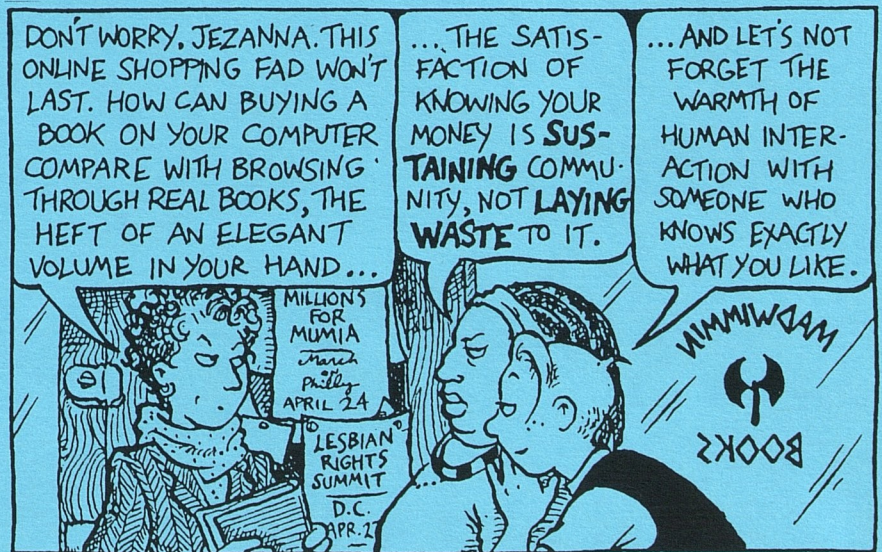


Feminist Bookstore News



Alison Bechdel

Am smile
May/June 1999

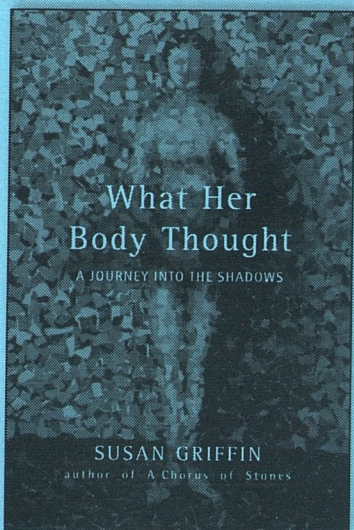
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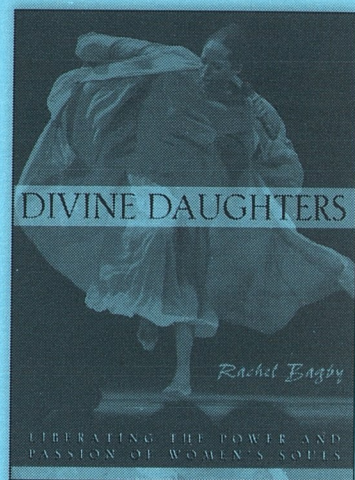


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— Terry Tempest Williams

As we go to press...

Amazon Bookstore Sues Amazon.com

Just as we go to press, an enormously significant lawsuit is underway.

Amazon Bookstore of Minneapolis has filed a suit against Amazon.com charging the cyberspace giant with knowingly infringing the Amazon trademark.

The Amazon Bookstore, a solid presence in Minnesota, nationwide, and internationally for almost 30 years, has watched as she lost sales to the corporate giant who took her name in 1995. Amazon's complaint, filed by Mathais W. Samuel of Fish & Richardson (the highly regarded trademark law firm), alleges, "The rapid growth and vast size of Amazon.com, along with its massive marketing expenditures, is overwhelming Amazon Bookstore and negating its attempts to alleviate the confusion and preserve its unique identity." Samuel explains that the result "is that Amazon Bookstore is losing the value of its trademark, its product and corporate identity, its ability to move into new markets, and control over the goodwill and reputation it has developed over the last 30 years."

The suit demonstrates that Amazon Bookstore has used the name "Amazon" as a trademark since 1970 and claims that Amazon.com infringes upon Amazon Bookstore's property rights in its trademark.

The confusion arising from Amazon.com's appropriation of the Amazon name has affected Amazon Bookstore negatively in several ways. Many who are familiar with Amazon-the-bookstore-in-Minnesota have thought that they were ordering from the women's bookstore when they ordered from Amazon.com. (Amazon Bookstore does also have a Web site: <www.amazonfembks.com>.) There is little Amazon Bookstore can do directly to rectify this cyber-error, and Amazon.com hasn't rushed to correct its customers. Also, as Amazon.com's stock got fat and

its national publicity and marketing campaign escalated, the sudden and near-universal association between "Amazon" and the Seattle warehouse bookseller hampered Amazon Bookstore in the ability to use her own name to expand her horizons.

Not that any of these allegations are new to you. But we are delighting in the fact that they will be heard in a court of law.

And the possible outcomes are endlessly entertaining.

Ultimately the suit seeks to prevent Amazon.com from further infringement of the Amazon trademark, and to cancel Amazon.com's federal trademark registrations using the word "Amazon."

Can you imagine what would happen to Amazon.com if it lost use of "Amazon?" All it's left with is "dot-com." And that ain't no address. What would it use instead? It couldn't use "BookSense.com" — that's taken. Maybe "Bezos.com." (That way it would at least be clear that it's a one-rich-guy kinda company.) It couldn't even do the Prince thing and call itself "the corporation formerly known as...."

And it'd have to spend a ja-zillion dollars all over again to re-brand itself. We all know that such a backslide this late in the online bookselling game would be devastating to poor little Bezos.com. (We can only hope that BookSense.com, et al., would jump in and grab the ball.) Could such a backslide even — gasp — cause stock to fall? The possibilities are dizzying.

We further hope that this case is high profile and wins Amazon Bookstore tons of delicious publicity. If the initial media flurry is any indication, it will.

In other legal news, Little Sister's (Vancouver) has taken another huge step in its case against Canadian Customs: after almost a decade of court

**What would
happen to
Amazon.com
if it lost
the use of
"Amazon?"**

battles, its case will be heard by the Canadian Supreme Court. (See News, page 9.)

We're preparing for BEA as we go to press. We have opted not to let BEA's month-early dates derange our production schedule. This means, however, that you won't get your BEA news until the July/August issue. Watch for big updates on Book Sense, deal-doing, schmoozing, and much more next issue.

In the lead article for May/June, Susan Frazier of Goldenrod Music takes a look at electronic music buying — the downloading of music over the Internet — a consumer practice whose popularity is growing exponentially. (See page 11.) While the practice is commonly employed by record companies at the moment (eliminating the distribution and store links in the chain of music sales), Musicland, superstore owner of 231 music stores country-wide, announced that it's jumping into the e-commerce fray and launching a Web site. Ostensibly, the site would be selling full-length CDs, but with downloading technology available, how long will it be before Musicland moves into that arena as well? Keeping in

the electronic mode, Carol Seajay provides a list of online resources for all those who want to be in the know about the book industry at the click of a mouse. (See page 13.) Finally, we're taking a look at the new Ms., face-lift, new mommies, and all. (See page 15.)

There is some sadness in this issue as well, as we chronicle the closure of Full Circle this winter and Sisterhood's search for a buyer this spring. But we also herald the entrance of some energetic young new women entrepreneurs opening feminist stores in such urban centers as New York City and Columbus, Ohio. (See page 19 and 41.)

So, you might wonder, after writing my very first "As We Go to Press," what do I want to do now?

Well, I'll tell you: I want to go to Disneyland. And darn it, I'm going. Oh, yeah, and I'm going to that big conference too....

I welcome any questions about Minnie Mouse, Space Mountain, and my very first trip to LA.

Cheers Ladies,
Teri Mae Rutledge

FBN DUE DATES

	Summer & Sidelines July - August	Fall Announcements Sept - Oct	Nov - Dec
Articles	May 7	July 2	September 3
Ad Reservations	May 14	July 9	September 10
Ad Mechanicals	May 21	July 16	September 17
News Column Items	May 21	July 16	September 17
Letters	May 26	July 21	September 22

FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS is the communications vehicle for the informal network of feminist bookstores. FBN reaches 500 feminist and feminist-inclined bookstores in the U.S. and Canada as well as feminist booksellers in England, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, India, Japan and Kenya. Librarians, Women's Studies teachers, book reviewers, publishers and feminist bibliophiles comprise the remainder of the subscribers. Signed articles and

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EDITOR & PUBLISHER Carol Seajay

ASSISTANT EDITOR Teri Mae Rutledge

ADVERT. & PRODUCTION Kathryn Werhane

CATALOG COORDINATOR Lisa McGowan

OFFICE MANAGER Kristin Redmon

COLUMNISTS

Art Books: Tee Corinne

Canadian Books: Jacqueline Dumas

Gay Men's Literature: Richard Labonté

Kids' Lit: Linda Bubon

Music: Susan Frazier & Barb Smalley

Mysteries: Nan Cinnater

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PROOFREADERS

Sarah Fallon, Sarah Holmes,

Kirsten Janene-Nelson, Charlotte Mautner,

Karen McKeivitt, Stephanie Provines,

Kristin Redmon, Dena Taylor, Jenn Tust

Julie Van Pelt, Susan Waller

COVER ART Alison Bechdel

HOW TO REACH US

TELEPHONE 415-642-9993

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U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Feminist Bookstore News

PO Box 882554

San Francisco CA 94188

DELIVERIES

2180 Bryant Street #207

San Francisco CA 94110

EMAIL

General Info: Kristin@FemBkNews.com

Editor & Publisher: Carol@FemBkNews.com

Assistant Editor: TeriMae@FemBkNews.com

Advertising: Kathryn@FemBkNews.com

Catalog: Lisa@FemBkNews.com

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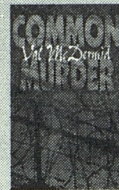
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death and all that comes in between—the healing power of forgiveness, the seemingly impossible task of loving, the resilience of family ties—and what happens when a tornado meets a double-wide trailer.

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News News News

B&N Indicted for 32 Counts of Child Porn

An Alabama grand jury has indicted Barnes and Noble on 32 counts of selling child pornography for selling copies of *The Age of Innocence* by David Hamilton and *Radiant Identities* by Jock Sturges. Hamilton is best known for his provocative soft-focus shots of adolescent girls, and Sturges is known for pictures of young children. Both photographers' books exist on the edge of some definitions of soft-core porn, both books are widely available in the U.S., and there is surely much more provocative imagery readily available for sale in Alabama — although not necessarily from a “respectable” national corporation that is boycottable.

The investigation was instigated over a year ago by complaints from “concerned citizens” that B&N was selling books containing pornographic pictures of children. Alabama State Attorney General William Pryor has stated, “We must protect children from those who would exploit their innocence for financial gain under the guise of so-called art.”

B&N has moved for dismissal on First Amendment grounds, and at least one Alabama paper has also called for dismissal, suggesting that the attorney general may have engaged in entrapment.

Penalties can be as high as \$10,000 per count, although it is extremely unlikely that a case of this nature would actually reach penalty stage. Most similar cases have been dismissed or are on appeal.

NEA Retracts Cinco Puntos Grant

The credibility of the NEA sank to a new low when NEA Chair William J. Ivey suddenly canceled half of a promised \$15,000 grant to Cinco Puntos Press. The

grant was to pay the printing bill for a bilingual children's book, *The Story of Colors*. The book is a children's fable as told by Subcomandante Marcos, leader of the Zapatista guerrilla movement in southern Mexico.

Ivey's decision to pull the grant overrides NEA's year-long decision-making process and came so late in the game that the books had already been printed and include acknowledgment of the grant.

Appalled booksellers have responded to the NEA decision by ordering extra copies of the book, which is distributed by Consortium, and promoting it heavily. Due to such support, the wealth of press coverage of the incident, and the outrage voiced by the ABA, the AAP, the National Writers Union, et al., Cinco Puntos has had to send the book back to press. The best revenge, of course, would be to sell enough copies of the book to make it profitable despite the loss of the printing grant.

Gilda Bruckman Wins Astraea Independent Spirit Award

Dorothy Allison, in conjunction with the Astraea Lesbian Writers Fund, announced that Gilda Bruckman (New Words, Cambridge) and David Wilk (LPC) will share the second annual \$5000 Independent Spirit Award.

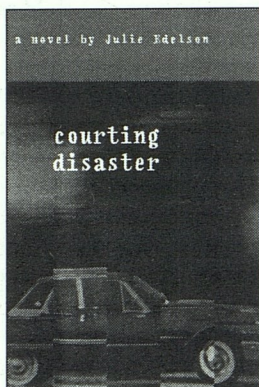
Bruckman, whose feminist bookstore celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, has earned the award by “having the foresight to make available books by women; by hosting hundreds of events that cross-pollinate authors and their audiences; by acting as a clearinghouse for a multiplicity of feminist and lesbian cultural and political events; by mentoring the reading tastes and real-world skills of thousands of staff and customers; by bringing the experience gained from operating a woman's bookstore into the larger



Spring Fiction by Women Writers

Courting Disaster

a novel by Julie Edelson



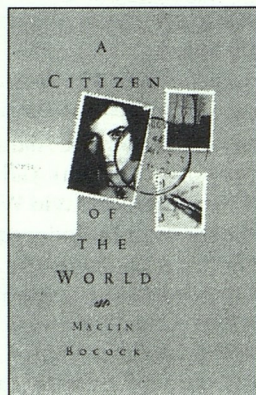
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**from the introduction
by Alice Hoffman**

Z

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independent bookstore world; and — last but not least — by setting the standard for elegant dressing while lifting boxes with the aplomb of a fifth-degree black belt in Akido," according to the award committee. Wilk, formerly of Inland distribution, is the first man to be recognized by the committee.

The award will be presented on May 23 in New York City. The inaugural award winners were Nancy Bereano of Firebrand Books and Carol Seajay of the *Feminist Bookstore News*. Allison said of the Independent Spirit Award, "My life as a writer has been made possible by the feminist and alternative presses and small bookstores.... At a time when the survival of the small independents is so uncertain, I want to do everything I can to make sure that these vital community institutions are there for other young writers. It is my hope that this award will not only recognize individual efforts, but help encourage the spirit that sustains the people and organizations who have done so much for me."

Gay Writer Brutally Attacked in Ireland — Charges Filed

Philadelphia writer Robert Drake remains in critical condition two months after being brutally beaten in his apartment in Sligo, Ireland, by two young men who later claimed that they were "provoked" into the beating because Robert had made sexual overtures to them. Robert was found by friends the next morning, unconscious and lying in a pool of his own blood. He suffered significant brain damage as well as numerous complications, and required dialysis for two months in order to survive. He had been living in Ireland for the past year, researching and writing a new novel set there.

Robert's books include *The Gay Canon: Great Books Every Gay Man Should Read*, the His and Hers anthology series co-edited with Terry Wolverton (*His 3: Brilliant New Fiction by Gay Writers*, *Hers 3: Brilliant New Fiction by Lesbian Writers*, *His 2*, *Hers 2*, *Hers*, *His*), and *The Man: A Hero For Our Time*, an illustrated novel (with Derrick Buisch), about a gay man who is killed in a gay-bashing incident, and his partner who goes on to become a sort of avenging-angel superhero.

His partner of six years, Dr. Scott Pretorius, is the chief resident in radiology at the Hospital of the

University of Pennsylvania (HUP). Robert was flown from Dublin to HUP at the end of March, with funding for the transport provided by Ireland's North Western Health Board. (The Health Board holds no legal responsibility for this transport, but offered to pay the costs after Irish National Health Minister Brian Cowen delivered a plea in the Irish Parliament.) Neurological improvement has continued since Robert's return, including the ability to respond to voice direction, to squeeze a hand, to smile, and apparently to recognize his partner and others. The MRI examinations, however, demonstrate extensive damage to the right side of Robert's brain, especially to the temporal and parietal lobes. These areas are involved higher information processing, including numerical skills, and also control the left half of the body. Fortunately, though, his primary language centers, which should be in the left half of Robert's brain (as he is right handed) appear normal, although he as not been able to speak since the attack. Attempts to take Robert off dialysis have been successful, and nutritionists are focusing on improving his nutritional intake since his weight has dropped from 190 to 145 pounds.

The gay bashers, Ian Monaghan, 21, and Glen Mahon, 20, were charged in a special seating of the Sligo District Court of "assault causing serious harm," which is the most severe assault charge in the Irish court system and is punishable by jail sentences of five years or longer.

Mahon faces a second charge of stealing Robert's passport and wallet, credit cards, and a small amount of cash. Both of Robert's attackers voluntarily delivered statements to the police, accompanied by an attorney. (Under Irish law a criminal's sentence may be reduced if he turns himself in and expresses remorse.) Both were released on bail of \$14,000 each.

It is worth noting that the Irish justice system places a very high value on allowing people to receive a fair trial without prejudicial publicity. Therefore, once someone is charged, media reporting and public comment on the case become more restricted. Robert's friends in the Irish gay community advise, "This should not be taken as loss of interest in the case or failure to appreciate the enormity of the crime."

The White House is reported to have asked the U.S. ambassador to Ireland, Alexander Hill, to

monitor both Robert's progress and the progress of the case. The Ambassador called both Dr. Pretorius and Robert's parents. The embassy's attention to the case conveys to the Irish government that the U.S. government expects action on the case.

Many fundraising efforts have been launched, initially to raise the thousands of dollars necessary to fly Robert back to the U.S., and now to help with medical expenses. Activities included a reading/ fundraiser at Giovanni's Room, an ongoing University of Pennsylvania fraternity (Sigma Nu) effort in which its members are selling buttons that say "Robert" and expect to raise \$750 to \$2000, and an event by Lavender and Green, a NYC-based Irish organization at St. Paul's Parish Hall where speakers included an Irish nun and a deputy form the Irish Consulate. PBS's "In the Life" program is also considering doing a feature about Robert in April.

Donations toward Robert's health care may be sent to the Robert Drake Fund, c/o the Baltimore Alternative, PO Box 2351, Baltimore MD 21203.

Updates on Robert's condition and fundraising are available at <www.BaltAlt.com> and <www.sas.upenn.edu/~rbloom/robert_drake.html> and a photo is posted at <www.businesswire.com/photowire/pw.021999/>.

