their partners changing partners in lovely black and white, studio-style portraits. \$39.95 cl, 3-905509-25-3, Scalo.

**Another Water**, photographs by Roni Horn, features 47 color photographs of the River Thames, London no shoreline, no objects, just the surface of the water in a beautiful meditation of a book. \$39.95 pb, 3-908247-25-X, Scalo. Distributed by D.A.P.

**Barbara Kruger** organized by Ann Goldstein features work by contemporary artist Kruger (b. 1945), who uses words and pictures to evoke and critique late 20th-century sensibilities with an emphasis on the gender wars. \$40 cl, 0-262-11250-7, The MIT Press/The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

**Monika Kiss Horvrth: Bar**, texts by Zsuzanna Gahse and Viana Conti in English, German, and Italian, is a lovely, moody book of color photographs of entrances to Italian bars. Horvrth (b. 1958) grew up and studied design in Switzerland, where she still lives. \$45 cl, 3-905509-27-X. Scalo.

**Rodeo Girl**, photographs by Lisa Eisner, is all pictures (one page of text) large, vivid images of rodeo life. \$49.95 cl, 0-9672366-0-6, Graybull Press. Distributed by D.A.P.

**Susan Seddon Boulet: A Retrospective** by Michael Babcock is a beautifully produced book of magical, mystical images by a popular contemporary artist. Boulet (1941-1997) was born in Brazil of South African parents, educated there and in Switzerland, and lived most of her life in the United States. Her exquisitely



illuminated images of dreamers, of part-human/part-animal figures, and of animals like "The Crocodile with the Roller-Coaster Smile" are familiar from greeting cards, book and album covers, and books. \$65 cl, 0-7649-1030-2, Pomegranate.

**Susan Derges: Liquid Form**, essay by Martin Kemp, contains semi-abstract photographs, some of which are exceptionally beautiful. The text is not especially helpful in contextualizing the artist or the images. \$60 cl, 1-9008-29-07-X, Michael Hue-Williams Fine Art London. Distributed by D.A.P.

Of special interest to librarians, **Lesbian Histories and Cultures** edited by Bonnie Zimmerman is an excellent reference book. Art-related entries include Architecture; Art: Contemporary European; Art: Contemporary North American; Art: Mainstream, Cartoons and Comic Books; Photography; Kit Anstruther-Thomson (listed under her lover Vernon Lee); Alice Austen; Dorothy Arzner; Rosa Bonheur; Romaine Brooks; Gluck (Hannah Gluckstein); Frida Kahlo; Mary Edmonia Lewis; and Kate Millett. \$140 cl, 0-8153-1920-7, Garland.

Sitting down to write this column has been very difficult for me. It is my last as the Assistant Editor of *GLL*. I've enjoyed my two years here very much, but for more reasons than most of them with dollar signs in front, I must say goodbye. I will miss writing for you, talking with you, and working with you and Carol for the women in print movement.

Before I go, however, I've decided to write a very short, extremely self-indulgent, decidedly femme-leaning little column. I'm reviewing a movie, a calendar, and two books. A couple are a little off the beaten feminist path, but very fun. I hope you embrace them, stock them, and spare a dollar or two of them.

First up: Going to the movies with Sher Rednour and Jackie Stone. I was lucky enough to see the latest film from these two San Francisco lesbian personalities (Rednour is a performance artist and author. Stone is the lead singer for the Hot Mays). *Hard Love and How to Fuck in High Heels* of the San Francisco Gay/Lesbian Film Fest. Rednour and Stone (who brought you *Band Over Suspenders* I and II) co-directed and starred in this fabulous and absolutely authentic lesbian porn flick. It has two parts: *Hard Love*, a series of vignettes, and *How to Fuck in High Heels*, a sort of trainwreck/performance piece obviously inspired by Rednour's one-woman reading/performance piece of the same name. On so many levels, this movie did its job. First of all, it was over-the-top. I am convinced that every orgasm was genuine. I said, I'm sure, the entire theater got all worked up and screamed right home afterward. Well, you know, reflect on the film. There was such a variety of sexual situations that I sincerely feel there's something in the film for everyone. There was a femme on femme scene, a mutual masturbation scene, a solo scene, and quite a few scenes featuring a very giving bitch bottom. I was also thrilled to see bona fide butches. Several of them, not just Jackie Stone wielding their silicone dicks and pleasing girls everywhere. The stars were real women (I mean it. I see them walking down the street) with real bodies. The scenarios were realistic and convincing. A sort of in-between-the-sex scene has two new lovers arguing because one wants to leave and help her ex-girlfriend move ("I owe her. If I weren't for her I'd still be in that small town." "But that was two years ago!"). The little fight reminded me of about a thousand in-fighting arguments I've had/witnessed between women and the seemingly unwieldy, unresolvable draw of ex-girlfriends, and I was just tickled with the little bit of authenticity. (Naturally, the women end her moving or have sex in the very next scene. Also very authentic.) The last thing I've just got to mention about this movie is the incredible femme-rog goddess Sher Rednour. My god. With her stylish army of high-heeled footmen and such a powerful sexual persona, she's pretty much my new femme diva superhero. She was mesmerizing. The price of the movie is worth it just to see her at work.

OK, now time for me to get a little preachy. There really isn't much good lesbian porn out there. This is a film that I really think should be available everywhere, and in my heart of hearts, I hope that you all will be the ones to bring it to the heartland, the small towns, the lesbians of the world. I hope that you will sell it as the revolutionary film that it is.

From: Carol Seajay <seajay@dnai.com>  
Subject: [eFB-News] Small Press Column  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Attached:

(Volume 23 Number 1) Post #19

Small Press

By Teri Mae Rutledge

Sitting down to write this column has been very difficult for me. It is my last as the Assistant Editor of *FBN*. I've enjoyed my two years here very much, but for many reasons (most of them with dollar signs in front), I must say goodbye. I will miss writing for you, talking with you, and working with you and Carol for the women in print movement.

Before I go, however, I've decided to write a very short, extremely self-indulgent, decidedly femme-leaning little column. I'm reviewing a movie, a calendar, and two books. A couple are a little off the beaten feminist path, but very fun. I hope you embrace them, stock them, and make a dollar or two off them.

First up: Going to the movies with Shar Rednour and Jackie Strano. I was lucky enough to see the latest film from these two San Francisco lesbian personalities (Rednour is a performance artist and author; Strano is the lead singer for the Hail Marys), **Hard Love and How to Fuck in High Heels** at the San Francisco Gay/Lesbian Film Fest. Rednour and Strano (who brought you *Bend Over Boyfriend I and II*) co-directed and starred in this fabulous and absolutely authentic lesbian porn flick. It has two parts *Hard Love*, a series of vignettes, and *How to Fuck in High Heels*, a sort of instructive/performative piece obviously inspired by Rednour's one-woman reading/performance piece of the same name. On so many levels, this movie did its job. First of all, it was super-sexy. I am convinced that every orgasm was genuine. I, and, I'm sure, the entire theater, got all worked up and scurried right home afterward to, well, you know, reflect on the film. There was such a variety of sexual situations that I daresay that there's something in the film for everyone. There was a femme on femme scene, a mutual masturbation scene, a strip tease, and quite a few scenes featuring a very giving butch bottom. I was also thrilled to see bona fide butches several of them, not just Jackie Strano wielding their silicone dicks and pleasing girls everywhere. The stars were real women (I mean it I see them walking down the street) with real bodies. The scenarios were realistic and convincing. A sort of in-between-the-sex scene has two new lovers arguing because one wants to leave and help her ex-girlfriend move ("I owe her! If it weren't for her I'd still be in that small town!" "But that was ten years ago!"). The little fight reminded me of about a thousand irritating arguments I've had/witnessed between women and the seemingly universal, unnatural draw of ex-girlfriends, and I was just tickled with that little bit of authenticity. (Naturally, the woman and her moving ex have sex in the very next scene. Also very authentic.) The last thing I've just got to mention about this movie is the incredible femme top goddess Shar Rednour. My god. With her stylish army of high-heeled footwear and *such* a powerful sexual persona, she's pretty much my new femme diva superhero. She was *mesmerizing*. The price of the movie is worth it just so see her at work.