**Bertelsmann Reorganizes
RH/BDD Sales Forces,
Drops an Estimated 50 Employees**

On the first anniversary of Bertelsmann's purchase of Random House, the German-based multinational implemented a staff reduction in the now-combined management and sales team for Random House/Bantam Doubleday Dell that eliminated an estimated fifty positions. Bertelsmann's commitment to improving the profitability of the U.S. publishers it acquires may well mandate additional staff reductions, cutting back on the publishers' number of titles, and changes in direction and/or priorities. Such changes are common to most conglomerate mergers and takeovers, and should also be anticipated at Ingram, should the sale of Ingram to B&N be approved by the FTC.

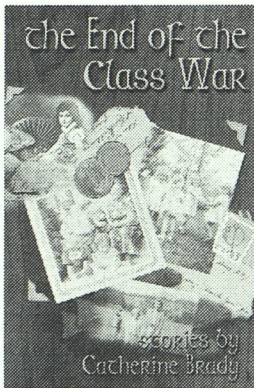
Editors note: Fifty percent of B&N.com is owned by Bertelsmann.

ZIBF Women's Voices

The theme for the 1999 Zimbabwe International Book Fair is Women, and program details for the two-day Indaba (keynote conference) are falling into place. The women's program takes place July 31 to August 1.

Participants in the Indaba can choose from four interest tracks: "Publishing (The importance of Gender-Sensitive Books, Reading Materials for the Girl Child)," "Writing (Women's Fiction, Gender Portrayals in Textbooks)," "Research: A Woman's Place (Education, Rights)," and "Access." Plenary sessions will include "Gender vs. Culture," "Women and Places of Power (Perceptions, Images, Reality)," "Gender and Freedom of Expression," "Gender and Development Programs (North/South Relationships and Perceptions of Gender)," and "Gender Issues and National Book Policy." ZIBF's annual two-day Indaba sets the scene for the ZIBF program and brings all the participants together. It has become a

new irish american fiction



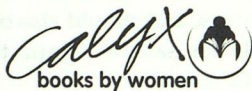
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stories by Catherine Brady

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not-to-be-missed event for the African publishing and book development business.

In addition to the Indaba, a two-day conference and skills-sharing workshop for women writers will precede the Fair and will run July 29–30. African women writers and women's writing organizations from Angola, Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe will attend. Key issues will include the marketing and promotion of the works of African women writers, both within Africa and internationally.

Among the many African women writers who have been invited to take part in ZIBF 99 are Ama Ata Aidoo (Ghana), Tsitsi Dangarembwa (Zimbabwe), Buchi Emecheta (Nigeria), Ellen Kuzwayo (South Africa), Anjie Krog (South Africa), Goretti Kyomuhendo (Uganda), Nadine Gordimer (South Africa), Lena Magaia (Mozambique), Nozipo Maraire (Zimbabwe), Micere Mugo (Kenya), Chiedza Musengezi (Zimbabwe), Lauretta Ngcobo (South Africa), Barbara Nkala (Zimbabwe), Tess Onwueme (Nigeria), Nawal El Saadawi (Egypt), Sylvia Tamale (Uganda), and Yvonne Vera (Zimbabwe).

A special conference on Women and the Environment will also be held in conjunction with the Fair from July 31 to August 6. Participants are invited from both Africa and outside Africa. Topics will range from "Women as Custodians for Food Security" to "The Chisumphi Cult and the Role of Women in Preserving the Environment" to "The Clash of Oil Exploration with the Nigerian Environment: Challenges to Women's Development Process" to "Gendered Power in the Social Forest in a Zimbabwean Resettlement Area." For further information on this conference, contact Margaret Ling (email below).

Among the theme-related events running during the ZIBF will be the Gender Forum, an open forum for women and women's organizations, that will run every afternoon from 2 to 5. This series will be organized in conjunction with UNIFEM. Organizations interested in making presentations should contact the addresses below.

The ZIBF, the primary book fair for Africa, runs from August 3–7. For more information about the program, registration, or travel, contact David Brine, ZIBF (UK) Ltd., PO Box 21303, London UK WC2E 8PH; +44 (0) 171 836 8501, fax same, email

<zibf.kingstreet@dial.pipex.com>. To discuss programming, contact Margaret Ling, Managing Director, ZIBF (UK) Ltd., email <margaret.ling@geo2.poptel.org.uk>.

Little Sister's Gets Its Day in Court

...the Supreme Court, that is. The Supreme Court of Canada announced they would grant Little Sister's its application for leave to the Court. The Court made the decision to hear Little Sister's case six months after receiving the bookstore's application, and a court date has not yet been set. This victory comes after over a decade of legal battles against Canadian Customs' homophobic censorship practices.

In 1986, Canadian Customs made its first ban on material headed for Little Sister's: They declared depictions of anal sex appearing in *The Advocate* obscene, citing the Canadian Criminal Code. Since then, Customs has targeted Little Sister's and other gay, lesbian, and feminist stores for special scrutiny and seized material by well-known authors such as Jane Rule, Pat Califa, Susie Bright, and many others. Often, the same books and periodicals detained en route to the gay stores are imported to mainstream booksellers without incident.

Little Sister's and the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association argued their case before the British Columbia Supreme Court in 1994. They claimed that Customs agents violated their equality rights (as detailed in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*) in arbitrarily detaining materials that were, in fact, not obscene. (Canadian Customs currently has the power of "prior restraint," the right to detain materials before those materials are deemed obscene by the courts.) They also argued that Customs' targeted scrutiny of gay bookstores is unfair and that Canadian Customs violates the *Charter* when it does so. Though the B.C. Supreme Court agreed with Little Sister's that Customs was targeting the store unfairly, it upheld Customs' right to do so. The Court further called the system of prior restraint as practiced by Customs "justified." The Court did, however, suggest that Customs implement better screening programs and better training of employees.

These Band-Aid solutions from the Court were not effective, and Canadian Customs continued to

target Little Sister's. In 1998 Little Sister's and the BCCLA took their case to the Canada Court of Appeal. There, the plaintiffs argued that no matter how much training Customs officials may receive in assessing gay and lesbian materials, the system of prior restraint will inevitably lead to unacceptable restraints on Canadians' free speech. The three-member panel at the Court of Appeal ruled two to one that the legislation giving Canadian Customs the authority to prohibit materials from entering Canada is justified.

However, the dissenting judge, Mr. Justice Finch, found the legislation to be unconstitutionally vague and *not* justified in Canada's free and democratic society.

Andrew Irvine, President of the BCCLA said, "Like Mr. Justice Finch, we believe there is no basis for a reasonable apprehension of harm in this case that would justify a system of prior restraint."



Janine Fuller, manager of Little Sister's, said, "We are extremely hopeful that [the Supreme Court] will agree with Justice Finch's judgement and strike down Canadian Customs' long-standing, arbitrary restrictions at our borders. For the gay and lesbian community across this country, the opportunity to be heard at this level of court has been a long time coming."

Little Sister's needs to raise an estimated \$80,000 in order to take its case to the Supreme Court. Donations are welcome, and Canadian donations are tax-deductible. (Donations from the U.S. of course are not, but, as Janine says, "Those U.S. dollars really help!")

Little Sister's has been Vancouver's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender bookstore since 1983.

Little Sister's, 1238 Davie St., Vancouver BC, V6E 1N4; 604-669-1753. ○

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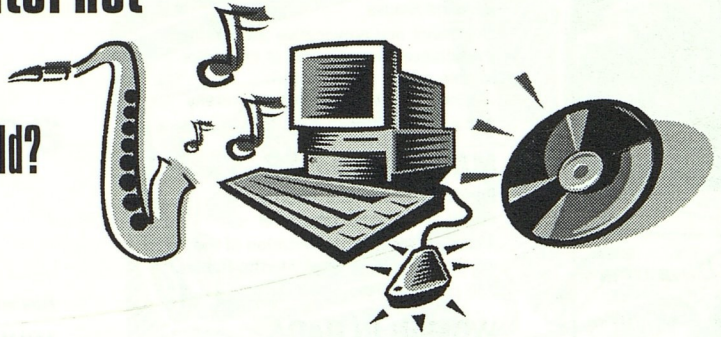
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Music and the Internet

What Does the Future Hold?



By Susan Frazier
Goldenrod, Inc.

As this article is being written, spring is just around the corner and the music industry is a bit apprehensive, knowing that the world is changing and waiting to see which direction the winds of change will take them. Sounds a bit like the world of books and independent publishing, don't you think? Online sales of music are growing quickly, and online "downloading" of music direct from a Web site to a recordable compact disc is no longer a future vision — it is a reality today.

The major label companies (there are now only five of them, since Universal merged with Polygram at the beginning of the year) have been very nervous about this new technology, but have recently decided to embrace it as the "next big thing." A coalition of representatives from each company called the Secure Digital Music Initiative (SDMI) has been meeting to work out a standard for this downloading technology that will protect copyrights, royalties, and revenues. Once SDMI comes to an agreement, it is likely that all of the major-label artists' work will be available via downloading. Consumers will have the option of downloading entire albums or picking and choosing tracks to create their own compilations.

MP3 — which stands for Moving Pictures Experts Group, Audio Layer 3 — is currently the method of downloading that is leading the pack. The software compresses a digital audio file (i.e. a song or an entire CD) into about a tenth of its original size, making it much faster to upload and download over

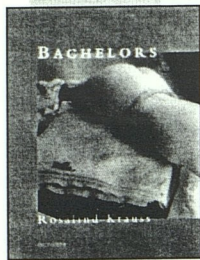
the Web. It eliminates the sounds not heard by the human ear, but MP3 sound quality still nearly equals that of a store-bought CD. The software is offered free via the Web, and nearly ten million people have already downloaded it, and at this point 90 million MP3 tracks are being downloaded each month.

So what does all of this mean to those of us in the business of selling music through "old-fashioned" methods? These new technologies are sure to affect all of us in the pipeline — labels, artists, distributors, retailers, and consumers. The current prevailing belief is that this technology will not totally eliminate CD sales from stores, but it will have some impact. From 1997 to 1998, holiday spending by Internet users rose 191 percent — however, Internet music sales are still only 1 percent of total music sales, with the forecasters predicting that they will account for 29 percent of all music sales in the year 2002. (Source: Forester Research, Inc. 1998)

One very positive aspect of the Internet is the ability to reach people throughout the country, giving independent artists with limited distribution another way to get their music known to the world. The marketing and promotional potential of the Net has only just begun to be tapped and has the potential to "level the playing field," allowing smaller, independent artists and labels access and exposure similar to that of major label artists.

A possible "downside" of downloading is the chance that customers will purchase their music via the Net, "taking away" sales from the independent stores and distributors who have always been the

See Music and the Internet, page 56.



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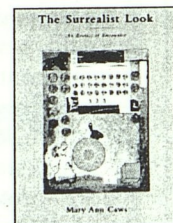
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Online Resources

By Carol Seajay

Internet communications —email, Web sites, and even e-list “publishing” have each exponentially increased booksellers’ access to immediate information about the events that drive (and sometimes threaten) independent bookselling, even as the events themselves seem to be accelerating in both speed and importance. Waiting to read about the (proposed) Ingram sale, the sale of Random House to Bertelsmann, or (on the cheerier side) ABA’s Booksense.com Internet sales program/Web site for independent bookstores is a luxury that fewer and fewer independent bookstores can afford.

Furthermore, email has been a key part of the communication that has allowed booksellers to have some impact on their future and the evolution of the worlds in which we must exist. Witness, for example, the speed at which feminist bookstores were able to address the Human Rights Campaign’s decision to post a Barnes&Noble.com banner on its Web site (it did, but reportedly won’t renew it when the contract expires) and its decision to run B&N.com ads in its quarterly newsletter. (HRC withdrew the ad in the end. A snail-mail letter-writing campaign would have arrived long after the newsletter was printed and distributed.) Never mind the ease with which ABA can communicate with its members, encouraging them to return those pages and pages of signatures on petitions demanding that the FTC look long and hard at the proposed Ingram sale.

As of this writing, I’m convinced that magazines still have a function, and good magazines evaluate and organize masses of information into



Illustration by Juliet Breese in *Women'space* magazine
<www.womenspace.ca>

compressible stories. Some information (book reviews and announcements, for example) is more palatable and, well, *useful* when printed in paper. E-lists are superb for conveying bits of information, but it often takes more than an e-minute to do analysis and understand the factoids and shock waves that our computers download when we press those magic buttons. But this, too, will shift as computer-published analysis deepens and paper junkies become more receptive to it. There’s also the allure of direct communication with colleagues and friends (via e-lists). And the tone of some e-publications, with their pointed humor and political slant, make them more appealing if not better to read than the paper-based magazines that travel through the postal system at, yes, the speed of snails.

How does a bookseller who is dependent on labor-intensive, just-in-time ordering, who is already overloaded with tasks and catalogs to read, and who, due to staff cuts, is probably carrying the load of two people, ever manage to sort and read the barrage of essential-to-booksellers e-facts downloading into their computers? Wish we had the answers!

For the moment, we'll start with some of the key resources for those who aren't already up to their ears in e-nformation. All are available at no charge.

PW Daily, *Publishers' Weekly's* daily e-list, was one of the first e-list publications in the industry. Its trademark is that it delivers all the essential industry news on a daily basis as it happens — and often with a wicked sense of humor — weeks before the printed version of *Publishers Weekly* arrives in the mail with the same stories. I find myself skipping over the printed version (and its wealth of ads) with a “been there, read that” attitude. Conclusion: Reading *PW Daily* — even with the ad at the top and bottom — saves me time in the long run. To subscribe, fill out the form at <www.bookwire.com/pw/daily/>.

The **Northern California Independent Booksellers Association** sponsors one of the best collections of “reprinted” articles about the book industry that I've seen anywhere. Articles are collected and reposted by Colleen Lindsey, and often include irreverent (and sanity saving) asides. Sign up at <www.nciba.com/home.html>.

NCIBA also hosts **Holt Uncensored**, a wonderfully irreverent look at the world that is eating independent bookstores. It's good on news, excellent on commentary, solid on position, and even includes an ongoing, serialized, Tales-of-the-City-esque, satirical melodrama about superstores, independents, multinational conglomerates, and — oh, yes— the value of the written word. Written by Pat Holt, who recently escaped the clutches of the *San Francisco Chronicle* where she was the book review editor. Its length sometimes pushes the limits of what I'm willing to read onscreen, but it's a great restorative in dark moments and is always a ready lunch companion. Subscribe at <www.nciba.com/patholt.html>.

Women's Magazines?

Kit McChesney (*Circles Magazine*) has started a listserv for women's feminist magazine publishers/publications. Issues range from creating more visibility for publications in stores (of all kinds) and on the Web, improving distribution, and exploring women-focused entrepreneurial approaches, to doing business and brainstorming. Subscribe by

sending a message to <listproc@lists.colorado.edu>. In the body of the message write, “Subscribe fem-mag-publishers <your full name and affiliation>.” (Technically you only have to include your name, but, since there is a human there who has to approve subscribers on this list, you can make it easier for her by telling her who you are.)

Gay Bookstores

GLIBlist, the Gay/Lesbian Independent Booksellers mailing list is an information and literary resource for independent gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender booksellers (no megachains allowed). Moderated by Lambda Rising's (Washington DC) Deacon Maccubbin, GLIBlist was one of the first groups to protest gay and lesbian organizations' supersite links with B&N.com and Amazon.com, and they continue to watch and report such activities on those sites. To subscribe, go to <www.onelist.com/subscribe.cgi/GLIBlist>.

Feminist Bookstores and Women's Publishers

And then there are the listserves for women who work in feminist (specialty) bookstores or publishing houses. Both are “closed” lists, open only to women who work in those respective institutions. If that's you and you don't already subscribe, send an email for more information to <Carol@FemBkNews.com>.

Writers and Writing?

Need a break from it all? Need to remember why you're in bookselling, anyway? Skip over to City Arts and Lectures (San Francisco) and pick up a sound byte or two from its repository of taped author interviews from its writers series: <www.sfgate.com/eguide/cityartslectures>.

Survival tip: If your email browser supports “nickname” or other mail-sorting techniques, use them! Setting them up as you subscribe to e-lists puts all the postings from each list in an individual mailbox so you can scan each list's offerings at one time or review a whole collection of articles or, most importantly, skip over whole blocks of posts that aren't important at the moment — all without cluttering up the mailbox where you receive your most important messages. ○

Ms.

Has Fourteen Mommies

The New Woman-Owned Ms.

By Teri Mae Rutledge

I'm the first to admit that my relationship to Ms. has been on-again, off-again, ever since I first discovered it just after its ad-free incarnation in 1990. At the time, I loved how absolutely fat it was, stuffed with its blend of international news, investigative articles, fiction, poetry, arts watch, and even pages and pages of reader letters from around the country. Ms. was suffused with tremendous energy, an energy of women who had been holding back what they wanted to say (and how they wanted to say it) for too long. Every aspect of Ms. seemed exhaustive, and I appreciated the magazine's ability to completely absorb me for hours.

The absence of ads necessarily drove the price of the magazine up and the subscriber base down, but, as Gloria Steinem points out, Ms. is profitable as an ad-free publication, even with fewer readers. The higher price definitely raised accessibility issues — who of the lapsed readers simply can't afford a \$6 magazine? — but the Ms. women countered this by actively encouraging subscribers to purchase gift subscriptions or to donate subscriptions to women's organizations and other women who don't have access to the magazine.

As we headed into the 90s and paper prices rose (making Ms. necessarily give up its commitment to recyclable paper) and its subscriber base fell further, the magazine slimmed down. I missed the international news brief section, having to content myself with an international feature item or two per issue. At the same time, new features and ideas were being put into place that I enjoyed: like the "Women at Work" profiles of real, non-famous women making their way in the world, the writing of Nomy Lamm, and



investigative pieces like Donna Minkowitz's exposé on the Promise Keepers. I also liked Marcia Gillespie's steering of the magazine after taking the reins from Robin Morgan in 1993. But something was missing. Not depth, exactly, though that may be a part of it. I think that I was missing the passion of those initial ad-free issues, that feeling of freedom.

In late 1998, my on-again, off-again attitude might have been switched off for good. Ms.'s male parent company decided shut the magazine down. And suddenly, I realized just how much I had taken Ms. for granted. Certainly, it hit home that the "freedom" I'd found in the early ad-free days was illusory.

Back in 1996, the magazine was bought (along with *Working Woman* and *Working Mother*) by the MacDonald Communications Corporation. Ms., though successful, didn't have a consumer profile matching that of the other MacDonald acquisitions (pretty much exclusively upscale, well-to-do career women). MacDonald decided to sell Ms. and suspended publication of the magazine in September 98. In December 98, Gloria Steinem and Marcia Gillespie announced the formation of Liberty Media for Women, a group of women investors who would purchase Ms. for a reported \$3–\$4 million.

And in 1999, the freedom is real, and Ms. is back. For the first time in its 27-year-old history, Ms. is woman owned. Steinem says that for the first time,

the magazine's editorial mission and its financial underpinnings have a common goal, as opposed to even the most recent past, when the ad-free *Ms.* was profitable — but couldn't access money to promote the magazine.

Ms.'s new female parent company, Liberty Media for Women, is an entity that wouldn't have been possible even a decade ago. As Steinem points out, women activists/investors with the capital necessary to create such a group are a result of the women's movement. They simply did not exist until the present moment. She says, "Just as new networks of feminist donors have become crucial to women's political candidacies, feminist investors have begun to create a new kind of business *with values added* — that is, with a bottom line including progress for women."

Among the philanthropists, activists, and investors comprising Liberty Media for Women are: Abigail Disney; Barbara Dobkin, founder and chair of Ma'yan — The Jewish Women's Project; Marta Drury; Alison Kiehl Friedman, a college student; her sister Anne Kiehl Friedman, a high school student; their mother Phyllis Friedman; Sandy Learner, cofounder of Cisco Systems and founder of Urban Decay; Susan Disney Loughman; Alix L.L. Ritchie, publisher of the *Provincetown Banner*; Lindsay Davidson Shea; Marcia Ann Gillespie; and Gloria Steinem. Four other investors wish to remain anonymous. High school student Anne Kiehl Friedman said of her investment (restoring my hope for the next generation of feminist philanthropists), "At 15 years old, I am in the unique situation of being able to actively support a publication that presents women as positive role models because they are strong and capable, not because they have flat stomachs and perfect teeth. *Ms.* is one of the few magazines that inspires girls to do more than lose weight."

Steinem hinted at other possibilities for Liberty Media. In an early incarnation, *Ms.* birthed children's books, novels, women's health books, sports events, TV shows, and more. However, under its recent owners, *Ms.* has not produced one ancillary project. With the creativity, energy, and commitment to women held by the current group of investors, the possibility

of additional media projects is renewed. Whatever they come up with, it'll be incredibly refreshing to see some feminist creative projects that actually have some money behind them!

The April/May issue, the first backed by Liberty Media, was released April first, ending the magazine's three-issue hiatus.

Marcia Gillespie starts off discussing (in her regular Editor's Page column) the big picture: her vision of the magazine's role and thoughts on how *Ms.* must change to address the needs of its 1990s feminist

readers. Gillespie identified the magazine's role as being one of "helping to connect the dots — between the singular and the plural, between me and you, between us and our sisters, between generations of feminists." She discussed how society places emphasis on individualism and divisiveness (between races, generations, cultures, class), and that *Ms.* is one activist forum that encour-

ages women to connect with each other. And ultimately, the goal of *Ms.* is "to encourage you to think, act, and laugh."

Lofty goals. Certainly not so far from what I've always thought the magazine aspired to do. But when Gloria Steinem points out that the difference between "women's magazines" and *Ms.* is a difference between a self-directed focus and a community-directed focus, the importance of *Ms.* becomes startlingly clear. Which other mainstream glossy encourages women to seek one another out? Which other mainstream glossy encourages women to act as a collective force against injustice? Which other magazine recognizes *women* as a force to be reckoned with?

As is inevitable with any organization with high ideals, the magazine doesn't always live up to its goals. And naturally, it's impossible to keep all readers 100 percent happy all the time. But the struggle to achieve these goals is what makes *Ms.* extraordinarily unique among mainstream publications, and it's what has kept me coming back to it.



So, how has the magazine changed since its parent company has switched genders? Gillespie has talked to many ex-readers to determine why the magazine is less useful for them. As a result, she is committed to making *Ms.* "less formidable," and is trying to foster a conversation in its pages that is "more like the way we talk to each other."

Ms.'s art director has apparently been chomping at the bit to do some redesigning, and she's been set loose on the April/May issue. It's not really *that* different on the inside; the traditional two-color layout remains and the look of the magazine is still (as it should be) text-heavy, but the layout is a little bolder, a little more outside-the-lines. The cover is *very* different, though. It simply pictures a red-lipsticked mouth, open wide and full of pearls, with the caption "Need Wisdom?" I appreciated the metaphor, and the simple boldness of the image is bound to draw women to the magazine rack.

On the inside: The big feature of the April/May *Ms.* is the consideration of adultery from various and sundry personalities such as bell hooks, Blanche McCrary Boyd, Andrea Dworkin, Candace Gingrich, Lisa Miya-Jervis, Betty Friedan, and more. Sprinkled throughout are quotes, laws, and other facts about the practice that's been getting so much news time lately. The views represented here cross culture, sexual preference, and the behavioral spectrum that Jennifer Belle so cleverly named, from "sexual republican" to sexual liberal. (Though I will say that the number and identity of the staunch monogamists surprised me.)

There's a new face at *Ms.*, and her influence is evident throughout the magazine: Associate Editor Ophira Edut, editor of *HUES* magazine and of the Seal Press anthology, *Adiós Barbie*, offers a fresh perspective, presumably to target younger readers. *Ms.* has also included, for the younger of us, writing by Nomy Lamm (creator of the zine *I'm So Fucking Beautiful* and *Ms.* contributor for a few years now), Lisa Miya-Jervis (creator of *Bitch: A Feminist Response to Popular Culture*), and a *Techo.fem* column by *Bust* cofounder Debbie Stoller. I really loved seeing a write-up of San Francisco spoken-word group, Sister Spit, in *Ms.*'s pages, as

well as that of girl-power sticker designer and teen entrepreneur Ariel Fox.

Also notable in this issue is the absolutely stunning "In Praise of Women," a collection of photographs of women throughout the world. There's a photo of women prisoners bathing and doing laundry in a prison in the Ural Mountains, a photo of a nurse who was badly burned in the bombing of an abortion clinic in 1998, a photo of a girl in a lacy dress laughing in Haiti, a photo of a shirtless, single-breasted woman marching in New York City's 1994 Dyke March. These photographs capture the hard-won strength, power, and beauty of women all over the world, and I was moved by each and every one.

The articles range from a woman's story about her \$12,000 worth of facial surgery to an analysis of the rising importance of religion in the political decisions of U.S. women. (I did try to read about the face-lift lady with an open mind, but I've got to say there wasn't really anything in the article that made me think "You know, I think that face-lifts *are* a feminist issue, and I'm feeling incredible empathy for all those poor feminist ladies who have had to be in the closet about them all this time...." But I'm betting it'll make for a fun Letters section for the June/July issue.) *Ms.* has retained its News section, which also has a few opinion pieces. Also intact are the Your Work section, the Arts section, the Your Health section, Letters, the fiction and poetry features, and Book Reviews.

In all, I'm so glad that *Ms.* is back. And I'm hopeful. I don't think that the new *Ms.* has fully bloomed in this first issue, but I do see the seeds of potential. (Now, if only stores could get their hands on it — perhaps distribution is the next important challenge for the women at *Ms.*) It goes without saying that *Ms.* remains an absolutely vital publication, one to stock, one to sell, one

to talk about with friends. I'm looking forward to watching *Ms.* continue to grow and change in upcoming months. I'm looking forward to seeing what these women will do, now that they (really) have the freedom to do it. ○





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On pop culture:

“Our culture is far more masculinist than it was thirty years ago. Computer use is spreading into every home but more than 80% of Internet users are male. Women are ignored by manufacturers of video games, which are mostly war games of one sort or another. Popular music is split as never before: the consumers of commercial pop are female; the rock music that appeals to men is deliberately, unbelievably and outrageously misogynist. While women were struggling to live as responsible dignified adults, men have retreated into extravagantly masculinist fantasies and behaviors.”

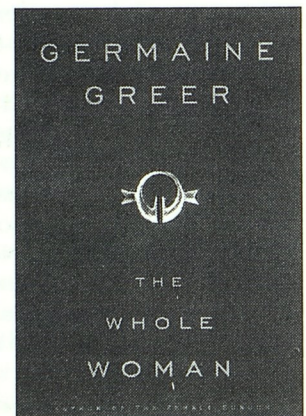
On globalisation:

“The most powerful entities on earth are not governments but the multinational corporations that see women as their territory, indoctrinating them with their versions of beauty, health and hygiene, medicating them and cultivating their dependency in order to medicate them some more.

On the future:

“The second wave of feminism, rather than having crashed on the shore, is still far out to sea, slowly and inexorably gathering momentum.... Female power will rush upon us in the persons of women who have nothing to lose, having lost everything already.... And the women of the rich world had better hope that when female energy ignites they do not find themselves on the wrong side.”

The Whole Woman Knopf \$25 0-375-40747-2



Sisterhood's Ultimatum

Sisterhood sent this letter to their mailing list in early April, shortly before we went to press with this issue. —CS

Dear Friends,

Without your help Sisterhood Bookstore (Los Angeles) will be closing this summer.

It is with great sorrow that we are writing this letter to you, but we wanted to let our most loyal supporters know that we are in serious financial jeopardy. Without a large infusion of new capital, the living feminist vision known as "Sisterhood Bookstore" will come to an end on July 31, 1999.

For the past 27 years Sisterhood has been proud to be more than a bookstore and more than a business. We have done our best to offer a complete environment of books, music, and other items reflecting the beauty, joy, and complexity of women's lives around the world. We have been a place to connect with a movement, with specific political ideas, and with a definite point of view. We have been the place to come for travelers, for those new to town, and for those new to consciousness.

As you know, corporate bookstores and online book sales have dramatically changed the business climate. Sisterhood's sales have steadily decreased during the past several years, and are now down about 50 percent from their peak in the late 1980s. We can no longer afford to remain open unless something changes.

It is our hope that with your help we can find a way to increase our customer base and sales. To do so would require a major cash infusion, one that would

enable us to relocate to a larger site with adequate parking and to expand our public relations. We would welcome donors or investors. We would also consider selling to a buyer who would continue the Sisterhood tradition.

In this spirit, Emily Levine, comedian extraordinaire, has generously offered to perform in a fundraiser for Sisterhood. She will be performing Monday night, May 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Tiffany Theater in West Hollywood. The suggested minimum donation is \$25 in advance or \$35 at the door.

The Tiffany is a small theater, and *this event will sell out*. Please phone immediately to reserve your tickets. Use your credit card or send a check. Your tickets will be held at the door. Better yet, drop in to Sisterhood. We would love to see you!

If you are interested in being a donor, investor, or buyer, please leave a message for Adele or Simone at 310-477-7300.

Thank you for your continuous support of Sisterhood Bookstore. We greatly appreciate it,
Simone and Adele




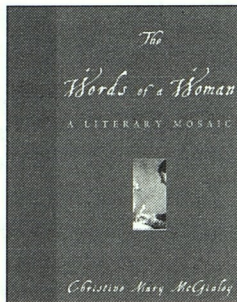
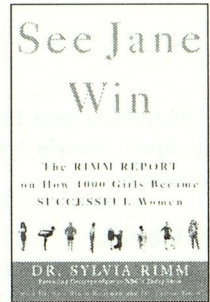
Books for Women by Women

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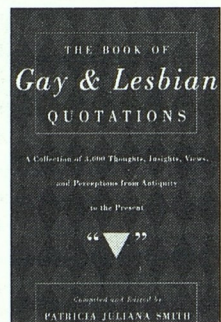
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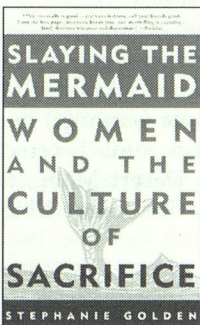
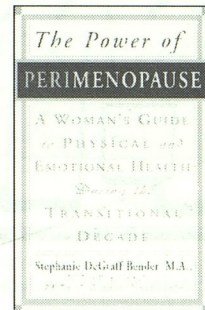


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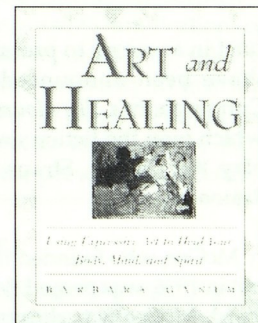
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By Barbara Ganim

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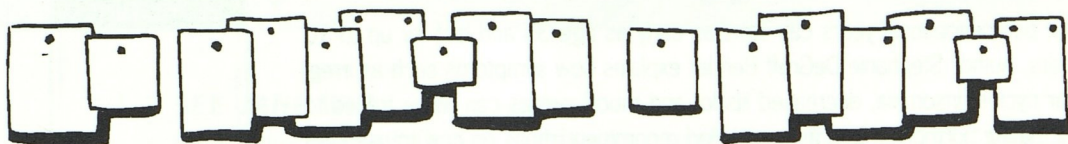


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ANNOUNCEMENTS



By Carol Seajay and Teri Mae Rutledge

This just in as we go to press: Carl Lennertz, long-time friend of independent bookstores, has been hired by ABA as senior marketing consultant for ABA's Book Sense branding campaign for independent bookstores. Lennertz was most recently an associate publisher at Little, Brown, but is best known to independents for his 18 years at Random House where he wrote the "Random Report," a good-humored, independent bookstore-oriented newsletter that broke all industry boundaries by recommending books published by Random House and other publishers. Need to be in touch? Email <Carl@booksense.com>.

Also just in as we go to press: The Pulitzer Prize winners have been announced. Among them is Michael Cunningham's *The Hours* (Farrar, Straus, & Giroux), which won the fiction award, and Margaret Edson's play *Wit* (Farrar, Straus, & Giroux), which won the drama award.

Sherry McGee, who founded the Apple Book Center in Detroit in 1996, was named Bookseller of the Year by Blackboard. McGee was chosen for her exemplary role as an African American bookseller and her commitment to her community. Blackboard's Bookseller of the Year Award is awarded by a vote of African American booksellers across the country. Apple Books' primary mission is to increase reading in the community.

In Canada, Vancouver booksellers are organizing a Vancouver Independent Booksellers Association (VIBA) to promote independent bookstores, challenge unfair trade practices, etc. For more

information, contact Mark Macdonald, c/o Little Sisters' Books, 1238 Davie St., Vancouver BC V6E 1N3; 604-669-1753. <lsisters@lsisters.com>

Circles is scheduled to go back to press, ending its several-month hiatus, at the same time that *FBN* goes to press. Look for the new issue (summer) in early May. For more information, email <circles@indra.com>. Available from Desert Moon, Small Changes, Ingram Periodicals, Bookazine, Ubiquity, and Doormouse (in Canada).

Paz & Associates' *Reading Group Choices* is out and circulating. The 1999 edition features 60 books, over a quarter of them by men (I guess publishers are figuring out that women buy books about men, too; hence the increased male presence in this advertising-driven effort). This year's edition includes a handful of books from feminist and other independent presses. Copies of the 140-page, perfect-bound book are available to bookstores for \$1.25 each for orders over 10 (to cover the cost of shipping) or \$4.95 each for 10 or less. It's Paz's aim to keep *Choices* a "free" publication, though many bookstores do charge \$1.25 per book to cover the cost of shipping or the \$4.95 SRP. Order from Paz & Associates by email at <mkaufman@pazbookbiz.com>, by telephone at 800-260-8605, or by mail at 2106 20th Ave. South, Nashville TN 37212.

Despite rumors to the contrary, Masquerade Books has not stopped publishing, although its parent company has cut back on the number of books Masquerade will publish. The new schedule calls for six books a quarter rather than ten books a month. Masquerade's books are distributed by SCB Distributors as well as Ingram, et al. ○

News FROM THE BOOKSTORES

By Carol Seajay

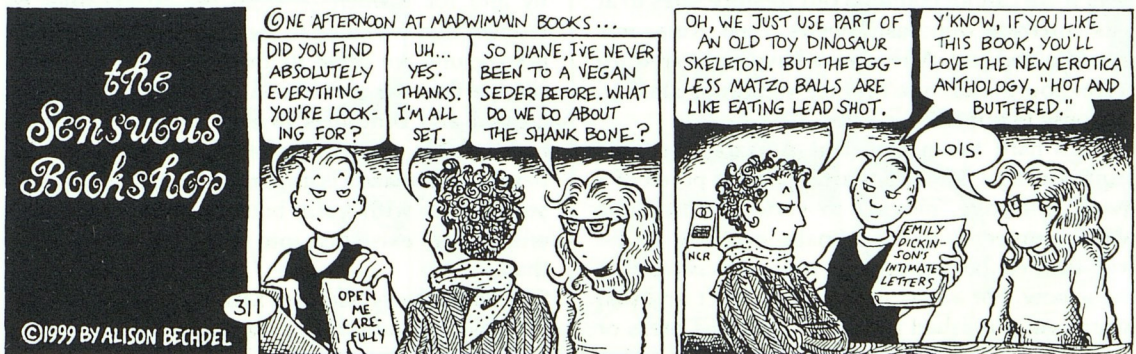
Fighting Back — Street Fighting as Needed: Feminist bookseller Amy Blake (A Woman's Prerogative/Detroit) writes, "[I was] assaulted in my own parking lot by a woman who will probably sue me for knocking her butt to the ground after she was all over me.... It was a weird road-rage-in-the-parking-lot kind of thing." Was the woman after money? "No, it wasn't clear what she was after, [but] it turned anti-gay when she came back later and said she was going to 'sue our dyke asses' and called us white trash and sissy asses." Amy's first response — which, as a practicing psychotherapist, she had the restraint not to verbalize — "Hey, this 'sissy ass' took your butt to the ground — so there!" Amy is fine, the police were great, but Amy's left with a difficult decision: whether or not to file assault and battery charges against the obviously troubled woman. Normally she wouldn't, but filing charges could help if the woman makes good on her threat to sue Amy on civil charges. Amy's response: "It's a big joke if she thinks she's going to get money out of the situation. If she's not careful, I may just hand her the keys to the store — that would fix her!" — But

even that isn't as fierce a threat as it would have been a year ago — sales were up last year. Amy is managing the store while her partner Kelly is working at Naiad Press (Tallahassee) three weeks a month, learning the publishing business. It's a long commute!