OK, now time for me to get a little preachy. There really isn't much good lesbian porn out there. This is a film that I really think should be available everywhere, and in my heart of hearts, I hope that you all will be the ones to bring it to the heartland, the small towns, the lesbians of the world. I hope that you will sell it as the revolutionary film that it is.

If you don't stock pom, this is the video that should change your mind. If you already do, this video is a must. It has a high retail price because it's independently produced, but I promise, it's worth it. \$39.95, 90 minutes. Terms: wholesale price is \$19.50; shipping is free on your first order. Available from S.I.R. Video Productions, 3288 21st Street, #94 PMB, San Francisco CA 94110; 415-978-0891, email <sales@sirvideo.com>, <[www.sirvideo.com](http://www.sirvideo.com)>.

I'm not done with Shar Rednour. The next book is hers, too. I picked up the galley of **The Femme's Guide to the Universe** by Shar Rednour at the office months ago. I usually hate the "being gay" books. The perfect date, the how to meet women, the astrological lesbian profile books all make me crazy. But I knew Shar's work a little bit, and I thought at worst, it would make fine toilet reading. A week later, the roomies and I were lining outside the bathroom. We were spending an inordinate amount of time in there, hopelessly engaged in **The Femme's Guide**. It's a surprisingly interesting, meaty read, and Shar's personality, wit, and yes, I'll go this far femme *wisdom* really shine through. She covers a lot of ground in this pocket-sized, whimsically designed, graphic-filled (and yes, that includes lots of gratuitous Shar photos) guide to everything femme, including but certainly not limited to self-defense, caring for your latex dress, breaking up, non-monogamous relationships, healthy eating, and, naturally, how to fuck in high heels. It's an Alyson book, and I know you'll all be stocking it, but I just want you to know that you really should *sell* it. It's useful, interesting, and entertaining on so many levels. I now know that Era is the best stain remover, and I know exactly how my fuck-ready heels should fit. The book has finally left the bathroom, but I think that everyone in my house is the wiser for it having been there. \$14.95 pb, 1-55583-461-2, August. Alyson Publications, 6922 Hollywood Blvd. Ste. 1000, Los Angeles CA 90028; 323-860-6045, <[www.alyson.com](http://www.alyson.com)>. Distributed by Consortium.

I was pretty much entirely underwhelmed at BEA this year. I did, at one point, catch a flash of bright pink and followed it until I was in front of the beautiful, charming **Hello Kitty, Hello World** (designed by Higashi Glaser Design Inc.) in the heart of the Harry Abrams booth. Higashi Glaser has breathed life into the adorable, precious Hello Kitty of my youth. Its colors are more vibrant than the Hello Kitty standard; in fact, confided a Harry Abrams publicist, Glaser pushed the boundaries of the Hello Kitty design parameters. I all but drooled over the vibrant pages as the achingly cute Hello Kitty tramped here and there. (My favorite picture was Hello Kitty and the Day of the Dead.)

OK, I'll admit it, this one racks up huge nostalgia points for me. Even though Hello Kitty of yore conjures up memories of cheap plastic purses of the most tepid pink, the Hello Kitty aura still somehow came through. I am so happy to be able to experience that aura cranked up to its full pastel potential. This is one for your kitsch-buying clientele (like me) and all four-to-eight-year-olds hoping to tour a bit of the world through the eyes of Hello Kitty. \$12.95 cl, 0-8109-3443-4, August, 32 pages. Harry N. Abrams, 100 Fifth Ave., New York NY 10011.

On that same Harry Abrams shelf was the even cuter **Hello Kitty Calendar**. I hinted heavily, doing everything short of prostrating myself before the Harry Abrams publicist, trying to get a copy of this bright, vibrant calendar. Alas, it was to no avail. But the large, bright, simple, cute depictions of Hello Kitty here, there, and everywhere is very worthy of recommendation nonetheless. There are helpful and adorable stickers to help you remember your homework, movie dates, etc. This was produced with tremendous care and absolutely lovely design sense, and it's gorgeous through and through. Again, my nostalgia cord was strummed to a high pitch as I paged along. If you've got the aspiring femme four-to-eight-year-old-girl clientele, stock it. It's also great for old girls like me. \$9.95, 0-8109-7929-2. Harry N Abrams, 100 Fifth Ave., New York NY 10011.

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Subject: [eFB-News] Gay Literature Column (Part One)  
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(Volume 23 Number 1 Post #20)

Gay Literature  
(Part One: Fiction)

by Richard Labonté  
A Different Light Bookstores

As always, there are more new gay-themed books than anyone could possibly read in two months and these are just the great-to-good ones. As always, an asterisk or two (\*) is a sign of my great enthusiasm.

### Fiction: Novels, Mysteries, Plays, Poems

**\*\*The Married Man** by Edmund White A must-stock sure-seller from the grand not-that-old man of American gay letters; this terrifically written account of an expatriate Yank falling in love in Paris with a married man is both haunting and healing, an elegy on death and a celebration of love. \$25 cl, 0-375-40005-2, Knopf.

\***A Boy's Own Story** by Edmund White New edition of the first of a fabulous coming-out, coming-of-age trilogy, a must for any fiction section. \$12 pb, 0-375-70740-9, Vintage. (Still in print: **The Beautiful Room Is Empty**, \$12 pb, 0-679-75540-3; and **The Farewell Symphony**, \$14 pb, -75476-8.)

\***Not a Day Goes By** by E. Lynn Harris Here's a wicked little love story from a talented Black phenomenon who started, five novels and nearly a decade ago, by self-publishing his writing and handselling it in (among other venues) Atlanta hair salons; now there are more than a million copies of his books in print. The story here is about an ex-football player turned powerful sports agent whose history with women and a few men complicates his wedding plans with an up-and-coming femme-fatale Broadway star. \$28.95 cl, 0-385-49824-1, Doubleday.

**Abide with Me** by E. Lynn Harris Paper edition of Harris' fourth list-topping romance (\$13 pb, 0-385-48658-8, Doubleday), itself the conclusion to the trilogy that started with **Invisible Life** (\$12.95 pb, -46468-3) and continued with **Just As I Am** (\$12.95 pb, -46970-5), centered on the coming-of-age of his beloved characters Nicole and Raymond. (Harris's fifth title is **And This Too Shall Pass**, \$12 pb, -48031-8.)

**Turtle, Swan & Bethlehem in Broad Daylight** by Mark Doty Two earlier collections, long out of print, are reissued in one volume; these were the pre-*My Alexandria* poems which brought Doty acclaim as an eminent post-Stonewall voice. \$14.95 pb, 0-252-06842-4, University of Illinois.

\***The Density of Souls** by Christopher Rice Yes, that last name's familiar; he's Anne's son. But there's more than provenance at work in this tight tale of murder, suicide, and betrayal ensnaring the lives of four New Orleans high school friends. Rice fans are sure to buy the book, but it should find its own audience too. \$23.95 cl, 0-7868-6646-2, TalkMiramax, August.