Taking on the FTC: Inspired, perhaps, by telephone calls from various community members who had called the Justice Department to express their concern about the impact of the potential Ingram sale to Barnes & Noble on their local bookstore, the FTC called My Sisters' Words (Syracuse) to set up an hour-long conference call. The FTC folks asked hard questions, played devil's advocate, and apologized nicely for not being able to provide any information about their process. Mary Ellen came away with a belief that at least these FTC folks are taking the investigation very seriously and that they genuinely seemed to want to understand all of the possible ramifications of the sale.

Mary Ellen also reported that sales were up 4 percent last year, due primarily to institutional and textbook sales. When we talked, she had just sent out copies of her newsletter via email for the first time (having offered, in the previous newsletter, to send it

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



Amazon BOOKSTORE

An Open Letter to the Friends of Amazon Bookstore

The Minnesota Women's Press published this letter for Amazon (Minneapolis). And, contrary to what You've Got Mail would have you believe about doing customer education, there's been a huge response to the letter. The store has been busy and full every week since the letter ran and sales are up.

Dear Friends,

Next year Amazon Bookstore will celebrate her 30th birthday. Those of us who have worked at Amazon a long time, who have lovingly shepherded her into the eve of the new millenium, are beginning to wonder if there really will be an Amazon Bookstore in the year 2000. Month by month we watch our in-store sales drop — fewer people coming in the door buying fewer books. So far we have been able to make up for that decrease by out-of-store sales — conferences, mail orders, and particularly women's studies course books at the University of Minnesota and other area colleges. But the cost of those sales is great — on the energy of an already overworked staff and the time and resources they take away from in-store services — and their dependability is tenuous at best. If we cannot count on our in-store sales to at least provide our basic needs, then Amazon's future is doomed. Already we have had to reduce store hours and not replace outgoing staff in response to our drop in sales.

It's hard to imagine that Amazon has been around almost 30 years, starting on the porch of a living collective, moving to various storefronts with volunteer staff, and finally evolving to the well-stocked bookstore and resource center that she is now. For a long time you couldn't find that rare novel published by a small feminist press or

that cutting-edge lesbian analysis unless you came to Amazon. But now (as long as women's issues are in vogue), at least some of those books can be found elsewhere — in the superstores and on the Internet, where the bottom line is always money, not the survival of a movement and culture. And sometimes perhaps it is easier to pull into that big parking lot or to click on the computer. But in the long run, what price are you really paying for those books bought at a superstore or online?

So this is a plea to all our past, present, and potential customers: If the existence of Amazon Bookstore — the oldest feminist bookstore in the world — is important to you, then *buy your books* at Amazon Bookstore. If we don't have the book you want, we can order it for you. We can order anything — everyone in the book biz has access to the same database. If there is any way we can help you get the books you want, we will do it. We can't always discount books — no independent bookstore can afford to take the losses that the deep discounts at the chains and on the Internet represent. But what does that extra \$3 that you might pay for a book at Amazon buy you? It buys you a place by and for women — from the 20,000 titles by women that we stock to the readings, workshops, book clubs we offer to the information referral service that we provide. Amazon Bookstore was created and continues to exist for you, the feminist/lesbian community of the Twin Cities and beyond. If Amazon is important to you, then please support us with your book-buying dollars and ensure our existence into the 21st century. We thank you.

Barb Wieser, General Manager
and the staff of Amazon Bookstore

by email instead of snail mail). Sixty-five people had signed up for the email version, and five of them placed orders within three days — never mind the savings on postage and printing. (“People can leave messages on our phone machine 24 hours a day,” she said. And they do!)

It's Sister Wolf Season: Sister Wolf Books is a seasonal bookstore in Northern Minnesota open May through September during the short summer tourist season. Owner Mary Kay Watson is adding on space for coffee, events, and author visits. It will be finished by the time the store opens in May.

Running a seasonal bookstore is challenging enough — but the U.S. Postal Service has made it a bit trickier by closing the local post office. “Since Dorset, Minnesota, no longer has a post office, we are now operating with the unfortunate address of Park Rapids — unfortunate because when people try to find us in Park Rapids, they can't. We are five miles east of Park Rapids on the Heartland Trail (a bicycle trail). Dorset is on Highway 226 where it crosses the Heartland Trail. Sister Wolf Books is on the northwest side of the main street. There is no street name — just Highway 226.” If you're sending mail, send it to RR 3 Box 26, Park Rapids MN 56470 (in summer), or to Mary Kay's winter address (after Labor Day): 126 W 25th St., Minneapolis MN 55405. If you're sending customers, direct them to the intersection of the Heartland Trail and Highway 226 in Dorset. Anyone in Dorset can point them in the right direction.

Gail Hewison of The Feminist Bookshop in Sydney, Australia, writes that the store is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. She reports cash-flow

problems (“Everyone in Australia seemed to be on holiday for all of January and not reading, or else is down at the mall in the Supastore, which has a coffee shop nearly as big as us”) and declining sales. “The reasons for this are the same as for bookstores in the U.S., I am sure.... Competition from mainstream stores, the backlash against feminism, the arrival of the Supastores and, unfortunately, the apathy and lack of understanding of the feminist community who seem to take us for granted. Many old customers no longer think to support us, but if we go under, we know they will all scream.

“Of course we get terrific support from many, especially the lesbian community who are our mainstays. Apart from them, our main support comes from the community sector: hospitals, jails, community centres, family support centres, therapists, etc. But this is not enough....

“At the same time that feminists are not supporting us, we are still busy all the time as a resource and information center for people all over the country ringing us for help and referrals. Every day we ‘counsel’ distressed incest survivors or women escaping from domestic violence or parents with difficult children. For some reason they have found no other place to turn and come to us with great trust. For this reason we feel it is so vital for us to continue, but how do we get this message out to those who used to support us? Lately we have given up asking for support all the time (it sounds so tedious) and are now concentrating on our lesbian newsletter and our mail-order business in the hope that we can increase both.

“In spite of all of the above, all of us, Jane, Libby and I, still love our work.”

[Jane, Libby, and Gail are sisters who bought



the shop 15 years ago with a small inheritance from their spinster aunt.]

Hearts and \$\$: The Book Garden threw a big singles bash on Valentine's Day and "sold the store out." It was "The best Valentine's weekend in the last three or four years," *FBN* was told. Cris Williamson and Tret Fure did a major concert in Denver that weekend and the store also sold "stacks of Cris & Tret's new CD."

Mother Kali's Rent Brigade: Women attending Izzie Harbaugh's memorial service came up with a way to ensure the Eugene feminist bookstore's future: They decided to create a "rent brigade" of 130 women who would each pledge \$20 per month for one year to cover the store's rent during the upcoming difficult transition year. Names are guaranteed to be kept in the strictest confidence — "the list will be used for nothing else" — but at the end of the year the organizers will throw a party at the store for all of the "rent brigade" participants to celebrate their success. Over half of the slots have already been filled. Women interested in contributing may email <dmartin@oregon.uoregon.edu> or call Joey Petitti at 541-342-4989 or Debby Martin at 541-344-7220.

Mama Bears Delivers: Cody's Bookstore has posed the ultimate threat to Amazon.com: Same-day delivery. Working with a local bike-messenger/delivery cooperative, Cody's developed a plan to deliver any book in stock faster — and cheaper — than Amazon.com. Customers in Berkeley and surrounding communities can email or call in their orders to Cody's, and Pedal Express, which runs a

fleet of four heavy-duty cargo bikes, will provide same-day or next-day delivery for \$5 or less — well below the \$10.95 charged by Amazon.com for overnight delivery (with no weekend service). Pedal Express, eager to expand their book business, is offering the same terms to other Berkeley booksellers, and Mama Bears is likely to take them up on the offer.

Buying the Press: Lamma's owner Denise Bump believes in networking in a big way. When the *Women's Monthly* (*WoMo*) went into a management crisis earlier this year, Denise stepped in to fill the need for an advertising coordinator and to help with financial management. "*WoMo* is the event calendar for the greater DC community. It's a ten-page tabloid with a circulation of 6000, run by an all-volunteer program with a collaborative that loves doing the calendar, loves doing layout, but hates doing the business part. They've been doing it for years." Denise and the Lamma's crew will sell the ads, collect the advertising money, and do the financial management. The collaborative will coordinate the calendar and events section, and Lammass will get three pages of copy plus the back cover for their own ads and articles. Financial risk? Not much! "Printing and mailing 6000 copies of the tabloid will cost us about \$200 less than printing and mailing 900 copies of our newsletter," Denise told *FBN*, explaining that the savings were due to the economies in scale in printing 6000 copies of a tabloid with four pages of advertising revenue vs. fewer copies of the more-expensive-to-print newsletter format with less advertising (and editorial) space. (Average ad revenue for the newsletter was "only" \$200 per issue.) The additional staff time required is more than



balanced by the networking and communication benefits. "We'll be talking to everyone in town every month!" she concluded.

Customer Service Training Available: ABA, as part of its efforts to shift its bookseller education programs from the expensive, week-long, hotel-based programs, has developed a seminar called "The School for New Bookselling Staff." It focuses on teaching new booksellers (with three to nine months' experience) effective customer service techniques and handselling skills. Under ABA's new program, experienced booksellers from various regional associations travel to ABA's headquarters for a week-end to learn, not the skills per se, but rather how to teach the class. They then return to their regionals and teach other local booksellers to facilitate the training, creating a pool of trainers in every regional who can — and will — teach the class on a regular basis to new bookstore employees. Trainee/trainers for the first class included New Words (Cambridge) co-founder and NEBA Advisory Council member Gilda Bruckman.

Lavendar Dragon (previously Two Sisters) has a new Web site <www.lavenderdragon.com>, and is busily enhancing its gay men's section and the ever-increasing collection of books on animal care.

Prairie Moon is looking for new partners or someone to buy the business. Linda Mowry writes, "While we all agree on the need for feminist books and woman-friendly space, we no longer believe [Prairie Moon/Mt. Prospect, IL] can be a viable business in the current publishing/bookselling climate. But perhaps

we have paved the way for some other woman-friendly venture which could hatch from our cocoon. Let us know if you hear of anyone looking for such an opportunity. If we don't come up with some new energy and brilliant ideas for transformation we will probably close at the end of May." Prairie Moon was forced to move last June (BEA weekend, no less) when their landlord jacked the rent up at the end of their lease. The new location has been less successful than hoped.

Programming: In Okalahoma City the place to be is the **Herland Supper Club**. Everyone meets at the bookstore on specified Saturday evenings at 5:30, then goes out to eat dinner after a period of schmoozing and book browsing. The other big event there, of course, is Herland's annual Spring Retreat — three days at the Roman Nose State Park.... The March **First Friday at Crazy Ladies** featured both Therese Edell and MUSE, Cincinnati's Women's Choir. Sure wish I'd been there! Other doings at Crazy Ladies? The next plan is to take down the wall between the front of the store and the May Sarton Room, and then paint the whole inside of the bookstore by Birthday Week in July. Tearing down the wall strikes me as great therapy and an excellent way to discharge some of the anger engendered by the mutations of the bookselling and publishing industries.... At **BookWoman**, it's **Film Night with Amanda** (Johnston, a.k.a. FB-Net's Web site maven) on the second Friday night of each Month.... BookWoman also held a Sidewalk Sale featuring (donated) used books as a benefit for Austin's favorite feminist bookstore.... ○

What innovative programming is working in your store? Give us a call or send an email and fill us in! — Carol



WRITING WANTED



By Teri Mae Rutledge

Soapstone, a writing retreat for women, is currently accepting applications for its year 2000 session. Soapstone provides residencies from one to four weeks at no charge. Soapstone is located in Oregon's coastal range on Soapstone Creek, an hour and a half from Portland, nine miles from Manzanita. Soapstone provides two private studios for writers (the writers will share kitchen and laundry facilities). Residents are advised that Soapstone is relatively isolated and wild; residents will need to drive to town for food and supplies and will be expected to haul firewood, take out the trash, etc. Writers will also be expected to supply food and linens, and Soapstone will provide pillows/blankets, heat and firewood, electricity, and local phone calls. For more information and an application, please send a self-addressed, stamped #10 business size envelope to Soapstone, a writing retreat for women, 622 SE. 29th Ave., Portland OR 97214.

Rain and Thunder: A Radical Feminist Journal of Discussion and Activism is seeking news, rants, reviews, direct action updates, theory, artwork, interviews, organizing and activism updates, and essays for their upcoming Summer Solstice issue, themed "Movement Building." Deadline: June 1. For more information, send a SASE to Rain and Thunder, PO Box 813, Northampton MA 01061, or email <uroubn00@umail.ucsb.edu>.

n.paradoxa, an international feminist art journal welcomes proposals from women writing about aspects of feminist theory in relation to the work of contemporary artists. The next issue is themed "about time," and will deal with "radical and disturbing notions of time in women's artwork, both in and outside time-based

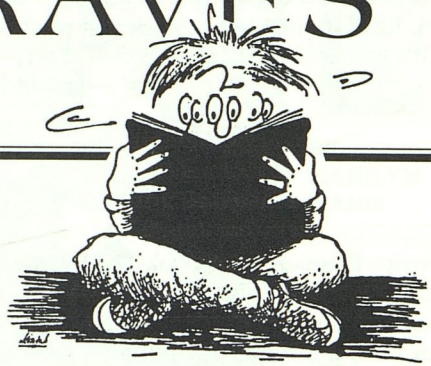
media." Katy Deepwell, editor of *n.paradoxa*, says that "Any discussions of women's time in all its monumental, historical, linear, aberrant, cyclic, and rhythmic forms" will be considered. Deadline: November 1. For more information, visit the *n.paradoxa* Web site at <<http://web.ukonline.co.uk/n.paradoxa/index.htm>> or write to Katy Deepwell, *n.paradoxa*, KT Press, 38 Bellot St., East Greenwich, London SE10 OAA, UK.

Suzanne Sowinska is seeking writing for a literary anthology of lesbian/bisexual writing about grief and loss. She's looking for accounts of grief, sorrow, loss, and mourning that are "courageous, loving, painful, joyous, tender, sorrowful, playful, confused, tormented, sacred, or profane." Poetry, fiction, essays, stories, eulogies, letters, memoirs, and nonfiction will be considered. Deadline: August 31. For more information, visit her Web site at <<http://www.oz.net/~sowinska/>>.



Malinda Teel is seeking essays for a book on fortitude. She's looking for any work that demonstrates courage, perseverance, and patience in the face of difficulty. Essays should be no longer than five double-spaced pages. Since the publisher is brand-new and on a shoestring budget, Teel is not able to pay writers. Teel is also seeking individuals that she can interview about fortitude, as well as leads on previously published stories, essays, poems, quotable sound-bites, and excerptable passages on fortitude. Deadline: May 30. For more information, contact Malinda Teel, 399 Pavillion St., Atlanta GA 30315; 404-627-4722, fax 404-627-0780, email <mpteel@juno.com>. ○

SHORT RAVES



Compiled by Teri Mae Rutledge

Where the Heart Is by Billie Letts. Novalee Nation was heading for California at seven months pregnant with her boyfriend and \$7.77 in her purse. Next thing she knows, she is stranded — alone at a Wal-Mart in Sequoyah, Oklahoma — and what takes place from then on is a moving, funny, and unforgettable journey. Billie Letts has written a wonderful first novel. \$12 pb, 0-446-67221-1, Warner.

(I gotta add, I picked it up when I was at Amazon in January, inspired by a similar staff rave on the shelf below, and I loved it. — CS)

The Amazing "True" Story of a Teenage Single Mom by Katherine Arnoldi. There are a lot of role models and heroines out there for us, but Katherine Arnoldi has just jumped to the top of my list. She tells her story with her own words and drawings — no ghost writer for her. Tillie Olsen says that it's an "absolutely original book, one of the dearest books of my lifetime, transcending its form and transcendent in content." This is a remarkable book, written by a remarkable and courageous woman. \$16 cl, 0-7868-6420-6, Hyperion. —Colleen

Crazy Ladies Bookstore/Cincinnati

I loved Deirdre McNamer's poignant first novel, *Rima in the Weeds*, about a young girl growing up in a small prairie town at the height of the cold war. With underground missiles aimed at the Soviet Union in the fields just outside of town, the townspeople — adults and children — understood that they were in turn targeted by the Russians. In this out-of-control world, pre-adolescent Rima was the heroine of her domain, a kind of Tarzan of the tall weeds which surrounded her house. I somehow missed *One Sweet*

Quarrel, McNamer's second novel, but after staying up late to finish *My Russian*, I'm anxious to go back to it. Francesca Woodbridge is a woman in her forties who feels a desperate need to understand how she got to the point in her life at which her interior self burned out: "All my fiercest, wildest, most exhilarating feelings recede too often to a place where I can recall that they existed, but I can't seem to feel them again. I have knowledge of them, but it is no longer visceral knowledge. It's archival. And that scares me cold. I regard those feelings the way I regard a particularly powerful and lovely zoo animal — a lynx, a musk ox. I look at them through the bars and I think that there was a time when I was *with* them, when we all ran on the yellow grass." After months of taking care of her husband, who is recovering from a gunshot from an as-yet-unknown intruder, Francesca takes a trip to Greece to recover and rejuvenate...and turns around and comes back, checking into the motel just down the street from her house as "Jeanne Thompson," with new clothes and different hair. How Francesca's husband was shot and by whom, and where her lover disappeared to are two questions you are dying to find answers for at the beginning of the novel. But as Francesca examines her life from the outside vantage point of "Jeanne Thompson" and reflects on the past 40 years, the story becomes much more complex than that. And satisfying. The writing is beautiful, and the story is powerful and imaginative. \$25 cl, 0-395-95637-4, June, Houghton Mifflin.

I'm also thrilled to see that Houghton is publishing Rosina Lippi's **Homestead**, the story of a community in a remote corner of Austria, told by three generations of women who live there. "Moves us to tears and makes us grateful for it." —Dorothy Allison. Read it, then buy a stack and put it on the table. It's wonderful. \$12 pb, 0-395-97771-1.

—Lisa McGowan



Sharlee Dieguez's new book **The Bearded Lady** reminds me of how I always thought things would have worked if I was one of the box-car children. Turn that box car into a circus train, lose the brothers and the rich old guy, add some circus freaks and a good old-fashioned, very queer sexual awakening and *then* you've got a story.

Set in the turn-of-the-century American South, the story follows Tweets (the beautiful one) and her older sister Jesse (the bearded one), who are orphaned and homeless when they run away and join the circus. The girls are clever — Jesse has a knack for numbers — and they navigate their own way through this fantastic world relying on wit and whiskers alone. In the circus they find a loving, adoptive family of misfits, "loose women," and freaks. Jesse's "deformity" becomes an asset in this new family where ideas of beauty are anything but simplistic, and love is not reserved for the conventional.

By far, one of the most interesting aspects of **The Bearded Lady** is Dieguez's examination of what it means to be a freak. When it comes right down to it, the freakishness of her characters comes from the fact that they exist outside social norms of beauty, gender, and desire. So, while you don't have to run away and join the circus to qualify, your freakish nature certainly becomes more apparent if you do. When Jesse displays herself as a bearded lady for the very first time, "[she] noticed from her throne-like seat...that people rarely made eye contact with her or acknowledged her in any way. They preferred instead to discuss her with friends and family as though she were some type of inanimate display or maybe an animal that couldn't understand them." Dieguez leaves us with the idea that the true freaks in **The**

Bearded Lady are the characters who find it necessary to deny the humanity of the so-called freaks but are, at the same time, perversely fascinated with them.

All in all, just as I always imagined my life of box-car independence would have been, **The Bearded Lady** is fun. And even if — in true lesbian movie and fiction fashion — there isn't any sex until the very end (and even then it isn't cigarette worthy) I was all over the romance between the bearded lady and the mysterious Argentinean horse-trainer with strangely large hands.... \$24 cl, 1-892514-15-X, Hill Street Press. Distributed by LPC.

I tell you, I was itching, for a couple of months at least, to get my hands on **Boys Like Her** by the four-member Canadian performance group Taste This. Press Gang touted this book in the FB-Net catalog as "a road movie of young queer life and gender transformation." It's about time, I thought, a book that represents the gender-fuck nuances of my late-90s queer girl experience. When I finally did get my paws on **Boys**, Taste This did not disappoint.

Their writing is sharp. The monologues, stories, and poems are woven together to reveal the malleability of contemporary queer culture with exciting freshness. And the layout and photography are as slick as they are delicious. As their introduction tells us, "These stories are true, except the ones we made up. They are written by four women, except when we're not." All right! The whole shebang is punctuated by four very different takes on Taste-This-does-Canadian-Customs. The harassment and searches the border guards subject the group to as they try to cross into Canada become metaphors of violation and transgression (or is it transgression and then violation?). In keeping with the subtitle of the book, **Transfictions**, the focus of the border crossing changes depending on the perspective. From the journal, to the violin, to the dildo, the only constant of this tale is that the girl in the kilt is wearing no underwear. Whether they're telling us about little girls shedding bikini tops to become boys or detailing sadistic superwoman fantasies, **Boys Like Her** takes a head-on look at queer sexuality, identity and boundaries. \$15.95 pb, 0-88974-086-0, Press Gang. Distributed by LPC.

—Kristin Redmon
FBN/The Volcano

The book I've loved most in recent months but heard very few people talking about is Linda Hogan's *Power*, a wonderfully rich novel about living between cultures. *Power* centers on a 16-year-old girl caught between the dominant culture, the compromises her mother makes in the pursuit of assimilation (including turning a blind eye while her husband molests her daughter), and the values she learns from her aunt and a handful of people living by the traditions of the Tiaga people. I find myself going back, again and again, to the questions the novel raises about honor and loyalty, about how one can (and too frequently can't) honor what one knows to be sacred, and the high — but essential — cost of choosing all the complexity of the world one inherits. \$23 cl, 0-393-04636-2, Norton.

The most under-sold, hysterically funny, and profound novel on the shelf? Sheila Ortiz Taylor's *Coachella*. (Yes, by the author of *Faultlines*, the mad-bunny book about women coming out, drag-queen childcare workers, and love and passion between women — both sexual and, as I remember, political.) Taylor's strength is characterization, and here she offers a wonderful collection of more-interrelated-than-you'd-expect characters: Yolanda Ramírez, a "lowly" (though she certainly doesn't see it that way!) phlebotomist, the gardener Crescencia with his profound respect for life and love, Marina Lomas, who appears as if from nowhere and is only too happy to take a job — any job — at the resort run by gay men.... Throw in a bevy of society gals and their cosmetic surgeries, that strange wasting disease one of the resort owners has, and a batterer stalking his escaped wife, and ground the story in Tia Josie's cheerful compassion and you (or your customers) will have good reason to stay up too late at night to see how it all comes together. Taylor compromises nothing, and that always means that a book needs an extra boost to reach the readers who will respect that — as well as those who don't really care but just need a good read, be they dyke, queer, Chicana/o, mystery aficionados, or (if they really exist) crossover readers. Well worth the effort to get it from University of New Mexico Press. \$14.95 pb, 0-8263-1843-6.

I waited for months for Polestar's *Pool-Hopping and Other Stories* by Anne Fleming. Unfortunately it

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photo by Dana L. Lee

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was published too late to be included in the FB-Network Catalog, so I'm a bit concerned that it won't get the readership that this wacky mix of stories deserves. Maybe it's that I'm on a short-story kick, but once again, here are stories set simultaneously on the boundaries of several social groups and very close to the center of my own heart. I save these stories up for those moments when I need a quick kick or a new twist of perspective: A marriage of convenience between a gay man and a dyke — told from the guy's perspective. An elderly father robbing a bank in a heartfelt, if perhaps befuddled, attempt to reconnect with his estranged gay son. A middle-aged man trying to learn more about — and therefore to somehow honor — the stranger he killed in a car accident. Are these men real? No, they're entirely the stuff of fiction, but perhaps what intrigues me here is that these characters are men imagined by lesbian sensibility. We often see the strange things that superimposing mainstream values and assumptions on lesbian characters does to those characters — but we rarely see what superimposing lesbian values on male characters

does to create a kinder, gentler norm. **Pool-Hopping** offers that kind of perspective, making the male characters as interesting and intriguing as the female. \$13.95/C\$16.95 pb, 1-896095-18-6, Polestar Book Publishers. Distributed by LPC.

Balm for those suffering from relationship cynicism? Handsell Pam Houston's **Cowboys Are My Weakness** and **Waltzing the Cat**. Wonderful for all of the outdoor adventure (rafting, ranching, driving), but even more wonderful for their cynical insight and optimism on "romantic" relationships. Even readers who aren't being driven mad by relationships will love the sharp, pithy, tight, short stories in **Cowboys**. And what's even better than **Cowboys**? **Waltzing the Cat** — where Houston further explores life without (and life in pursuit of) the

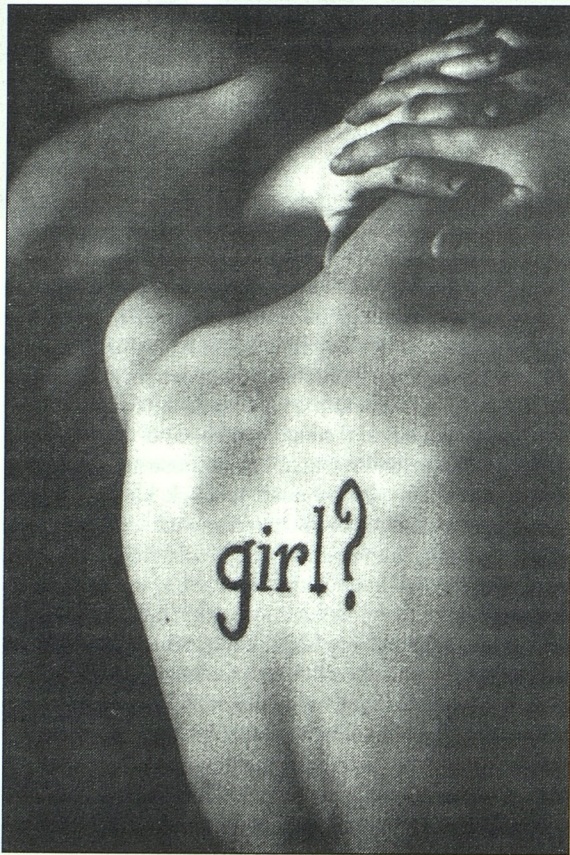


Photo by Tricia McDonald, in *Boys Like Her* (Press Gang)

perfect relationship — or even a relationship that will work for awhile. She's brilliant at exploring the ways women slip into becoming characters in our own stories and how we get caught up in our own myths as well as others' expectations. **Cowboys Are My Weakness**: \$10 pb, 0-671-79388-8, Washington Square Press/S&S; **Waltzing the Cat**: \$23.95 cl, 0-393-02749-X, Norton.

A friend started me reading **The Feminist Memoir Project: Voices from Women's Liberation**, a marvelous collection of true tales from the beginning of the women's liberation movement, which sparked a whole exploration of "where did feminism come from?" and "how did it succeed and fail various women and communities and ourselves?" It's been quite a lovely reading binge. My favorite reminder from **Feminist Memoir Project** is that some women chose celibacy as a tactic — believing that surely *that* would bring men around, and quickly. The collection renewed memories of endless enthusiasm, the belief that we could right the wrongs, and that it wouldn't take much time at all. It turned out to be a lot more complicated than that. (\$20 pb, 0-609-80384-0, Three Rivers/Random House.) But it's also piqued my interest in reading Karla Jay's just-out **Tales of the Lavender Menace** (\$25 cl, 0-465-08364-1, Basic Books), another accounting of that era, this time from a dyke perspective (see Richard Labonté's rave in *Gay Lit*), and Lillian Faderman's **To Believe in Women: What Lesbians Have Done for America** (\$30 cl, 0-395-85010-X, Houghton Mifflin). But it also took me back to my reading last fall of **Beyond the Limbo Silence**, Elizabeth Nunez's 1960s tale of a Trinidadian woman attending college on a scholarship in rural Wisconsin and the ways she's caught up in the Civil Rights and Black Power movements — and dropped with a thud when that woman's issue, conception, rears its complicated head. It's profound on the ways women do and don't manage to support each other and the places where passionate idealism goes head to head with an entrenched social system that isn't about to yield power or profit in the name of justice or humanity. (\$12.95 pb, 1-58005-013-1, Seal Press. Distributed by PGW) And that, pretty much, seems to be the theme of my reading for the last six months (see *Power*, and yes, even *Coachella* and *Cowboys*, above).

The other great “read” that all feminist bookstores should know about and stock is a nifty little “zine” published by the Minnesota Women’s Press, *Book Women*, “a readers’ community for those who love women’s words.” Now you have to believe me that I had this FBN-shaped, 26-page zine on my “Raves” pile even *before* it included an article covering my recent lecture in Minneapolis. Basically it’s a collection of short pieces — including many about book groups, books that women (or groups of women) love and recommend to others, profiles of readers(!), interesting articles by women who travel about what they read (and why), favorite books, etc. — and a healthy amount of ongoing adult education about the importance of diversity, of independent bookstores, and most especially feminist bookstores and publishers. Basically it’s full of the kind of bookseller- and customer-to-customer chat that you love to hear in your own store, pitched at women who love to read but who want something less academic than *The Women’s Review of Books*. I’d get a stack of them and set them on the counter next to the register, and then point them out to your favorite customers. At \$5 a copy, it’s not cheap, but it’s worth it! And you’ll sell more copies of featured books, too. 40%, 5-copy minimum. Order from The Minnesota Women’s Press, 771 Raymond Ave., St. Paul MN 55114, 651-646-3968; <women@womenspress.com>. —Carol Seajay



I opened *White Oleander* somewhere in the middle to sample it, and was compelled to keep reading from there to the end. A couple days after finishing it, I’d recovered enough to go back and start from the beginning. It’s an odd way to read a novel, but this one is strong enough to stand up to any sequencing. The blurb compares it to Mona Simpson’s *Anywhere But Here*, and I’ll agree there are similarities — both books tell, from the girls’ point of view, of their eccentric, unconventional mothers. Both mothers give their daughters too much attention, while at the same time neglecting them, and both girls long for more “normal” childhoods. There can’t ever be enough bizarre mother-daughter relationship stories in print, so there’s plenty of room for this new one by Janet Fitch.

In all her twelve years, Astrid has witnessed her mother, Ingrid, in many emotionally remote relationships with men. Through them all, Ingrid maintains her own life as a cynical poet. Astrid is amazed when a new man changes her mother into first a clinging romantic, and then, as his passion cools, a craving, demanding maniac. Soon the mother is plotting revenge, stalking the man and totally ignoring the needs of her daughter. The white oleanders in their front yard provide the poison necessary to finish him off. After the mother’s murder trial and imprisonment, Astrid is thrown into a series of foster homes. Twelve years as the only child of a controlling, obsessive mother have not prepared Astrid for life with strange families, and the foster system does not serve her well as she is moved from one bad situation to another. Nor does her mother send encouragement from prison — she attacks her daughter through jealous letters whenever Astrid seems to find any small comfort with another person. It’s not a pretty picture of motherhood, but it is an intimate look at life from a survivor’s point of view, as the daughter matures into a complex young woman with a mind of her own, carving out a life of her own. \$24 cl, 0-316-28526-9, Little, Brown.

—Kathryn Werhane

I have to admit that when I picked up Elizabeth Brownrigg’s debut novel, *Falling to Earth*, I wasn’t too excited about reading it. The blurb said it’s about a closeted lesbian’s relationship with her guardian angel. Angels, I thought. Ick. I think I’ve seen enough of them lately, showing up everywhere from postcards to checkbooks to movies to that horrifying television program that CBS is so proud of. I decided to read it anyway because it’s from Firebrand, and (I’ll let you in on a little secret, here) Nancy Bereano has very good taste.

I’ve got to tell you, I *loved* *Falling to Earth*, angel and all. Why? Layers and layers of delicious complication. Pheobe the angel popped into Alice’s life after years of invisibility. Pheobe’s mission seemed to be to change Alice. “Change is grace,” as she said. So Pheobe got Alice to write stories about people. These stories, all by themselves, are gorgeous, poignant vignettes about people you can practically reach right out and touch. Among them is Blanche, a woman Alice found herself liking for some reason, who fights

vehemently against her attraction to a Black man. There's also Carla the artist, whose searing need is to make dioramas. Carla fills her dioramas with people she doesn't know and has never met. But she molds their stories. Populating the dioramas are the characters from Alice's stories, as well as Alice and Pheobe, themselves. In fact, for a while Pheobe disappears, and we readers only know what she is doing through Carla's dioramas. When Alice looks for Pheobe, she bumps into Blanche. What's a woman to do when confronted with a character from her story? Alice suggests they play a round of pool together before she resumed her search for her angel.

The interplay between all these "realities" is masterful. I loved the blurring of the line between real and unreal, of the writer and her stories, of the artist and her art. I also appreciated how the "narrator" disappeared as each character tugged on the life of another, making it impossible to say whether Alice was the real one writing the stories about everyone else, or whether Carla was the one holding the strings, or whether Pheobe was inventing all of this, after all. And in the luscious tangle of stories, I didn't much care.

But I never told you where Pheobe was: Pheobe was trying to sin. She wanted to touch things, she wanted to become carnal, lustful, *human*. As Pheobe came into her body, her human experiment spiraled into a life of crime: shoplifting, developing a drug habit, sprouting a potbelly from her love of fried chicken, trashing Alice's apartment.

In the meantime, Alice wanted to fly. As she gradually found the ability to do so, she was able to see other angels, all watching their people. The angels were afraid of Alice, not just because she could see them, but because she had no angel of her own.

Did Alice find grace by the novel's close? Certainly, she changed. Her job was all but forgotten, and she learned how to fly. And, in another dizzying and dazzling knit of circumstance, Alice found a woman who was linked to her since the moment of her birth. Finally, she realized a beautiful and powerful desire to live openly as she wished.

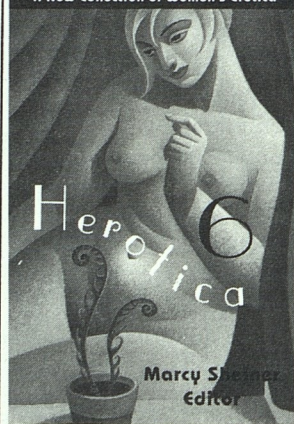
There are a thousand tiny, amazing moments in **Falling to Earth**. I was completely and happily absorbed in the world Elizabeth Brownrigg created, and I want to pull others there, too. Each tiny moment is a reason to read this book. It is a full, complex, intricate, beautiful piece of art. I hope that you'll (pardon the pun, but I can't help myself) take it under your wing and sell it to your customers, but more importantly, I hope you'll read it yourself. You deserve the experience. \$12.95 pb, 1-56341-100-8, Firebrand. Distributed by LPC.

Jennifer Price considers Nature in **Flight Maps: Adventures with Nature in Modern America**. Her analysis is as rigorous and thoughtful as any solid philosophical naturalist's, but her approach is fabulously original. And as a pop culture studies wanna-be, I absolutely grooved on her *very* unorthodox (might some even say blasphemous?) approach. Price looks at how people pull Nature into their daily life through the consumption of objects — or, more accurately, icons — and what uses/meanings we make/erase of Nature once we've consumed it.

Price discusses the historically meaning-laden (and now extinct) passenger pigeon; the aesthetics of placing stuffed birds on women's hats in the early 1900s (and the mostly women-driven movement to fight the practice); the meanings of that

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quintessentially "artificial" modern icon, the pink flamingo (complete with discussions of John Waters, Miami Vice, and baby boomer values); the rising popularity of the nature store; and the meanings of Nature on television (from commercials to "Twin Peaks" to "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman" to PBS nature shows).

The best thing about Jennifer Price is her objective skill at digging through layers and layers of social meaning. She is not interested in placing blame (unlike many righteous naturalist writers), and she doesn't say things like, "Oh, those stupid, stupid passenger pigeon hunters/eaters! They were greedy, and they used up the resources. We must be smarter/less greedy than they." She instead looks at people's relationships with passenger pigeons, shows why it makes perfect cultural sense that the birds were eradicated, and draws relevant meanings for modern American culture.

Though there is a stunning array of revelations in **Flight Maps**, the book ultimately explores how the unchallenged (throughout the ages) cultural definition of Nature as an untouched "Place Apart,"

unconnected with cultural artifice, has erased our connection to Nature. This erasure has allowed our contradictory desire to consume, consume, consume to exist *alongside* our reverence of Nature.