**\*\*Ceremonies** by Essex Hemphill A landmark collection from one of the most eloquent voices of Black gay life, a voice silenced by death in 1996. \$14.95 pb, 1-57344-101-5, Cleis.

\***I Married an Earthling** by Alvin Orloff Trufans (that's SF-speak for hardcore science fiction readers) may bristle at this campy parody of the genre; but shelve this hilarious take on intergalactic visitations with the Melissa Scotts and Frank Robinsons and David Gerrolds and Susan Matthews anyway. It's about what happens when an Earth Studies professor from the planet Zeeron, accompanied by Veeba 22, a chic hairdresser of the highest order, cross paths in San Francisco with Chester, a gay Goth Holden Caulfield with acne. \$13.95 pb, 0-916397-64-5, Manic D.

**Cottonmouth Kisses** by Clint Catalyst "Dark tales of twisted youth gone astray," promises the publisher of this edgy and ironic expose of the underside of gay relationships, backwater adolescence, and spiraling addiction. \$12.95 pb, 0-916397-65-3, Manic D.

**The Spell** by Allan Hollinghurst Paper edition of the 1999 bestseller about the interlocking lives and loves of four men in contemporary Britain. \$12.95 pb, 0-14-028637-3, Penguin.

\***In September the Light Changes** by Andrew Holleran Paper edition of Holleran's sublime short story collection, written over 20 years. \$12.95 pb, 0-452-28171-7, Penguin.

\***Cinnamon Gardens** by Shyam Selvadurai From the author of the Lambda Award-winning *Funny Boy*, here's an historical novel set in 1920s Ceylon, about prejudice and love, both straight and gay: "melodrama that doesn't ignore the mind." \$14 pb, 0-15-601328-2, Harcourt.

**One Dead Drag Queen: A Tom & Scott Carpenter Mystery** by Mark Richard Zubro The prolific two-series author (this one features an openly gay Major League baseball player and his union-activist teacher partner) turns here to health clinic bombings, which it turns out may have been meant to kill teacher Tom. \$22.95 cl, 0-312-20937-1, St. Martin's.

**Name Games: A Mark Manning Mystery** by Michael Craft Our hero has moved on from toiling for a daily paper to publishing and editing his own smalltown sheet, but his affinity for becoming entangled in murder hasn't diminished; here, the local sheriff, a closeted gay man, is suspected of the killing of the world's most renowned miniatures expert. \$23.95 cl, 0-312-24552-1, St. Martin's.

**The Limits of Justice: A Benjamin Justice Mystery** by John Morgan Wilson Another journalist/sleuth here, as Wilson's increasingly complex character wakes up from a six-month tequila stupor to find himself solving the creepy killing of a woman who had just hired him to write the story of her closeted film-star father's life. \$22.95 cl, 0-385-49117-4, Doubleday.

**Justice at Risk** by John Morgan Wilson Mass market edition of the third book in the Benjamin Justice series; the setting here is the world of documentary TV. \$6.50 pb, 0-553-57860-X, Bantam. (And for stores new to the series, which is in the tradition of Joseph Hansen's Brandstetter books, try **Revision of Justice**, \$5.99, -57533-3; and **Simple Justice**, \$5.99, -57532-5.)

**Fadeout** by Joseph Hansen Speaking of the master: here's a reprint of the first of the twelve Dave Brandstetter, insurance investigator novels, a series which started in the 1970s and spanned 20 years; kudos to Alyson for making them available to new generations of readers. \$11.95 pb, 1-55583-552-X, Alyson.

**Nothing Gold Can Stay** by Casey Nelson An American dance student in England falls for fellow student Eduardo, and life is bliss...until the handsome Argentinian youth is implicated in a series of savage, sadistic murders, and Ray and his lover must stay a step ahead of Scotland Yard while searching for the killer through seedy gay pubs, the West End theatre world, and secret gay bathhouses. \$12.95 pb, 1-55583-492-2, Alyson.

\***The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told** by Paul Rudnick Text of Rudnick's racy and controversial queer take on *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, starting with Adam and Steve in the Garden of Eden; also includes the one-act *Mr. Charles, Currently of Palm Beach*. \$12.95 pb, 1-58567-052-9, Overlook.

**The Normal Heart & The Destiny of Me** by Larry Kramer With a foreword by Tony Kushner, this new edition brings together Kramer's classic AIDS plays. \$14 pb, 0-8021-3692-3, Grove Press.

**Faggots** by Larry Kramer It's the rare book that stays in print for decades, but that's the case with Kramer's "vicious Swiftian satire" about 1970s gay life; with a foreword by Reynolds Price for this new edition. \$14 pb, 0-8021-3691-5, Grove.

**Sarah** by JT Le Roy The narrator of this 20-year-old author's debut is an androgynous twelve-year-old who idolizes his mother, a truck-stop whore, and who sets out to explore the West Virginia wilds after adopting both her name and her sex; this is a remarkable, fantastical tale. \$19.95 cl, 1-58234-076-5, Bloomsbury.

\***Briefly Told Lives** by C. Bard Cole These short stories and potent vignettes are about gay life outside the ghetto, written by someone who has been a notable figure in underground publishing for nearly a decade. Some of the characters are: a paraplegic looking for community and love; a couple whose relationship is a volatile mix of love, sex, drugs, and disgust; and an Irish immigrant storing weapons being smuggled to the IRA. \$22.95 cl, 0-312-25351-6, St. Martin's.

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#### A Different Light Bookstore

As always, there are more new gay-themed books than you can count possible - and in two months, and these are just the good-to-good ones. As always, an asterisk or two (\*) is a sign of my great excitement.

#### Fact: Queerish Studies, Life Stories, The Arts

*Coming Out: A Handbook for Gay Men* by Orlando Orlando. Gay and lesbian men come out every day, and every year, so it makes perfect sense that a couple of new coming-out handbooks were the only ones of this practical, savvy guide to 21st-century gay life. This book wants to be a guide to the art, science, and romance. \$13.95 pb, 1-5583-514-1, Alyson.

*The Silence of Catholicism: Homosexuality in Modern Catholicism* by Mark D. Jordan. The book's question of how the Roman Catholic Church can be at once homophobic and homophobic is Jewish. Jordan is a writer that is both rigorously academic and, even for non-Catholics, easily readable. \$25 cl, 0-226-41041-2, University of Chicago.

*Queer Nations: Marginal Sexualities in the Margins* by Jared Kaplan. The book's question is simple here, but this is possibly the first book to explore (through an analysis of novels by Moroccan, Nigerian, and Nigerian writers) how men who do not conform to traditional sexual norms are part of the region's cultural and political life. \$19.95 pb, 0-226-32106-1, University of Chicago.

*The American Boy: Homosexuality and the Fall of The House of Kink* by John W.M. Hallock. A direct relative of the 19th-century post known as "The American Boy" takes the story of a man whose wife was infested with homosexual thoughts, even as it enjoyed a large general readership, as a history revealed as it is a life revealed. \$19.95 pb, 0-299-16894-2, University of Wisconsin.

\**The Fruit Machine: Twenty Years of Writings on Queer Cinema* by Thomas Deitch. Essays, reviews, interviews and journalism from the field's most knowledgeable observer of gay and lesbian cinema, from the erotic avant-garde to the guilty pleasures of *Pink Flamingos*. \$17.95 pb, 0-8223-2435-6, Duke University.

*Flaming Classics: Queering the Film Canon* by Alexander Dow. Combining a fan's love of movies with a scholar's love of ideas, this study offers queer readings of six film classics, including *The Wizard of Oz* (lesbian fantasy), *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (gay nightmare), and *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (sexual comedy). \$14.95 pb, 0-415-92345-X, Routledge.

*Open Secrets: Gay Hollywood 1938-2000* by David Gaeremont. Paper edition of a bestselling social history-slash-expose based (not tabloid) on the lives of some of the show-biz's 50 greatest stars and entertainers; the author has updated the hardcover of 18 months ago with a new epilogue. \$13.95 pb, 0-885-11835-6, National.

*Alternate Channels: The Unrecovered Story of Gay & Lesbian Artists as Models & Television* by Steven Caputo. Like Vito Russo's classic *The Celluloid Closet*, this engaging work traces the careers and explores both the subtextual and the more overt elements of on-air homo-sex. \$18 pb, 0-842-31243-5, Dutton.

\**Love is a Different Climate: Men Who Have Sex With Men in India* by Jeremy Sandbrook. Paper edition of a primary text about homosexuality in India; the stories he tells are charming and intimate, occasionally explicit. \$ 9 pb, 1-88864-168-6, Verso, August.

*Virtual Vices: Homosexuality and the Public Sphere* by Paul M. Taylor. The conflict between neo-radical queers and

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(Volume 23 Number 1 Post #21)

Gay Literature  
 (Part Two: Fact, Editions, and More)

by Richard Labonté  
 A Different Light Bookstores

As always, there are more new gay-themed books than anyone could possibly read in two months and these are just the great-to-good ones. As always, an asterisk or two (\*) is a sign of my great enthusiasm.

**Fact: Queerish Studies, Life Stories, The Arts**

**Coming Out: A Handbook for Gay Men** by Orland Outland Gay men come out every year (and every day of every year), so it makes perfect sense that a couple of new coming out books come, well, out every year; the most recent is this practical, savvy guide to 21st century gay life. This book wants to be a good friend to new queers, and succeeds. \$13.95 pb, 1-55583-514-7, Alyson.

**The Silence of Sodom: Homosexuality in Modern Catholicism** by Mark D. Jordan The basic question of how the Roman Catholic Church can be at once homophobic and homoerotic is Jordan's focus in a study that is both rigorously academic and, even for non-Catholics, easily readable. \$25 cl, 0-226-41041-2, University of Chicago.

**Queer Nations: Marginal Sexualities in the Maghreb** by Jarrod Hayes The LitCrit is a bit dense here, but this is possibly the first book to explore (through an analysis of novels by Moroccan, Tunisian, and Algerian writers) how men who do not conform to traditional sexual norms are part of the region's cultural and political fabric. \$20 pb, 0-226-32106-1, University of Chicago.

**The American Byron: Homosexuality and the Fall of Fitz-Greene Halleck** by John W.M. Hallock A distant relative of the 19th-century poet known as "the American Byron" takes the measure of an artist whose verse was infused with homosexual themes, even as it enjoyed a large general readership; it's as much history revealed as it is a life unveiled. \$19.95 pb, 0-299-16804-2, University of Wisconsin.

\***The Fruit Machine: Twenty Years of Writings on Queer Cinema** by Thomas Waugh Essays, reviews, interviews and journalism from the field's most knowledgeable observer of gay-male-interest cinema, from the erotic avant-garde to the guilty pleasures of *Porky's*. \$17.95 pb, 0-8223-2433-4, Duke University.

**Flaming Classics: Queering the Film Canon** by Alexander Doty Combining a fan's love of movies with a scholar's love of ideas, this study offers queer readings of six film classics, including *The Wizard of Oz* (lesbian fantasy), *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (gay nightmare), and *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (bisexual erotics). \$18.95 pb, 0-415-92345-X, Routledge.

**Open Secret: Gay Hollywood 1928-2000** by David Ehrenstein Paper edition of a bestselling social history-slash-exposé based (not salaciously) on the lives of some of the silver screen's foremost gays and lesbians; the author has updated the hardcover of 18 months ago with a new epilogue. \$15 pb, 0-688-17585-6, Perennial.

**Alternate Channels: The Uncensored Story of Gay & Lesbian Images on Radio & Television** by Steven Capsuto Like Vito Russo's classic *The Celluloid Closet*, this engaging seven-decade survey unearths and explores both the subtextual and the more overt elements of on-air homo-ness. \$18 pb, 0-345-41243-5, Ballantine.

\***Love in a Different Climate: Men Who Have Sex With Men In India** by Jeremy Seabrook Paper edition of a primary title about homosexuality in India; the stories he tells are charming and instructive, occasionally explicit. \$19 pb, 1-85984-168-6, Verso, August.

**Virtuous Vice: Homoeroticism and the Public Sphere** by Eric O. Clarke The conflict between sex-radical queers and

morally righteous gays has led to an increasing political, social, and cultural community polarization, argues Clarke in this ambitious, sharp analysis of contemporary "gay citizenship." \$17.95 pb, 0-8223-2477-6, Duke University.

**Queering the Color Line: Race and the Invention of Homosexuality in American Culture** by Siobhan B. Somerville Analyzing a range of texts, including sexology texts, early cinema, and African American literature, Somerville critiques tendencies to treat race and sexuality as unrelated. \$17.95 pb, 0-8223-2443-1, Duke University.

**\*Men Like Us: The GMHC Complete Guide to Gay Men's Sexual, Physical, and Emotional Well-Being** by Daniel Wolfe Encyclopedic in scope, written with style, this is the gay male equivalent (at last) to the classic *Our Bodies, Ourselves* for women. \$24 cl, 0-345-41495-0, Ballantine.

**Public Sex in a Latin Society** by Jacobo Schifter A first in its examination of the lives of Latin American men for whom seeking sex in public spaces is a cultural necessity as well as a sexual desire. \$19.95 pb, 1-56023-986-7, Harrington Park.

**The Bear Handbook: A Comprehensive Guide For Those Who Are Husky, Hairy & Homosexual** by Ray Kampf More fun than scholarly, this compendium of bear facts and fancies; included are such sections as "what should be in your closet" and "where the Bear Bars are," and chapters on Bearobics, "the fur-nacular and vo-cub-ulary list" and "bears and les-bruins." \$14.95 pb, 1-56023-997-2, Harrington Park.

**Out of the Twilight: Fathers of Gay Men Speak** edited by Andrew Gottlieb In moving firsthand accounts, dads discuss dealing with their sons' coming out, and how it affected their emotional, physical, and family relationships with those sons. \$19.95 pb, 1-56023-951-4, Harrington Park Press.

**Gay Planet: All Things for All Gay Men** by Eric Chaline On the serious side, this is a snappy history of the gay movement, a quick study of such topics as health, media, and politics around the world; it's also playful in its explorations of such queer meccas as Sydney and Montreal, Fire Island and Mykonos; and it's filled with photos of men being gay around the globe. It's a June release just the perfect Pride gift. \$24.95 cl, 0-312-25322-2, St. Martin's.

**Out on Holy Ground: Meditations on Gay Men's Spirituality** by Donald I. Boisvert The question: is gay spirituality a genuine type of religious expression or another example of identity politics? The answer, according to religious scholar Boisvert: it's a serious cultural expression. \$19.95 cl, 0-8298-1369-1, The Pilgrim Press.

**Liberace: An American Boy** by Darden Asbury Pyron It's mostly forgotten now, but at one time, five and six decades ago and more, the flamboyant pianist was far and away one of the most popular entertainers in America; this academic (as opposed to popular) bio reveals Liberace as a complicated man whose political, social, and religious conservatism were deeply at odds with his veiled queer life. \$27.50 cl, 0-226-68667-1, University of Chicago.