I'm left, necessarily, thinking about the "Nature" in my coffee cup, in my headphones, in my computer. I'm left thinking about my impact on Nature, but I'm also pondering, what stories do I tell about myself with my own version of Nature? How are the things I see as "natural" manipulated and constructed for me? What are the differences between something "real" and something "natural?" And — my god — how did the pink flamingo assume such an astounding tangle of cultural connotations?

Flight Maps is a necessary, genre-blowing addition to naturalist writing. If you have nature-reading clientele, hand them **Flight Maps** and see what they think of it. If you have any pop culture enthusiasts in your customer base, this is for them too. Finally, **Flight Maps** is for anyone that wants to go on a little head trip with a very smart lady and her birds. \$23 cl, 0-465-02485-8, Basic Books.

—Teri Mae Rutledge ○

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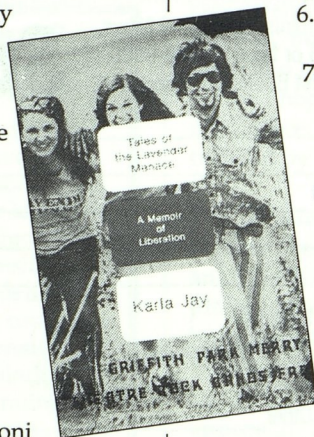
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BESTSELLERS

Crazy Ladies Bookstore Cincinnati OH March Bestsellers

1. **The Poisonwood Bible** by Barbara Kingsolver, \$26 cl, HarperCollins
2. **I Beg to Differ** by Laura Pulfer, \$24.95 cl, Orange Frazer Press
3. **By the Light of My Father's Smile** by Alice Walker, \$22.95 cl, Random House
4. **No Mirrors in My Nana's House** by Ysaye M. Barnwell, paintings by Synthia St. James, \$18 cl, Harcourt Brace
5. **Your Sixth Sense** by Belleruth Naparstek, \$12 pb, HarperCollins
6. **Be the Person You Want to Find** by Cheri Huber, \$12 pb, Keep It Simple Books
7. **The Amazing "True" Story of a Teenage Single Mom** by Katherine Arnoldi, \$16 cl, Hyperion
8. **Pema Chödrön and Alice Walker in Conversation**, \$11.95 audio, Sounds True
9. **Mappings** by Susan Stanford Friedman, \$18.95 pb, Princeton University Press
10. **Tales of the Lavender Menace** by Karla Jay, \$25 cl, Basic Books
11. **Stolen Moments** by Judy Francesconi (photographer), \$24.95 pb, 101 Graphics
12. **Shaman's Moon** by Sarah Dreher, \$12.95 pb, New Victoria Publishers
13. **Family Outing** by Chastity Bono, \$24 cl, Little, Brown
14. **Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me** by Michael Thomas Ford, \$10.95 pb, Alyson
15. **Sitting: A Guide to Buddhist Meditation** by Diana St. Ruth, \$9.95 pb, Penguin



Amazon Bookstore Minneapolis MN March Bestsellers

1. **Murder on the Prowl** by Rita Mae Brown, \$6.99 pb, Bantam
2. **Black and Blue** by Anna Quindlen, \$7.50 pb, Dell
3. **Women's Traveller 99, Tenth Anniversary Edition**, \$13.95 pb, Damron Editions
4. **Adiós Barbie** edited by Ophira Edut, \$14.95 pb, Seal Press
5. **Old Love: A Novel** by Margaret Erhart, \$13 pb, Steerforth (This is an Amazon book group selection.)
6. **Watermark** by Karin Kallmaker, \$11.95 pb, Naiad
7. **Dancing with Miriam Haggadah: A Jewish Woman's Celebration of Passover** by Elaine Moise, \$9.95 pb, Rikudi Miriam
8. **Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith** by Kathleen Norris, \$12.95 pb, Riverhead
9. **The Other Woman** by Ann O'Leary, \$11.95 pb, Naiad
10. **Liberty Falling** by Nevada Barr, \$23.95 cl, Putnam

Women in Print Vancouver BC March Bestsellers

FICTION

1. **Cereus Blooms at Night** by Shani Mooto
2. **Tamarind Mem** by Anita Rau Badami
3. **Fugitive Pieces** by Ann Michaels

See **Bestsellers**, page 54.

COMMENTARY & TRIVIA

Tarnished Images

By Carol Seajay

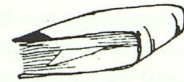
Working Assets is turning out to be quite a friend to booksellers: The company took a stand against Borders on Union Street and backed that with a \$5,000 ad on page three of the *Bay Guardian* urging readers to tell the San Francisco Planning Commission that it is *not* OK to exempt Borders from zoning regulations. Because of the *Guardian* ad and other community pressure, the commission reversed itself and refused to grant the superstore the exemption it needed to hone in on a small-store community neighborhood.

In March, Working Assets, which always includes calls to action in its phone bills, included a flier that encouraged its 30,000 customers to call or write the Federal Trade Commission to urge the FTC to block the Ingram/B&N merger. And locally, Working Assets sent 25,000 promotional mailers ("Sign up now to make Working Assets your long distance carrier") using \$15 gift certificates for books (!) redeemable in Northern California Independent Bookstores — as the come on. People who sign up get two \$15 gift certificates, one in their first monthly bill and one in their fourth monthly bill.

On the one hand, I'm thrilled. This kind of active, visible, vote-counting support makes a huge difference, both in terms of people's immediate behavior and in terms of doing successful community education.

But on the other hand, the reality that independent bookstores — and we're talking *all* general independent bookstores, not specifically leftist or progressive or civil rights or African American or feminist or gay/lesbian bookstores — are so endangered that their very existence has become a progressive cause terrifies me. I don't want general bookselling to be a cause. Progressive bookselling,

feminist bookstores, African-American stores, gay stores — all of which are cause-centered — should be causes. Not general bookstores. And not the general distribution system of information in this country. But it is and there you have it. So I am truly grateful to Working Assets for acting on this troubling reality.



Here's a pleasant question to ponder: Suppose the Ingram/B&N sale doesn't go through — could Ingram recover from this last year? Clearly independents will never again willingly trust Ingram with sales or ordering information. Many independents have shifted Ingram from the top of their ordering cascade to as low as possible. Amazon.com has cut its Ingram business by a third. (How interesting to be on the same side of the equation as Amazon.com.) Baker & Taylor has so much more business that it is increasing its warehouse space by 100,000 square feet. Many other distributors have forged stronger bonds with independents who have suddenly realized that independent distributors are as essential as independent bookstores. So what will happen to Ingram if The Sale doesn't go through? Perhaps they'll just become one of many distributors on a much more level playing field, rather than being the controlling top dog with an estimated 80 percent of the wholesale book market. Perhaps their share would decline to 70 percent or 60 percent, or even a mere 50 percent. That would be reasonable payback for all these months of anxiety.

Some people have suggested that Barnes-&Noble.com is being a bit greedy, what with doing both a public stock offering *and* having the \$200 million

sale to Bertelsmann in the bag (for half ownership of B&N.com). Someone even suggested that the stock offering was a hedge against the possibility that the FTC might nix that sale as well, an idea that continues to intrigue me but, frankly, my money's on the greed motive.



But the real fun is watching the superchains taking some knocks in the media and on the street.

Borders, whose proposed Union Street superstore was nixed by the SF Planning Commission, got quite huffy and strutted away saying it would take its stores to communities that wanted them. But the very next battle was fought in Capitola (population 10,000), a small town near Santa Cruz where an informed citizenry argued against the superchain on environmental, political, educational, moral, and practical grounds until the wee hours of the morning. (See Adrienne Rich letter, March/April 99 issue, page 48.) In the end, Borders lost on two counts: The City Council decided to restrict Borders to a 12,500-square-foot store (much too small for Borders' tastes) and the California Superior Court found for environmentalists in a lawsuit brought against the developers a year ago. We certainly do wish Borders would go where it is wanted. Which, if you believe the *San Jose Mercury News*, is in fewer and fewer places. "It took the whole community hacking away — people counting parking spaces, using their own tape measures, reading RDAs (redevelopment fund reports), interpreting environmental impact studies — until the two decisions saved the day.... Feelings against megabookstores and big-box chains were there all along. But the big thing was watching people realize what's happening in the book industry — how conglomerates are shaping the industry, the effect on authors, small publishers, and independent booksellers. They knew that, vaguely, before, but now they talk about the way those changes limit their choices in reading books."

And Amazon.com and its "boyish" founder Jeff Bezos seem to be losing a little of their golden glow, too. Suddenly the media seems to be doing a reality check:

Nobody was charmed when it turned out that Amazon.com was selling its recommendations. (Though the media seemed not to care that, if publishers aren't offering independents parallel co-op programs, then the monies Amazon.com is getting are illegal under fair-trade practices laws). A rash of anyone-could-do-it stories have followed in the wake of the *NYT* report that Lyle Bowlin, a Cedar Rapids, Iowa, resident, had set up his own independent cyber bookstore with operational costs of \$150 per month that generated superb growth statistics. (The word is out: "For the cost of one share of Amazon.com you can be Amazon.com...." On the other hand, it makes you wonder if ABA *needs* to be charging a \$500 set-up fee and \$200 a month for access to BookSense.com, given the potential economies of scale.)

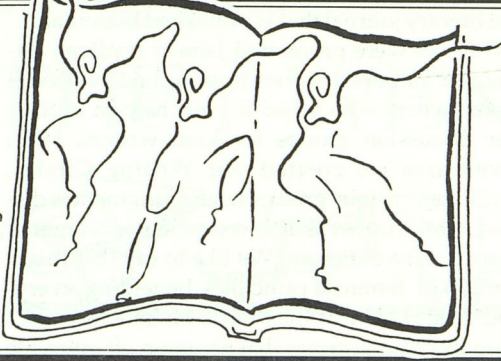
The next target was Amazon.com's bestseller list. Turns out midlist (and other) writers can have a big impact on their rankings just by buying a few (or a lot) of books on a regular basis. (And now that Amazon.com — trying to save face because everyone knows that it's selling its recommended lists and placements — has promised to refund any sale where the customer is dissatisfied, presumably authors buying copies of their own books to improve their rankings can also return those copies to Amazon.com for a full refund.)



Then there's the burst of outrage among independent booksellers and customers (well covered in "Holt Uncensored") that Amazon.com has purchased so much space on the big search engines that any search that seems to include a book (or even a bookstore name) returns a banner offering "Books about *Sisterhood Bookstore*" or whatever was in the search. The nasty part is that if someone is searching for an independent bookstore's Web site, they still get flashed to Amazon.com's disingenuous banner pretending to offer something about the store. In fact, when you click on the ad, the response is that there is no book by that title, and visitors are offered a list of "related" titles instead. Amazon.com's response to criticism? "Gee, we don't mean to *offend* you, the search engine makes us do it." OK, their actual words

See Commentary, page 46.

Seajay



ON FEMINIST PUBLISHING

Compiled by Carol Seajay

Calyx Journal recently received a one-year, NEA-sponsored Creation and Presentation Program grant. It will help the editors expand the *Journal* format, publish more writers, and market *Calyx Journal* to a wider reading audience. While *Calyx* received regular grant support from the NEA from 1978 through 1995, this is the first NEA grant *Calyx* has received since the NEA Literature program was closed and NEA funding was cut by 40 percent. (See News for other NEA-related information.)

Calyx also reports that, while sales were down last year, returns remained constant at about 40 percent. But is *Calyx* backing down? No way! Their slogan for their annual birthday celebration, catalog, and new baseball caps (!) is "Break the Chains — Support Independent Bookstores."

Congratulations — and happy birthday — to Florence Howe, Feminist Press at CUNY founder and publisher, who used the occasion to host a fundraising dinner and launch an ongoing campaign to create an endowment for The Feminist Press/CUNY that will keep the press publishing for generations to come.

Firebrand created quite a successful stir with its recent publication of an expanded edition of Pat Parker's *Movement in Black* on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of Pat's death from breast cancer. Charis (Atlanta) did a huge event (in conjunction with the local Black lesbian group, Zami, The Atlanta Breast Cancer Initiative, and the Charis Circle) featuring a group of women reading her "Movement in Black." My one regret from being snowed in on Cape

Cod (and thus missing the first half of the OutWrite Conference) was missing the big, staged reading of the poem on Friday night. But I was consoled, at the annual Pat Parker memorial program at Mama Bears (Oakland, CA), when the emcee of the event pulled together a group of women — on the spot — to do an impromptu reading of it. And that production was as profound and evocative as the very first time I heard Pat read the piece.

Naiad Press, which has always had the most effective direct mail order program in the industry, is on a roll with its Web site: Barbara Grier reports \$16,500 in sales during the site's first three months (April to June 1998), with 40 percent of the orders coming from new-to-Naiad customers. Naiad's total for direct sales for 1998 (which includes Internet sales) reached \$415,000, a 111 percent increase over the previous year, and up by 125 percent from 1994 sales. Sales in the first quarter of 1999 are running about 25 percent ahead of the same period last year. All of which gives Naiad a publisher-to-retail-sales income equivalent to most of the larger feminist bookstores, but at a much higher profit margin.

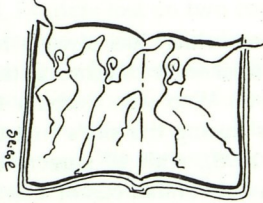
Barbara credits "the magic of ordering online" and "the romance with the online world" with their strong online orders. "People are increasingly isolated in real life, and for many, their relationships with people online are more 'real' — and thus more important — than their day-to-day relationships."

Barbara also reports that, while Naiad's overall bookstore sales are down a little (due to store closings), on a store-by-stores basis, sales are holding steady at surviving stores. "Pride stores," she says, "are filling the gaps" in Naiad's sales at a level

that compensates for bookstore closings.

But on the future of independent bookselling, Barbara is cynical. She doesn't see much of a future for general independents, but expects that specialty stores will continue to be supported by specialty markets. But is the future in the superstores? She doesn't go that far, either, noting that Barnes & Noble is cutting back on both the number of buyers that order books for the company and on its bricks-and-mortar stores.

Naiad, which specialized in branding long before the concept was popularized (and which is indisputably the most effectively "branded" gay, lesbian, or feminist press in the world), has developed a new tack in selling Trisha Todd's recently released *The Drive*, marketing it as "Not [just] a book you will sell to all those women who would die if they could not read a book, but [also a book you will sell] to the thousands of women who would rather die than read a book." (You go, Barbara!) *The Drive* was featured in *Girlfriends*, *Curve*, *Lambda Book Report*, at BEA and at the National Women's Music Festival, and was excerpted in LPC's *Logan Independent Reader*.



Publishers, like bookstores, find themselves fulfilling many roles — some anticipated and eagerly embraced, some that just seem to come with the territory, and some that are responses to needs so compelling that they shift the entire focus of the publisher. Glenda Baily-Mershon's article in the *Wild Dove Review* (Vol. 3, No. 1) illustrates all of the above in her brief profile and history of the Midwestern feminist press.

"Wild Dove began in 1994 with an ambitious mission of creating opportunities for regional writers. Since then, we have been busy spinning off new programs. A brief history may help explain our various efforts on behalf of writers.

"Our first venture was the publication of *Jane's Stories: An Anthology by Midwestern Women* (Jane I), a showcase for the work of regional women writers. In 2000, we will print the second *Jane's Stories* anthology (Jane II). Eventually *Jane's Stories* will become a

regional literary journal that is published biannually.

"While we were promoting *Jane* at readings featuring our 28 authors, we were approached by several bookstore owners who asked for our help in putting together discussion groups for local writers. From those ventures we created our Writing Circles, peer-facilitated critique groups where judgment is discouraged, while further skill development is promoted with constructive criticism. (We like to say that this is an example of feminist principles benefiting everyone.) Our first circle was the Prairie Moon Readout!, a women-only critique group that has spun off into a life of its own... [It] was followed by the Barnes & Noble/Vernon Hills Circle. When B&N/VH withdrew its support for all local writers' groups we began the Full Circle Writers at Prairie Moon, which is open to all writers. So many writers appreciated our efforts with the circles that a demand for skill-based workshops using the same methods grew into our progressive workshop series.

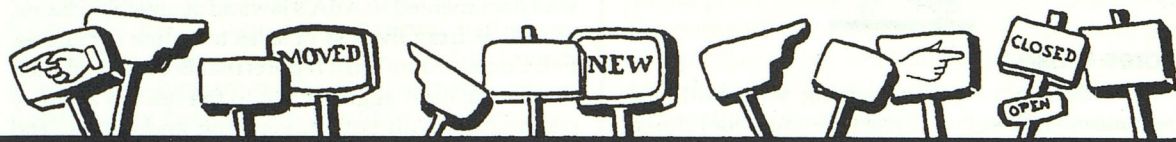
"In 1998, we founded the Wild Dove Writers' Center, a journal/library/retreat/work/workshop space for writers inside Prairie Moon. (Is it obvious by now that this bookstore has been incredibly supportive of local writers? So buy your books there!) Conversations among the center's board members revealed that the Northwest suburbs [of Chicago] have no open format "open mics." The result was our First Friday Coffeehouses, where area writers can hone their skills by performing their work before a truly sympathetic audience. (How else can we prepare for those book tours?)

"Along the way, we've created the Midwest Women Poets Series, our Poetry Cooperative, and our very unique Book Manuscript Review Groups, where writers can receive a book critique, as well as advice on marketing their books to agents and publishers.

"Wild Dove has also participated in book industry events that help promote our authors, including Book Expo America (BEA), Printers Row Book Fair, and the Illinois Authors Book Fair. This has all been fun, exasperating, exhausting, exhilarating, [and] a learning experience of the first order." ○

Publisher's News highlights news from Feminist Presses in North America and — as we get the news — globally. Call, write, fax, or email your news to my attention. Thanks!—CS

THEY WENT THAT-A-WAY



By Carol Seajay and Teri Mae Rutledge

New Stores

In the midst of all the sobering news of recent weeks, we are so glad to tell you all that not one but two new feminist stores are scheduled to open this June. Kathryn Welsh, whose store will open on New York City's lower east side, and Daisy Boyd and Jill Stevens, who will open their store in Columbus, Ohio, are young women entrepreneurs with a tremendous amount of energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to the feminist communities in each area. We heartily welcome them to our community of feminist stores and wish them luck! What follows is some initial information on each store, to be expanded upon in the July/August issue.