**Street Zen: The Life and Work of Issan Dorsey** by David Schneider Second edition of the life and death of a drag queen, junkie, alcoholic, commune leader, and, finally, revered Buddhist teacher and abbot of San Francisco's Hartford Street Zen Center, where he founded an AIDS Hospice. \$13.95 pb, 1-56924-637-8, Marlowe & Company.

**The Kid: What Happened When My Boyfriend and I Decided to Go Get Pregnant** by Dan Savage Paper edition of the sex-advice columnist's comic yet instructive account of his experience with gay parenting. \$12.95 pb, 0-452-28176-8, Plume.

**\*The Velveteen Father: An Unexpected Journey to Parenthood** by Jesse Green Paper edition of a ruminative, highly personal, and exquisitely written memoir about a gay man who finds himself, at 37, in love with a man who's just adopted a baby boy. \$14 pb, 0-345-43709-8, Ballantine.

**The Elusive Embrace: Desire & The Riddle of Identity** by Daniel Mendelsohn Paper edition of a book which artfully mixes memoir and philosophy, smart writing about the meaning of *gay*, the strength of memory, and the fulfilment of fatherhood. \$12 pb, 0-375-70697-6, Vintage.

**\*Trailblazing: The True Story of America's First Openly Gay Track Coach** by Eric Anderson An inspiring account of what happened, good and ill, when in 1993 the author came out to his track team. His runners were taunted, threatened, and even assaulted, called members of "the fag team"...but they continued to run, to win, and to support their coach, sticking by him in defiance of sports-world homophobia. Today the author coaches at Saddleback College. \$13.95 pb, 1-55583-524-4, Alyson.

**What's Not to Love? The Adventures of a Mildly Perverted Young Writer** by Jonathon Ames Part memoir, part social commentary, totally hilarious: these essays explore life in the gritty big city, his quest to become a model for the Hair Club



for Men, his nights of gender-bending clubbing, his anxiety over a seriously delayed puberty. \$23 cl, 0-609-60514-3, Crown.

**Lost Years: A Memoir 1945-1951** by Christopher Isherwood This isn't volume two of the late great author's monumental diaries (volume one of which covers 1939 to 1960), alas, but rather his reconstructed account of his romantic, artistic, and sexual adventures during several "lost years" when his life was consumed by frantic socializing and increasing dissipation. \$24 cl, 0-06-118001-7, HarperCollins.

**Bosie: A Life of Alfred Douglas** by Douglas Murray Here's the story of what happened to the man remembered as the young love of Oscar Wilde after Wilde's death, based on unprecedented access to diaries, letters, and key literary manuscripts; the result is a marvelous literary detective story. \$30 cl, 0-7868-6653-5, TalkMiramax.

### Quite an Earful

**Tales of the City Boxed Set**, written and read by Armistead Maupin All six books of the seriously funny 20-year saga of San Francisco gay life are available for the first time together, an 18-hour, twelve-tape celebration of life along Barbary Lane, with a new audio introduction by Maupin. Quite a treat. \$44.95, 0-694-52323-2, Harper Audio.

### Books in Uniform (editions)

New editions of some in-print books and new printings of some out-of-print work by three cornerstone gay-interest authors are appearing this Spring and Summer. Among them:

James Baldwin Five of the author's books come from Delta, a trade paper imprint of Dell Books: **Just Above My Head**, the story of a gospel singer in racist America (\$12.95 pb, 0-385-33456-7); **If Beale Street Could Talk**, about the sustaining love of a Black family (\$11.95 pb, -33459-1); **Giovanni's Room**, the gay-themed classic and among our most cherished novels (\$11.95 pb, -33458-3); **The Devil Finds Work**, a look at racism in cinema (\$11.95 pb, -33460-5); and **Go Tell It on the Mountain**, Baldwin's American-classic debut contrasting two Black generations and their worlds (\$11.95 pb, -33457-5).

Gore Vidal For the first time, all six of Vidal's American Chronicle novels are available from Vintage/Random House, nearly 3,000 pages of panoramic prose spanning the centuries from the American Revolution to the Second World War: **Burr** (\$15 pb, 0-375-70873-1), **Lincoln** (\$16 pb, -70876-6), **1876** (\$15, -70872-3), **Empire** (\$16 pb, -70874-X), **Hollywood** (\$15, -70875-8), and **Washington DC** (\$15, -70877-4). There's no more fascinating a history of the United States.

Matthew Stadler Two of this highly praised writer's backlist titles are reissued by Grove Press, joining the paper edition of his most recent novel, **Allan Stein**. (\$12 pb, 0-8021-3662-1.) They are **The Dissolution of Nicholas Dee**, about an earnest young historian adrift in a city of high culture and crime (\$12 pb, -3696-6), and **The Sex Offender**, the chronicle of the rehabilitation of a teacher who has had a love affair with a twelve-year-old (\$12 pb, -3695-8).

Reinaldo Arenas: From Penguin, new editions of the Cuban storyteller's first two novels in his five-book "Pentagonia" series, plus his posthumous last volume (not of the series), **The Color of Summer**, due in July. (\$28.95 cl, 0-670-84065-3.) The first in the series is also due in July, **Singing from the Well** (\$12.95 pb, 0-14-009444-X), as is the second, **The Palace of the White Skunks** (\$13.95 pb, -009792-9). The third and fifth (chronologically speaking) are now in print: **Farewell to the Sea** (\$11.95 pb, -006636-5) and **The Assault** (\$11.95 pb, -015718-2); so is his moving memoir, **Before Night Falls** (\$11.95 pb, -015765-4).

### Wee Ooops

Anyone looking for the novel *Honor the Dead* by Steven Saylor, touted in the last online and offline editions of *FBN*, should instead order **A Twist at the End**: same author, same story, new post-catalogue-printing title. \$24 cl, 0-684-85681-6, Simon & Schuster.

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Volume 23 Number 1 Fall 2002

University Press

By Mey Miller

Well, I've put off writing this column as long as possible, hoping that if I just it off, FBN as we know it won't ever end. I know that's a foolish fantasy. So, it's with great pain and reluctance and little joy that I write it. I want to thank Carol for being a wonderful editor, a true colleague both for FBN and the Feminist Bookstores Network (as well as all our other business ventures with each other), and a loving friend. I also want to thank all the managing editors, especially Jean and Teri Mae, who have been patient with my "laziness" and supportive of my efforts. And I want to thank you, readers, who I know have depended on FBN to assist you with your fabulous work in make your bookstores and publishing companies the best supports for independent thought and feminist book-selling. I will miss truly miss doing this column.

Many books have arrived in the past months and there are far too many to cover. So I've selected the ones not previously reviewed that I think offer the most unique or useful perspectives for the months to come. Enjoy.

If a title is unrated, it means that I haven't seen the book in order to make an evaluation.

- 1 star = suited for general audience or intro courses
- 2 stars = general audience but getting more difficult
- 3 stars = getting ready for your doctorate
- 4 stars = only people highly interested or involved = this field we likely to invest in this one

Columbia University Press

*Mother's and Daughters in the Twentieth Century: A Literary Anthology* edited by Heather Higman provides accounts and insights into the fascinations and frustrations of mother-daughter relationships. Dealing with a wide range of women writers, Higman reveals how, as daughters and mothers of daughters, women have started to write about their experiences. Contributors include Margaret Atwood, Winifred Holtby, Storm Jameson, Toni Morrison, Sylvia Plath, Amy Tan, Virginia Woolf, and others. Published by Edinburgh University Press. \$19.95 pb, 0-7486-1175-4.\*

Cornell University Press

*Line Drawings: Defining Women through Feminist Practice* by Glenda J. Hayes explores the intractable issue at the center of much feminist theory, eschewance. In this work she tries to move beyond the trap of essentialism to assist feminist activism and research in a more productive path of cross-disciplinary feminist theory. \$17.95 pb, 0-8014-8669-6; \$35.95 cl, -3634-2.\*

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(Volume 23 Number 1 Post #22)

University Presses

By Mev Miller

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### Indiana University Press

Once hailed as the most influential Black woman in the U.S., Mary McLeod and her contributions have received little scholarly attention in the histories of the period. **Mary McLeod Bethune: Building a Better World** edited by Audrey Thomas McCluskey and Elaine M. Smith collects letters, documents, and other writings to examine the complex career of this Black leader and demonstrate her role as stateswoman, politician, educational leader, and visionary. I hope it becomes available in paper, making it more accessible, and therefore indispensable. \$39.95 cl, 0-253-33626-0.\*

### Johns Hopkins University Press

**The Only Menopause Guide You'll Need** by Michele Moore is written for women who are making decisions about treatment for the symptoms of menopause. It includes allopathic, herbal, and homeopathic treatments and encourages readers to be proactive in their decision-making. \$13.95 pb, 0-8018-6408-9.

### Modern Language Association (MLA)

**Power, Race, and Gender in Academe: Strangers in the Tower?** edited by Shirley Geok-lin Lim and María Herrera-Sobek revisits the positions of underrepresented groups (women, people of color, lesbians and gays) in higher education. Eleven essays describe individual African American, Chicano/a, Native American, Asian American, gay/lesbian, and white female experiences in academe. They represent a wide variety of fields and career paths and explore topics such as marginalization, alienation, and persistent discrimination; obstacles and strategies for overcoming obstacles; and implications of gender, sexuality, race, and power in the classroom. This interesting and very readable collection includes important writing by some new voices in academe (which means you may not be familiar with the contributors but don't overlook it). \$18 pb, 0-87352-270-2; \$37.50 cl, -269-9. \*

### NYU Press

Perhaps one of the most important books from university presses this year, **Radical Feminism: A Documentary Reader** edited by Barbara Crow caught my interest for several reasons. First of all, there's not much these days that puts radical feminism in the title already worth several points. It also has important herstorical value because it contains in one volume manifestoes and articles on strategies (such as consciousness raising) from the early stages of second wave radical feminism. Additionally, it contains sections on "sites of contestation" such as class, race, lesbianism, children, and heterosexuality. Many favorite and famous contributors are held together in one volume. I don't usually include words from the presses in these reviews, but I do want to share this that came from Niko Pfund, the editor at NYU. "Barbara and the folks here at the press labored over this anthology for several years, adding and pruning, chasing down permissions and distilling longer pieces to shorter excerpts, massaging and editing, and we are enormously pleased to have just published the work, which spans some 67 historical documents and almost 600 pages in an oversized edition. The costs of the book were enormous, but the editorial value is such that we at one point did something we almost never do: we jettisoned the formal budget and just said to ourselves, 'this is too important, let's get it right, costs be damned.'" I couldn't agree more and for the size of the volume, the retail price to customers is very reasonable. Set this volume beside *Radically Speaking* from Spinifex Press, and you'll have an impressive collection of radical feminist thought. \$23.95 pb, 0-8147-1555-9.\*\*

Hair how we style it, cut it, or otherwise treat it serves as a badge carrying important political, cultural, and social meanings. **Hair Matters: Beauty, Power, and Black Consciousness** by Ingrid Banks recognizes this power and shows that hair is one of the most, if not *the* most significant topics of discussion among Blacks, particularly women. \$17.50 pb, 0-8147-1337-8; \$55 cl, -1336-X.

### Rowman & Littlefield

**Talking Feminist Politics: Conversation on Law, Science, and the Postmodern** by Eloise Buker is unique in that it moves away from rhetoric, literary criticism, and history to make sense of feminist politics. Buker uses feminist legal conversations to refine understanding of justice, feminist science to examine the connections between truth and politics, and postmodern feminism to analyze the habits, symbols, and speech that frame ethical codes, which in turn shape political relationships. All this to build better polity for the future. \$24.95 pb, 0-8476-9617-0; \$60 cl, -9616-2. Available through National Book Network.\*\*\*

### Rutgers University Press

Stores located in communities with large numbers of South Asian immigrants or with well-developed section in domestic violence will want to be sure and get **Speaking the Unspeakable: Marital Violence Among South Asian Immigrants in the United States** by Margaret Abraham. This important book gives voice to abused South Asian women and reveals their weaknesses and strengths. Abraham explains how immigration status, cultural assumptions, and unfamiliarity with American social, legal, economic, and other institutions coupled with stereotyping from mainstream media makes South Asian immigrant women especially vulnerable to abuse. She places life experiences in context of larger social forces and offers strategies of resistance. \$22 pb, 0-8135-2793-7; \$52 cl, -2792-9.

### State University of New York (SUNY)

**Principles of Power: Women Superintendents and the Riddle of the Heart** by C. Cryss Brunner shares perspectives from twelve successful women superintendents and puts them in a cultural context that highlights what they can teach educators about their methods for success. \$18.95 pb, 0-7914-4570-4.

### Temple University Press

Looking for a contemporary "who's who" of women in science and engineering? **Journeys of Women in Science and Engineering: No Universal Constants** edited by Susan Ambrose, Kristin Dunkle, Barbara Lazarus, Indira Nair, and Deborah Harkus (reviewed in the January/February 1998 *FBN*) is now available in paperback. \$27.95, 1-56639-528-3. \*

### University of California Press

In **Feminism on the Border: Chicana Gender Politics and Literature**, Sonia Saldívar-Hull grounds her work in the writing of Gloria Anzaldúa, Sandra Cisneros, and Helena María Viramontes to examine a range of Chicana feminist writing from several disciplines. By comparing and defining literacy and national borders, she presents Chicana voices in order to show their connections to feminist literature and women of color in the U.S. and to finally argue for a feminism that transcends national borders and ethnic identities. \$16.95 pb, 0-520-20733-5; \$45 cl, -20732-7.\*\*

Fans of the work done of militarization and gender done by Cynthia Enloe will be glad to know there's now a fourth book of her theory. **Maneuvers: The International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives** outlines the dilemmas feminists around the world face in trying to craft theories and strategies that support militarized women, locally and internationally, without unwittingly being militarized themselves. She explores the complicated militarized experiences of women as prostitutes, as rape victims, as wives, as nurses, and as feminist activists and the uncovers the "maneuver" that military

officials and their civilian supporters have made in order to ensure that each of these groups of women feel special and separate. \$17.95 pb, 0-520-22071-4; \$45 cl, -22070-6.

**Venus on Wheels: Two Decades of Dialogue on Disability, Biography, and Being Female in America** by Geyla Frank records the friendship between Frank and Diane DeVries, a feminist, scholar, and disability rights activist who was born without arms and legs. \$19.95 pb, 0-520-21716-0.

#### University of Chicago Press

Edited by Sally Gregory Kohlstedt, **The History of Women in the Sciences: Reading from Isis** features some of the most influential and pioneering studies of women in the sciences, with a special focus on patterns of education, access, barriers, and opportunities for women's work in science. Spanning the 17th through the 20th centuries, this book demonstrated the meaning and power of gender experienced by women in the sciences. Some of the contributors include Carolyn Merchant, Margaret Rossiter, and Londa Schiebinger. \$20 pb, 0-226-45070-8; \$45 cl, -45069-1. \*\*

#### University of Illinois Press

For those who would like to add to their growing section of books on transpeople, you will want to be sure and add **Transmen & FTMs: Identities, Bodies, Genders, & Sexualities** by Jason Cromwell. Writing as an insider, Cromwell presents the first in-depth examination of what it means to be a female-bodied transperson. Through participant observation and interviews, this work allows female-to-male transsexuals to speak for themselves and reveals aspects of female gender diversity that do not fit into ready-made categories of male and female. \$19.95 pb, 0-252-06825-4.\*\*

#### University of Minnesota Press

**In Screen Style: Fashion and Femininity in 1930s Hollywood** author Sarah Berry discusses how Greta Garbo, Joan Crawford, Marlene Dietrich, and other female film stars were models of self-determination for women in America in the rapidly changing 1930s. \$25.95 cl, 0-8166-3312-6.