Bluestockings, soon to be *the* feminist bookstore in New York City, is tentatively slated to open its doors this June. Owner Kathryn Welsh says, "I moved to New York City in the summer of 97 and with much dismay discovered there were no feminist bookstores in the entire city — a city pegged the 'capital of the world.' Almost two years later, I am on the verge of signing a lease and an official dedication to a New York City feminist bookstore." At press time, Kathryn had just negotiated a lease on a 1000-square-foot storefront space on the lower east side of Manhattan on Allen St., located between Rivington St. and Stanton St. It's an area of New York that is up-and-coming, but not invaded by the chains. She says that over the last two years, lots of retail stores, bars, clubs, and restaurants have moved in to this neighborhood, but that the area will probably always retain its multiethnic character; the area has had large Latino and Jewish communities. She says, "I really worked hard to

find a space large enough to grow into a women's community center as well as a bookstore. The space will be filled with comfortable chairs, sofas, and tables for visitors to read, study, relax, and meet in. And hopefully in the next year I will be able to find someone to open a small café inside the store. (Anybody interested?)" The store will be a free space (a rarity in New York City) for performances, readings, classes, and meetings, and she'll post women-related announcements on a community bulletin board. Originally, Kathryn intended for the bookstore to be collective, and though she's the sole owner, she has hopes that the store will eventually grow into a more collaborative and then collective effort of the women's community in New York. She's already found a great deal of volunteer support, from a lawyer to a contractor to bookshelf builders. Though she is cognizant of the hard climate in which the store is opening, she has faith that the store will thrive. We have faith in her too. Bluestockings, 172 Allen St., NY NY 10027, email <KGWelsh@aol.com>.



Daisy Boyd and Jill Stevens of Columbus, Ohio, are also in the process of negotiating a loan and a lease so that they can open their store, *In the Words of Women*. They are currently, in Daisy's words, "being sent in circles by the big people with the cash," but if their loan comes through soon, they'll be able to open in June. In the meantime, Daisy and Jill would love to talk with the women of Fan the Flames, and if anyone has current contact information for them, please contact Daisy. Publishers can also send their catalogs to

Daisy at her home address. Daisy Boyd, 1432 D Elmwood Ave., Columbus OH 43212; 614-485-0282, email <daisyboyd@juno.com>.



Stores Close

It's been a very hard spring with both the announcement that Full Circle (Albuquerque) closed and the announcement that Sisterhood (Los Angeles) is seeking a benefactor or buyer, or it will close at the end of July (see page 19). Sisterhood, of course, has been plagued by Borders, which opened a superstore

directly across the street from the historic feminist bookstore. (Stating, along the way, that they hadn't noticed that there was a bookstore in the vicinity. Yeah, right.) Both stores suffered extensively from the invasion of superstores and the problems that are so well documented in ABA's lawsuit against the chains, as well as from the loss of sales to online supersites. Full Circle's Anne Frost reports that Borders had been promoting itself aggressively to the lesbian and gay community, with both advertising and events, and that Barnes & Noble had been targeting, in particular, African American communities, even going so far as to hire Black women to lead Black literature reading groups.

Full Circle was founded in Santa Fe in 1973 by Kate Arnold (daughter of Daughters Press co-founder June Arnold). In 1978 Paula Wallace (co-founder of Old Wives Tales with Carol Seajay in 1976 and, before that, a member of both the A Woman's Place Bookstore Collective and the Women's Press Collective) purchased the store, which had relocated to Albuquerque. She ran the store until 1984 when she sold it to Anne Frost and Mary Morell. Under the care of Paula, Anne, and Mary, Full Circle grew to become one of the largest feminist bookstores in the country. Under Anne and Mary's care it became renowned for its collection of books on both recovery and abuse, as well as for its excellent stock in other areas.

Two years ago, as Anne and Mary parted ways, they explored a number of possibilities for passing the store on to a new generation of caretakers. After extensive community meetings, they decided to sell the store to a community foundation that would raise \$100,000+ to buy it, maintain it as a non-profit community institution, and hire a manager to run it. A community board was developed to raise money and to create the foundation that would buy and run the store but, despite significant success in raising necessary money, the organization's timeline was not able to match the sellers' needs, a private sale fell through, and in January Anne decided to close the store at the end of February. As we go to press, individuals' attempts to buy the shell of the store or to open a "new" store in the same space have not yet been successful.

Full Circle stocked about 10,000 titles. The store grossed \$484,000 at its peak in 1994 (up from \$100,000



Publisher of the Sarah Aldridge Novels

The first Sarah Aldridge novel was published more than 20 years ago. Since then it has been followed by 12 more:

NINA IN THE WILDERNESS (HD)	1997	\$18.00
NINA IN THE WILDERNESS	1997	\$11.95
AMANTHA	1995	\$10.95
MICHAELA	1994	\$10.95
A FLIGHT OF ANGELS	1992	\$9.95
KEEP TO ME STRANGER	1989	\$9.95
MAGDALENA	1987	\$9.95
MISFORTUNE'S FRIEND	1985	\$8.95
MADAME AURORA	1983	\$7.95
THE NESTING PLACE	1982	\$7.95
ALL TRUE LOVERS	1978	\$8.95
CYTHEREA'S BREATH	1976	\$6.95
TOTTIE	1975	\$6.95
THE LATECOMER	1974	\$6.95

You can now join the many readers who have welcomed these novels over time and who still cherish them in their hearts and on their bookshelves.

Visit our website:

<http://home.switchboard.com/SarahAldridge>

Send for our catalog: **A&M Books**

P.O. Box 283, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19771 • 1-800-489-7662

a decade earlier), but after five years of being targeted by superstores the store's sales had dropped to \$260,000 in 1998.

Beans on Broadway, a three-year-old store in Redwood City (CA), has recently closed. The store, we're told by the remaining partner, had never broken even. Although the store had solid, but small, core group of supporters, it suffered from its location: it was in a city that did not particularly draw feminists and lesbians ("Redwood City is just not a destination") and it was also in an area with little daytime or evening traffic. Even the store's relatively low rent did not compensate for the lack of traffic. The store opened next to a theater, which was expected to draw evening traffic, but later the theater decided to run events only three times a year. Movie nights, comedy nights, and a poetry group were Beans' most successful events.



Book Mobiles & Traveling Book Shows

Leslie Smith, known to many for her work on the Lambda Book Report, is running a traveling bookstore, First Women's Books, which takes books by/about/for and of-interest-to women of color to festivals, conferences, and other events. She hires college students to sell the books to various events. The cost of transportation, of course, is the challenge. Events attended so far have been on the East Coast and the Midwest. Send catalogs (and/or applications to staff the booth at various festivals) to Leslie Smith, 3919 Ninth St. NW, Washington DC 20017; 202-269-3408.

Not So New, But...

Last summer, Cindy Beck, the owner of two stores in Nebraska called New Realities, opened a third store in Omaha: Heart and Soul. The store sells books and gifts, and it also has a coffee bar. Heart and Soul, 1117 Jackson St., Omaha NE 68102; 402-342-1654.

Stores Move

The Hue-Man Experience Bookstore of Denver, Colorado, (which just celebrated its 15th anniversary

in February) is moving to another neighborhood. Owner Clara Villarosa had considered selling or closing the store, much to the dismay of her many loyal customers. The new location is about a mile away, at the upper end of Denver's downtown, which should prove a better location than her current store. The store will be at street level in a new thousand-unit apartment complex. In addition, there is a restaurant next door and the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Theatre three blocks away, where Villarosa has coordinated major events in the past including a reading by Maya Angelou. The new store space is 1500 square feet, roughly half the size of the current location, but Villarosa says that the new location is more appropriate for retail. The move will be completed in September. Current address: The Hue-Man Experience, 911 23rd St., Denver CO 80205; 303-293-2665. We'll publish their new address/phone as soon as that information is available.

Books

Several Third Side Books are available through other publishers or are out of print. Naiad Press now holds the rights for Victoria Brownworth's *Out for Blood* and *Out for More Blood*. The following are out of print: *Coming Full Circle* by Nancy VanArsdall, *Entwined* by Beatrice Stone, and *Not So Much the Fall* by Kerry Hart. There are currently six titles in print from Third Side. They are *SomeBody to Love* by Leslea Newman, *Alternatives for Women with Endometriosis* by Ruth Carol, *Beyond Bedlam* by Jeanine Grobe, *Speaking in Whispers* by Kathleen Morris, *The Mayor of Heaven* by Lynn Kanter, and *The Death of a Much-Travelled Woman* by Barbara Wilson. Third Side Press, 2250 W. Farragut, Chicago IL 60625; 773-271-3029. Distributed by Consortium.



People

Sue Cozzi, formerly Executive Director at The Feminist Press, may now be reached at 580 W. 215th St. #3A, NY NY 10034; 212-569-2261.

Electronic News

Lammas Women's Books and More has a new email address: <DRBLammas@aol.com>. ○

UNSTRUNG HEART by Robbi Sommers

Only an author with the artistry of Robbi Sommers could paint such a multilayered portrait of a woman's life.

With her brilliant palette of poetry and prose, Robbi captures the delicate play of colors and light that illuminate our deepest hopes and fears. In intimate brushstrokes, she highlights and shades the real-life experiences that tear us apart . . . and make us whole.

- From the darkest grief . . . to the brightest joy
- From the soft pastels of new-found love . . . to the damp watercolors of desire
- From the blood-red hues of heartache . . . to the crystal blues of healing

A richly emotional portrait of love, loss and transformation, this unique work has much to teach us about Robbi, about each other, about ourselves.

ISBN: 1-56280-239-9 \$11.95



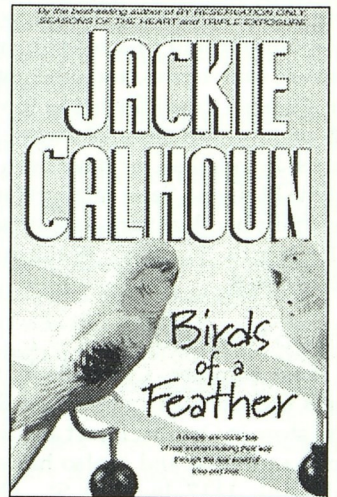
CHANGE OF HEART by Linda Hill

British supermodel Julia Westgate has always limited her encounters with women to secret trysts and one- or two-night stands.

While on a shoot in Boston, Julia carefully disguises herself, then sneaks out to a secluded lesbian bar. There she meets local journalist Cory Hayes. After spending a passionate weekend with Julia, Cory is devastated when she wakes up to an empty bed.

Cory's jaw drops when she sees an exquisite face on the cover of a fashion magazine that looks more than vaguely familiar. Thus begins a game of hide-and-seek, with Julia trying to run from herself and her uncertain future — and Cory willing to risk everything to find her.

ISBN: 1-56280-238-0 \$11.95



BIRDS OF A FEATHER by Jackie Calhoun

Joan McKenzie is beginning to question her life's choices. Living alone and juggling two jobs to pay her mortgage aren't what she would have planned for herself. She put all her energy into training dogs and showing horses. After she was dumped by the woman for whom she left her marriage, Joan just couldn't get into the dating scene. At times, she thought, the only things that kept her going were her dog, her love of the outdoors, and her long-term relationship with her best friend, Diane.

But just when she least expects it, not one, but two exciting new women walk into her life . . . and a dramatic change in Diane's situation will soon give Joan a chance for a brand new start.

ISBN: 1-56280-240-2 \$11.95



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BACK TO PRESS

AND OTHER GOOD NEWS

By Teri Mae Rutledge

Back to Press

Seductions edited by Lonnie Barbank (Dutton) hit the stores on Valentine's Day and had to go back to press within a week. (Our own Tee Corinne has a story in the anthology; perhaps that explains its popularity.)

Good News

Spinsters Ink has announced the recipient of the first annual \$1000 Spinsters Ink Young Feminist Scholarship: Carissa Marie Nelson of Faribault, Minnesota, a senior at Faribault High School. Nelson's essay on what feminism means to her was chosen from 500 entries submitted by high school seniors from across the country and will be published in *Hues* magazine. Nelson hopes to attend Cornell College in Iowa next fall. Spinsters Ink publisher Joan Drury said, "We were faced with the dilemma of choosing one winner from a large number of excellent entries. Carissa Marie Nelson's winning essay demonstrated thorough understanding of the links between all oppressed peoples and also recognized the heart of feminism: self-respect." Runners-up for the scholarship were Brianna Marie Cayo Cotter of University Park, Maryland, Veronica Kuiuindjian of Burbank, California, and Lindsay Jane Littlefield of Moorhead, Minnesota. Nelson and the runners-up will be given the opportunity to attend Norcroft: A Writing Retreat for Women on Minnesota's North Shore this summer. The scholarship was established in honor of Spinsters Ink's 20th anniversary and supports and recognizes young feminists interested in writing.

The nominees for the seventh annual Blackboard Books of the Year — an award honoring books by and about African Americans that booksellers love to sell — have been announced. Nominations were based upon the number of times a title appeared on the national Blackboard African

American Bestseller list in the previous year. Booksellers then voted on the winner. Winners were announced on May 2 at BEA, but that information was unavailable at press time. The fiction nominees were *Paradise* by Toni Morrison (Knopf), *One Better* by Rosalyn McMillan (Warner), *Behind Closed Doors* by Kimberla Lawson Roby (Black Classics Press), *Blessings* by Shaneska Jackson (Simon & Schuster), *Sister Sister* by Eric Jerome Dickey (Dutton/Signet NAL), and *Flyy Girl: A Novel* by Omar Tyree (Simon & Schuster/Scribner). The nonfiction nominees were *In the Meantime: Finding Yourself and the Love You Want* by Iyanla Vanzant (Simon & Schuster), *One Day My Soul Just Opened Up* by Iyanla Vanzant (Simon & Schuster/Fireside), *Woman, Thou Art Loosed* by T.D. Jakes (Albury Publications), *On Air: The Best of Tavis Smiley* by Tavis Smiley (Pines One Publications), *What's Going On* by Nathan McCall (Random House), and *150 Ways to Tell If You're Ghetto* by Shawn Wayans, Chris Spencer, and Suli McCullough (Dell). The children's books nominees were *I Love My Hair* by Natasha Tarpley (Little, Brown), *Anthony's Big Surprise* by Wade Hudson (Just Us Books), and *Saturday at the New You* by Barbara E. Barber (Lee & Low Books).



Hill Street Press has awarded the inaugural Palimpsest Prize, given to an out-of-print title, to Rosemary Daniell's *Fatal Flowers: On Sin, Sex, and Suicide in the Deep South*. Hill Street invited booksellers and individuals to nominate their favorite out-of-print titles last fall. Miriam Center, a patron of Regina's Books in Savannah, Georgia, nominated *Fatal Flowers*. Center will receive \$100, and Regina's will receive \$500 worth of copies of the reprinted title. *Fatal Flowers* is a memoir of Daniell's attempts to come to terms with her mother's suicide, her own sexuality, Bible Belt guilt, and the myth of the Southern belle. Daniell said, "I was

even more excited about this than when I first received the contract to write the book back in 1976. I had no idea the book would cause such a controversy when it was first published, or that readers all over the country would write to me, saying how much it had changed their lives." Hill Street will release the reprinted and redesigned edition in September.

Curbstone Press has announced the winner of the 1999 Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz Prize: Silvia Molina's novel *The Love You Promised Me* (*El amor que me jaraste*). Molina is the sixth recipient of the prize, and Curbstone will publish the book in an English translation by David Unger in October. The novel follows Marcela's discovery of her parents' secret past, and is set concurrently with the Mayan insurrection in Chiapas and the assassination of Mexican presidential candidate, Luis Donaldo Colisio.

Commentary, continued from page 38.

are "I'm sorry you find our advertising offensive. By no means do we intend to offend you or your Web site. Unfortunately, we are unable to remove this advertisement from your search results. We have an agreement with the search engine you used that allows us to post our banner on their search results." As if they aren't smart enough to program their way out of that one?



But I digress. My favorite, so far, failed Amazon.com/Bezos "spin" came when Wal-Mart and Amazon.com agreed to settle Wal-Mart's lawsuit charging Amazon.com with trying to steal trade secrets by hiring away Wal-Mart's senior programmers. Settlement: Amazon.com gets to continue hiring whoever it wants, but agreed to relocate certain ex-Wal-Mart employees in different positions and Amazon.com has to return certain confidential documents. Wal-Mart says that thousands of sensitive documents have already been returned. Amazon.com, in what has got to be its most embarrassing media-spin yet, tries to recast those documents as just being "old papers." As in, "the information consisted of 'old papers'" (brought by Richard Dalzell, hired by Amazon.com as chief technology officer). Hello? Now

Jewish Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia edited by Paula Hyman and Deborah Dash Moore, published by Routledge in 1998, has won the newly established National Jewish Book Award in Women's Studies. This new category honors Barbara Dobkin, and 50 women have made the award possible with their contributions. The award is a part of the Jewish Book Council Awards, which recognizes the best books written in or about the Jewish community.



The winners of the National Book Critics Circle have been announced. Among them is Alice Munro, whose work has only been eligible for a year. (Canadians were deemed ineligible until 1997.) She won the NBCC Fiction Award for *The Love of a Good Woman* (Knopf). ○

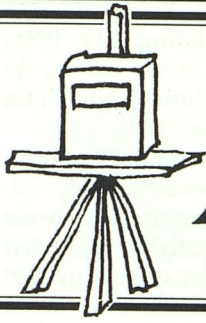
what kind of "old papers" would a CTO be taking from one job to another, anyway?

Then there's the not-often-enough repeated story that Amazon.com has recently started sponsoring the Rush Limbaugh show. Neither Rush Limbaugh nor Amazon.com had returned our calls by press time.

And then there are the lovely articles — *NYT's* "Riding the Wild, Perilous Waters of Amazon.com," 3/14/99, and *LA Weekly's* "On the Line at Amazon.com: Blue-collar Labor in a High Tech Company," 3/12/99 — that describe the lousy working conditions at Amazon.com, the EST-like positive-energy-only requirements, and the apparent requirement that employees believe with a near-evangelical fervor that Amazon.com is changing the world.

Maybe the next big story will reveal Amazon.com as a cult? At this rate, I wouldn't be surprised. Amazon.com's access to uncritical media seems to be a thing of the past.