*Suzanne Corson*

#### University of Nebraska

Not many books are written about American Indian women involved in political systems, especially in the U.S., which makes **LaDonna Harris: A Comanche Life** by LaDonna Harris and edited by H. Henrietta Stockel an important book. LaDonna Harris served on the National Indian Opportunities Council as President Lyndon Johnson's appointee and in 1980 became the vice-presidential nominee for the environmentalist Citizen's Party. Currently Harris serves as the president of Americas for Indian Opportunity. \$25 cl, 0-8032-2396-X. \*

#### University of Pennsylvania Press

**Rape on Prime Time: Television, Masculinity, and Sexual Violence** by Lisa M. Cuklanz is the first book to examine the changing depictions of rape on television and provides important insight into the construction of rape in mainstream mass media since the 70s. \$17.50 pb, 0-8122-1710-1; \$45 cl, -3522-3. \*\*

#### University Press of Kansas

**In Invisible Privilege**, Paula Rothenberg presents a forthright examination of her own life in search of

ways that she experienced privilege based upon her race, class, and gender when raised in an upper-middle class, Jewish family. This memoir recounts her life as well as her position as a prominent educator. Her anthology, *Race, Class, and Gender in the United States*, now in its fourth edition, brought her to the center of debates on political correctness in the classroom. It is a good contribution to the recent burgeoning field of writings on whiteness. \$29.95 cl, 0-7006-1004-9. \*\*

A Knowledge To... <mailto:carol@dnai.com>

Volume 23 Number 1 Post #151

Home News

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*Amal/Amassing*. Amal means mother or women in Shona, the language of Zimbabwe. This Afro-feminist chorus is dedicated to performing material that celebrates all forms of women's devotion to women, including love songs, songs whose lyrics personify natural phenomena as women, songs about children and mothers mourning the loss of one mother, and songs that are prayers to the Mother Country. On their newest release, 40+ cappella women's voices sing music from 13 cultures in nine languages, including the title track and 23 others, from Yiddish Shaver, African, Russian, Scandinavian, Cuban, Ojibwa, and many other traditions. Amassing 9912.

*Simply Love: The Women's Music Collection/Holly Near*. This two-CD compilation of songs celebrating women's music is a cause for celebration itself. In addition to all the songs from *Simple: My Journey*, it contains some remarkable collaborations, such as the Holly/Rhianassa duet of "Waterfall" recorded at the Women's Music Festival and "Singing with You" with Roscoe Gilbert. There are also new recordings of "Women's Music classes" like Heather's "The Women in Your Life," Maggie Adam's "Teacher Lady," a new version of "My Last Prayer," and many more. With its portable booklet, this new release is a testament to 25 years of cultural honesty. *Golden Traces* 0003.

*Sign of Truth/Tab Hunter*. This May 2000 release is quintessential Tab: a fine fusion of dramatic style, when identifiable components come together to form something indescribable and fresh. Forty covers, eight recordings, a message alongside every sheet given, while her thundering lyrics unravel tales of discovery and redemption. Manufactured and multi-layered, her discant, resonating here in warm, rich, and bracing. *Rounder* 7533.

*All Hands on the Deck/Cassidy-Kinsey*. On their latest release, this band moves away from the introspection of their previous release, *The New Rock*, and returns to "the rock" with a jubilant, playful attitude that reveals just how much fun they're having. Cassidy Tucker and Carrie Brownstein continue to excel with their great interplay, but the new development is drummer Janet Wang on vocals, which brings radical change to the band and even more interesting intertwining melodies. It's probably their most positive, upbeat, fun, crowd-pleasing, and accessible work to date, and set to bring increased sales of this genre among younger feminist customers. *Red Bull* 560.

*My Feet Are Showing/Natalie McMaster*. Following her second foray into the pop realm, she once proudly returns to exploring traditional Cape Breton music on her new release. It features plenty of lively jig, strathspeys, and reels, but is nicely balanced by the inclusion of two beautiful slow sets. So-far tunes date from the early 19th century, but she couples each tune into them they still sound fresh and vital. *Rounder* 7603.

*Melphian/Kate Rusby*. "Kate Rusby is personifying... She has to be heard." This rave from the *West Coast Journal* (12) is just one of the many points she has been showered on the extraordinary young artist. Her much-anticipated 1999 follow-up album is another wonderful collection of traditional Celtic folk songs, carefully arranged and sung in Rusby's accessible style. Her unassuming approach to each tune is obviously breathtaking, combining original tunes with traditional ones, the artists classic folk songs of her own. *Compass* 4377.

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(Volume 23 Number 1 Post #23)

## Music News

By Cara Valenti, Ladyslipper Music

**The Moves/The Moves.** Pop and punk have never sounded so good together! The year 2000 introduces us to The Moves, three women based in Northampton, MA. Having heard them for the first time on **The New Women's Music Sampler** with their impressive song "Creatures," we're excited to see their debut full-length release: an enjoyable collection of 14 pop/punk melodies that gracefully drift into intense monster ballads. Mr. Lady 10.

**Kate Wolf Anthology and Weaver of Visions/Kate Wolf.** This track-packed, 2.5-hour, two-CD set threads together 35 of the artist's best-known studio and live performances, recorded between 1975 and 1986. Along with her collaborators, fans, friends, and family, Kate chose the songs for a 1986 retrospective. It includes two previously unreleased tracks, live versions of five classics from her 1985 Austin City Limits appearance, and other timeless and enduring songs. It's the definitive tribute to a great artist. Rhino 75596.

**Amai/Amasong.** Amai means *mother* or *woman* in Shona, the language of Zimbabwe. This lesbian/feminist chorus is dedicated to performing material that celebrates all forms of women's devotion to women, including love songs, songs whose lyrics personify natural phenomena as women, songs about children and mothers mourning the loss of one another, and songs that are prayers to the Mother Creatrix. On their newest release, 60 a cappella women's voices sing music from 13 cultures in nine languages, including the title track and 23 others, from Yiddish, Shaker, African, Russian, Scandinavian, Cajun, Gullah, and many other traditions. Amasong 9912.

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**Sign of Truth/Tish Hinojosa.** This May 2000 release is quintessential Tish: a true fusion of disparate styles, where identifiable components come together to form something indescribable and fresh. Feisty corrido-style accordion dances alongside twangy steel guitar, while her illuminating lyrics unravel tales of discovery and redemption. Multicultural and multilayered, her distinct, intoxicating brew is warm, rich, and inviting. Rounder 7033.

**All Hands on the Bad One/Sleater-Kinney.** On their latest release, this band moves away from the introspection of their previous release, *The Hot Rock*, and returns to "the rock" with a jubilant, playful attitude that reveals just how much fun they've been having. Corin Tucker and Carrie Brownstein continue as usual with their vocal interplay, but the new development is drummer Janet Weiss on vocals, which means radical three-part harmonies and even more interesting interweaving melodies. It's probably their most positive, upbeat, fun, casual, confident, and accessible work to date, and we're seeing increased sales of this genre among younger feminist customers. Kill Rock Stars 360.

**My Roots Are Showing/Natalie McMaster.** Following her recent foray into the pop sphere, the artist proudly returns to exploring traditional Cape Breton music on her new release. It features plenty of lively jigs, strathspeys, and reels, but is nicely balanced by the inclusion of two beautiful slow airs. Several tunes date from the early 20th century, but she breathes such life into them they still sound fresh and vital. Rounder 7033.

**Sleepless/Kate Rusby.** "Kate Rusby is mesmerizing.... She has to be heard." This rave from the *Wall Street Journal* (!?) is just one of the many praises that have been showered on this extraordinary young artist. Her much-anticipated 1999 follow-up album is another outstanding collection of traditional Celtic folk songs and originals arranged and sung in Rusby's inimitable style. Her unassuming approach to each tune is absolutely bewitching; combining original pieces with traditional ones, she creates classic folk songs of her own. Compass 4277.



**Invincible Summer**/k.d. lang. She's in love, so most of the songs on this June 2000 release are about...you guessed it. We haven't even heard it yet, but we managed to get a track listing, and here's what's on it: "Consequences of Falling," "Summerfling," "Love's Great Ocean," "When We Collide," "Curiosity," "Suddenly," "It's Happening with You," "What Better Said," "Only Love," and "Extraordinary Thing." You've gotta stock it. Warner Bros. 47605.

**Freedom**/Melissa Ferrick. Here's a powerful collection of seamless songs and fiery guitar, capturing Melissa's unbridled passion and ruthless honesty. This time, her music grows more electric and edgy than her past work. Delivered with inspiration and intimacy, it holds an air of newfound grace, her staccato voice soaring and her acoustic guitar ringing clear as each song tells a story of lust, love, loss, and liberation. What Are Records 60037.

**Getting in Touch with My Inner Bitch**/Christine Lavin. After you get past the absolutely priceless cover of this 2000 album, you'll be treated to a great collection of live performances by this smart and hilarious songwriter. As always, she mixes the serious and sweet with the outrageous and absurd and is at her comical best in front of a live audience. Most are new songs, but a few old ones are thrown in with a new twist, like "What Was I Thinking in 1999?" A must-have for Christine Lavin fans! Christine Lavin Music 2.

**Living in My Heart**/Randa McNamara. It's so exciting to hear a new artist who is truly a *singer*, with the soul-baring honesty that brings the heart out of every song she performs. After spending years in New York singing everywhere from cabarets to comedy clubs, this out-lesbian artist has relocated to our hometown of Durham, NC. She describes her hard-to-pigeonhole style as a "gospelish-countryish-soulful-bluesy-inspirational-kind-of-loud-alto mixture." Whatever it is, it's amazing, and her rich, emotive voice breathes life into this collection of songs from a variety of writers. Recommended! Cornerstone 9901.

**BanjoRAMA**/Woody Simmons. This revered and talented women's music old-timer is back! Her *very* long-awaited new release is a collection of banjo instrumentals recorded over a 22-year span, from 1977 to 1999. It includes favorites from her first two albums (*Oregon Mountains* and self-titled) as well as previously unreleased compositions with styles ranging from a meditative, east Indian influence to a fully orchestrated and introspective feel, to a light bluegrass touch. This special introductory edition is hand-duplicated by the artist. Deep River Records 1100.

**Fourteen Days**/Laura Love. No one can resist her invigorating, pan-stylistic *mélange*. Dousing her infectious compositions with shades of folk, funk, R&B, and world music, Laura creates music that's as much fun for the mind as it is for the feet. On this new release, she delivers more of her wistful, earthy fusion that has made her a festival favorite. It includes a great version of Laura Nyro's "Stone Soul Picnic." Zoë 1015.

**No Light in August**/Tami Hart. We're privileged to announce the debut album from our local musical prodigy, who has successfully made a name for herself with her catchy, raw, and powerful style. This CD features back-up vocals by Indigo Girls' Amy Ray, plus special appearances by members of The Butchies. Tami rocks out on this eclectic assortment of pouty ballads, emotional harmonies, and poppy rhythms. Mr. Lady 11.

**Punishing Kiss**/Ute Lemper. Bold, sexy, sensational Ute reinvents herself as the new alternative pop diva with this groundbreaking crossover record. It's her most ambitious project to date and features songs written specifically for her by alternative music renegades Nick Cave, Elvis Costello, Tom Waits, and more, including a powerful interpretation of Kurt Weill's "Tango Ballad." A major international ad campaign accompanies the release of this album. Decca 289466473.

**Distillation**/Erin McKeown. How do you think and dance all at once? With her new studio album, Erin answers the question with the *jouissance* of a femme confidant and a guitar style somewhere between Django and G. Love. Those in search of innovative songwriting, spectacular guitar playing, and singing plus a show tune or two will find it here. Get in on this now, so you can say you knew her when. Erin will be touring with The Neilds throughout the spring to promote this album. TVP Records 2509.

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October 28 Number 1 Post #24)

### ART BOOKS REVIEWED IN PART

#### The Feminist Art Books Bulletin

The A. Curran, long-time art books columnist for Feminist Bookstore News, announces the launch of Feminist Art Books Bulletin, a free, quarterly, electronically-distributed commentary on new, forthcoming, and selected books about women as artists, art historians, and art critics. A section will also deal with books about gay male art.

Feminist Art Books Bulletin will be issued four times a year in January, April, August, and October with an annual subscription rate of \$10.00. Look for issue # 1 in mid-August, 2000.

Send checks made out to FABB to:  
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(Volume 23 Number 2 Post #24)

ART BOOKS REVIEWED IN FABB

The Feminist Art Books Bulletin

Tee A. Corinne, long-time art books columnist for Feminist Bookstore New, announces the launch of Feminist Art Books Bulletin, a four-page, electronically-distributed commentary on new, forthcoming, and reprinted books about women as artists, art historians, and art critics. A section will also deal with books about gay male art.

Feminist Art Books Bulletin will be issued four times a year in January, April, August, and October with an annual subscription rate of \$10.00. Look for issue # 1 in mid-August, 2000.

Send checks made out to FABB to:  
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Subject: No Fall issue: No Fall Ads...  
Cc:  
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Attached:

*Letter to Advertisers*

Dear friends,

Last week, after our last attempt to sell FBN had fallen through, we made the difficult decision to stop publishing. Many of you will have received the last e-issue with the outline and details but the very short version includes the changing economic climate in San Francisco (read: with all the dot-coms moving in our rent quadrupled when our lease expired in April), the many changes in the book industry, and my own need, after two and a half decades, to earn a different kind of salary than I could make in a social-change oriented, movement publication.

So there will be no Fall issue of FBN this year. And, short of a minor miracle, no future issues of FBN at all.

I'd like to encourage you to turn your scheduled ads toward any of the following publications:

Sojourner (which runs an excellent women's book review section)  
42 Seavems Ave.  
Jamaica Plane MA 02130  
617-524-0415 (v)  
617-524-9397 (f)  
info@journer.org (email)  
[www.sojourner.org](http://www.sojourner.org)

Women's Review of Books  
Wellesley College  
Center for Research on Women  
Wellesley MA 02481  
781-283-2087  
[www.wellsley.edu/WomensReview](http://www.wellsley.edu/WomensReview)

The Lesbian Review of Books  
PO Box 515  
Hilo HI 96721  
808-969-9600 fax:-7773  
loralee@hawaii.edu

But, most of all, I want to thank you for your support for FBN over the years, and for your profound and important support of feminist publishing and ideas. It has made a world of difference.

With gratitude and sadness,

Carol Seajay