Wondering how much affiliates earn when they tie their Web sites to Borders, B&N, or Amazon.com? *PW Daily* reports that the standard rate is five percent for any sale under \$20,000. Amazon.com gives an additional ten percent if a book is purchased as a result of a direct link. Borders offers an extra one percent for sales between \$20,000 and \$100,000, and seven percent for sales over \$100,000. ○



ART BOOKS

By Tee A. Corinne

A sparkling and delightful book, **Pre-Raphaelite Women Artists** by Jan Marsh and Pamela Gerrish Nunn is available in a new edition. The Pre-Raphaelites drove a popular art movement that began in Britain around 1850 and continued for half a century. It emphasized being true to nature and to feeling, used poetic and historical subjects, and desired to bring social concerns into the art of its time. The work often has a Renaissance quality. **Pre-Raphaelite Women Artists** has a wealth of color reproductions and wonderful biographical information on each artist. \$24.95 pb, 0-500-28104-1, Thames and Hudson. Distributed by Norton.

Honoring Our Ancestors: Stories and Pictures by Fourteen Artists edited by Harriet Rohmer includes work by seven contemporary women artists with a broad range of ethnic and racial diversity. Each entry includes a photograph of the artist and of the person being honored (if available) and a full-page image of the artwork. \$15.95 cl, 0-89239-158-8, Children's Book Press. Distributed by PGW.

Artist's Palette, A Storybook and Sketchbook by Elizabeth Koda-Callan is one of a series of books for children. It includes an artist's palette charm on a chain for the recipient to wear and blank pages in the back for a child to draw on. The story is about a little girl who loves to draw and learns to trust her own vision of reality. \$14.95 cl, 0-7611-1360-6, Workman Publishing, 708 Broadway, NYC 10003. Terms — 1-9: 30%, 10-24: 45%.

Magic Windows/Ventanas Mágicas and **Making Magic Windows: Creating Papel Picado/Cut Paper Art**, both by Carmen Lomas Garza, show the continuation of a traditional Mexican art in which intricate images are cut from paper, creating

windows into another world. Garza is an award-winning contemporary artist who has exhibited in numerous museums around the country. **Magic Windows/Venanas Mágicas** is beautifully produced with text in English and Spanish. **Magic Windows**: \$15.95 cl, 0-89239-157-X; **Making Magic Windows**: \$9.95 pb, 0-89239-159-6, Children's Book Press. Distributed by PGW.

Women in Film Noir, expanded edition edited by E. Ann Kaplan, is an intellectual treat. Essays include



Painting by Kate Bunce, in *Pre-Raphaelite Women Artists* (Thames and Hudson)

"Female Spectator, Lesbian Spectre," "Queers and Women in Film Noir," and "The Dark Continent of Film Noir: Race, Displacement, and Metaphor..." among many others. \$19.95 pb, 0-85170-666-5; \$49.95 cl, 0-85170-665-7, The British Film Institute. Distributed by Indiana University Press.

Differencing the Canon: Feminist Desire and the Writing of Art's Histories by Griselda Pollock is a collection of complex and fascinating essays by a British feminist art historian. "Pollock argues that in order for difference to be understood as more than the patriarchal binary of Man/Woman, we must acknowledge the differences between women which are shaped by the racist and colonial hierarchies of modernity." \$22 pb, 0-415-06700-6, Routledge.



Representing Women by Linda Nochlin is, like *Differencing the Canon*, a collection of essays by one of the most prominent and influential feminist art historians. Based in New York, Nochlin engagingly reexamines many familiar 19th- and 20th-century paintings, some by women, most by men. \$24.95 pb, 0-500-28098-3, Thames and Hudson. Distributed by Norton.

My Perversion Is the Belief in True Love, video and art by Ellen Cantor, has an essay by Matthew Yokobosky, commentary by Gerald Matt and Lucas Gehrmann, and some text in both English and German. It is a quirky book of video stills and drawings. In the interview section, Cantor tells vivid stories about how the videos came to be made. When asked about the sexual imagery in the work, Cantor answered, "We were trying to reinvest ourselves in this 60s utopian vision and explore in which ways these ideals have affected us. Also, we were reinvesting ourselves in the feminist history of body performance, reanalyzing the female experience as an object of sexual desire." \$29.95 pb, 3-908247-02-0, Scalo. Distributed by DAP, Distributed Art Publishers.

n.paradoxa: international feminist art journal began (and still exists) as a website at <<http://web.ukonline.co.uk/n.paradoxa/index>> and is now available in hard copy. It is the only magazine of its kind, very

timely and intellectually stimulating. \$12, ISSN 1461-0434, KT Press. Distributed in the U.S. by de Boer, 113 East Centre Street, Nutley, NJ 07110; 973-667-9300 or 667-0086, fax 973-667-0086.

The Art of Nellie Mae Rowe: Ninety-Nine and a Half Won't Do by Lee Kogan presents the lively, colorful work of a Georgia-born African American artist (1900–1982). Self-taught, Rowe created images filled with magic, storytelling, myth, and spirituality. \$30 cl, 1-57806-132-6, Museum of American Folk Art in association with University Press of Mississippi. Distributed by University Press of Mississippi.

A revised edition of the very popular **I Dream a World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America** by Brian Lanker, with a foreword by Maya Angelou, is now available. It is a gift book you might want to give to yourself, with beautiful photographs and strong narratives by the women pictured. \$40 cl, 1-55670-888-2, Stewart, Tabori & Chang.

You will hear more about **Women in Dada: Essays on Sex, Gender, and Identity**, edited by Naomi Sawelson-Gorse, when (hopefully!) it comes out in paperback. Dada began in Europe around 1915 in the midst of WW I. It was irreverent and is often characterized as an anti-art movement. As a group, the Dadaists were enthralled with ephemera and sometimes exhibited machine-made objects (like toilets) as art. **Women in Dada** is an exceptionally fine collection of provocative, information-filled essays. \$49.50 cl, 0-262-19409-0, The MIT Press.

Cipe Pineles: A Life of Design by Martha Scotford profiles the first woman member of the prestigious New York Art Directors Club and the first woman admitted to the club's Hall of Fame. Polish and Jewish, Pinelas was born 1908 in Vienna, immigrated to the U.S. in 1923, and died 1991. She was art director of *Glamour*, *Seventeen*, *Charm*, and *Mademoiselle* magazines and taught at Parsons School of Design for 25 years. \$60 cl, 0-393-73027-1, Norton.

[Note: In the January/February issue of *FBN*, I reviewed **A Covenant of Seasons: Monotypes** by Joellyn Duesberry, **Poems** by Pattiann Rogers, essay by David Park Curry ("Luscious...glowing generalized landscapes juxtaposed with strong, nature-based poetry"), but failed to note that there is a paperback as well as a hardcover edition: \$35 pb, 1-55595-156-2; \$50 cl, -155-4. Hudson Hills, distributed by the National Book Network. Apologies!] ○



KIDS' LIT

By Linda Bubon
Women and Children First/Chicago

Sunny springtime greetings from Chicago. There's still snow on the beach, but the tulips are coming up in my balcony flower boxes, so I know winter's at its end. Last issue, I reviewed many of the Spring offerings, but I hadn't yet seen a number of publishers' lists. Here are some delightful, thoughtful books for all ages due in Spring/Summer 99.

The Penguin/Putnam group has perhaps *the* silliest book of the season in **The Father Who Had 10 Children**, written and illustrated by a newcomer, Parisian Bénédicte Guettier. Ten big-eyed toddlers goggle at us on every page while the très busy father counts out ten little T-shirts, ten bowls of spaghetti, ten goodnight kisses. The zany pace of the story begins to approximate life with multiple (over two!) preschoolers, and the childlike, colorful illustrations made me laugh. While it's obviously a clever counting book, there's also a story toddlers will love. I'm expecting this to be a hit at storytime. (\$15.99 cl, 0-8037-2446-2.) Also from Dial Books for Young Readers is a very different sort of picture book for primary graders (ages 6-10), **My Man Blue** by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by Jerome Lagarrigue. The story is set in a tough city neighborhood, specifically Harlem, but it could be any inner-city neighborhood. Grimes' text is both beautifully poetic and grittily real. It is the story of an ordinary but remarkable friendship between a fatherless boy and a man who has lost a son to the streets. The story breaks down stereotypes and celebrates this special bond. This is a wonderful piece of writing — interesting, moving, with the perfect amount of detail — and the paintings are the perfect accompaniment. (\$15.99 cl, 0-8037-2326-1.)

Coming in paperback from Puffin is one of our store favorites, **The Topsy-Turvies** by Francesca Simon, wittily illustrated in retro-style by Karen Ludlow. A great book to nurture a child's sense of humor and hone her sense of the silly. (\$5.99, 0-14-056219-2.) For the same age group (4-8), another favorite newly in paperback is **Madaket Millie** by Frances Ward Weller, illustrated with handsome woodcuts by Marcia Sewall. Millie Jewett was a real woman, legendary in Nantucket for patrolling the beaches, leading evacuations, and rescuing tourists. Millie is a most refreshing role model, a woman with singular purpose, who uses her brains and considerable brawn to protect her corner of the earth. (\$5.99, 0-698-11774-3.)

For older readers, Putnam's best bet this season is an unusual story with a remarkable heroine, **Backwater** by Joan Bauer. Ivy, the main character, comes from a family of prominent lawyers who expect she'll take up the profession. But Ivy's passion is history, and in researching her family history, she discovers a reclusive aunt living in the wilderness. The story gets suspenseful when Ivy discovers her aunt — and her own strength. \$15.99 cl, 0-399-23141-2.

READ

The Feminist Press at CUNY (distributed by Consortium) is publishing some serious biographies for older readers. New in paperback is Dorothy Sterling's **Lucretia Mott**, an outspoken role model if ever there was one. (\$12.95, 1-55861-217-3.) And in their Women Changing the World series, the Feminist Press presents three books about women who won the Nobel Peace Prize: **Aung San Suu Kyi: Standing Up**

for **Democracy in Burma** by Bettina Ling (\$9.95 pb, 1-55861-197-5), **Rigoberta Menchu: Defending Human Rights in Guatemala** by Michael Silverstone (\$9.95 pb, 1-55861-199-1), and **Mairead Corrigan and Betty Williams: Making Peace in Ireland** by Bettina Ling (\$9.95 pb, 1-55861-201-7).

KIDS

More good books for middle-grade girls are coming from New Moon Books, edited by the *New Moon* editorial board of girls, ages 10–14, from across the country. The books are being published through Crown; the first two are **New Moon: Friendship** (0-517-88581-6) and **New Moon: Sports** (0-517-88583-2), both paperbacks at \$9.95. Look for these in August. Also coming this Summer from the Random House family (Knopf) is a powerful new memoir, **In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer** by Irene Gut Opdyke and Jennifer Armstrong. Irene Gut was a 16-year-old Polish girl in 1939 who was rounded up after church one Sunday and sent to work for the German army. Irene passed information to Jews in the ghetto, stole supplies, and, as a housekeeper to a Nazi major, managed to hide twelve people in his basement until the Germans were defeated. Her story shows how one young person can make a difference. The author will be touring and speaking to school groups. (\$18 cl, 0-699-89181-1.)



Canadian writer Michael Bedard has a lovely new picture book with Tundra Books, about two women who make a difference in one young girl's life, **The Clay Ladies**, illustrated by Les Tait. Based on the lives of artists (and lovers) Frances Loring and Florence Wyle, Bedard imagines a story of a little girl bringing a wounded bird to the two ladies who live in an old church filled with half-finished statues and pieces of pottery. The ladies not only bring the bird back to life, they introduce the girl to the wonders of clay and creativity. This is a

beautifully written and inspiring story for 6-to-10-year-olds. \$16.95 cl, 0-88776-385-5.

Clever, brave girls are at the heart of two new picture books from Farrar, Straus, and Giroux for 5-to-8-year-olds. **Wilhe'mina Miles**, perfectly written by Dorothy Carter with glowing pictures by Harvey Stevenson, tells the story of Sugar Plum, about seven years old, who must brave the scary night noises and uncertain rural landscape to fetch the midwife for her mama. I found it both exciting and touching, and I know kids will identify with her fears and her bravery in overcoming them. (\$16 cl, 0-374-33551-0.) **Raisel's Riddle** by Erica Silverman with pictures by Susan Gaber is a Jewish Cinderella story set at Purim. The prince in this story is the rabbi's son and Raisel poses her riddle to determine his intelligence. Raisel's beauty is internal as well as external, and her search for happiness is a search for knowledge as well as love. (\$16 cl, 0-374-36168-1.)

LIT

Two of my favorite picture books this season are from Henry Holt, and they're perfect for preschoolers; I can't wait to try them out at storytime. **The Singing Chick** by the late Victoria Stenmark is brightly illustrated by Randy Cecil. Out pops a happy little chick from an egg, singing merrily. Alas, she's swallowed by a fox, but the singing continues, even after the fox is swallowed by a wolf, who's promptly swallowed by a bear. The singing continues until the happy ending when all are — of course! — restored. (\$15.95 cl, 0-8050-5255-0.) Scott Santoro, the author of **Isaac the Ice Cream Truck**, must have had a happy childhood, because he's written such a delightfully charming picture book. Isaac is a jolly little ice cream truck, singing his songs and delivering sweet refreshment, but he begins to wonder if he's as special as the "important" trucks that deliver goods, put out fires, etc. In the course of the story he gets the reassurance he needs to feel special just as he is. You're going to make people smile with this one. (\$15.95 cl, 0-8050-5296-8.)

Happy summer selling. Don't forget to order middle-grade paperbacks for campers. We always carry more activity books in the summer, too, for new counselors and parents. ○



MYSTERIES



By Nan Cinnater
Now Voyager/Provincetown, MA

I sit down to write this column fresh from moderating the mystery panel at OutWrite, the annual gay and lesbian writers' conference in Boston. I was pleased to share the podium with Abigail Padgett, author of the brilliant, very feminist, lesbian thriller **Blue** (\$22 cl, 0-89296-671-8, Mysterious Press/Warner), as well as Jean Hutchison and Marcy Jacobs, who write together as Jean Marcy. They have two nifty, literate, lesbian private eye novels set in St. Louis, both published by New Victoria: **The Cemetery Murders** (\$10.95 tp, 0-934678-83-9) and **Dead and Blonde** (\$10.95 tp, 0-934278-98-7). Gay men were represented by Richard Stevenson, who writes an entertaining, very political series about an Albany private eye (the latest of which is *Strachey's Folly*) and Grant Michaels, whose campy, comic mysteries (*Dead as a Doornail*, *Time to Check Out*, etc.) feature a Boston hairdresser. Stevenson and Michaels are both published by St. Martin's Press. The authors shared trade secrets with aspiring genre writers, and I got to dine with your editor, Carol Seajay, twice in one week! Congratulations to independent bookseller Kris Kleindienst of Left Bank Books in St. Louis, who co-chaired the Outwrite program, and all who helped put together another outstanding weekend of high-energy, multicultural, controlled chaos.

On to the books. I recently discovered Canadian Gail Bowen's wonderful mysteries about Saskatchewan professor Joanne Kilbourn, beginning with her latest hardcover, **Verdict in Blood**, reviewed in the November 98 *FBN*. (\$20.95 cl; 0-77101-487-2. McClelland & Stewart, 481 University Ave. Suite 900, Toronto Canada M5G 2E9; 416-598-1114.) I was very happy to find that a number of her paperbacks are

easily available in the U.S. (at least if we can still use Ingram), including **A Colder Kind of Death** (\$7.99 pb, 0-77101-438-X, McClelland and Stewart), **A Killing Spring** (\$5.95 pb, 0-77101-486-4, McClelland and Stewart), and **Deadly Appearances** (\$7.99 pb, 0-77101-485-6, McClelland and Stewart). I read **A Colder Kind of Death**, which is almost as good as the superb **Verdict in Blood**, and I've become a Gail Bowen junkie — I want to read them all! Joanne Kilbourn is a smart, sensitive, and very politically aware sleuth, a mid-life widow with a combined family of biological and adopted children. In **A Colder Kind of Death**, there are several murders, but the chief mystery is the killing some years ago of Joanne's husband, a politician. The solution necessarily involves Canadian electoral politics as well as feminist issues, especially the politics of abortion. Joanne's elderly friend, Hilda McCourt (the chic, active, fabulous eighty-year-old we all dream of becoming), is also on hand. Customers who want well-written, meaty, feminist mysteries will thank you for recommending Gail Bowen.



Murder in the Marais by Cara Black is a debut mystery that seems just right for feminist bookstores with its unusual setting, political content, and excellent writing. The Marais is the Jewish neighborhood of Paris, and here the present is almost palpably haunted by the Holocaust. Non-Jewish Aimee Leduc, a leather-jacketed, moped-riding, computer-addicted private detective, is hired by a well-known Nazi

hunter to look into the murder of an elderly Jewish woman. The trail takes her undercover to Parisian neo-Nazi skinheads, as well as to old-fashioned Nazis, German diplomats who want to bring back the old Reich intact. The politics are important, the Parisian atmosphere authentic, and the detective impressively tough and quirky, sort of a French V.I. Warshawski. The overly complicated plot lost momentum (and lost me) a couple of times, but there's a lot to like here. \$22 cl, 1-56947-159-2, July, Soho Press. Distributed by Farrar, Strauss & Giroux.

In *All She Was Worth* by Miyuki Myabe, translated by Alfred Birnbaum, a middle-aged Japanese police detective on disability leave is asked by a nephew to help find his fiancée, who has disappeared. It soon becomes clear that the young woman has borrowed another woman's identity, but was either one of them murdered? Bankruptcy, not so long ago a nearly unthinkable dishonor in Japan, is also involved. The cultural politics of identity and the bureaucratic tracking of it, intricately detailed here, are surprisingly different from the West, but that was not enough to sustain my interest. However, this won a prestigious national prize for best novel, as well as for best mystery, in Japan. We sold quite a few in hardcover, and will probably do even better in paper. \$12 tp, 0-395-96658-2, Houghton Mifflin.

Now in paper, *Bombay Ice* by Leslie Forbes is another literary mystery offering a glimpse into another culture. Here a British journalist travels to Bombay to see her sister, who is married to a film director suspected of murdering his first wife. Ultimately the plot involves chemistry, weather, Shakespeare, and chaos theory, among other things. Critics say this is also a richly atmospheric portrait of India; sell it to fans of *The God of Small Things*. \$13.95 tp, 0-553-38047-8, June, Bantam.

S.J. Rozan writes a nifty, award-winning series in which private eye partners Lydia Chin and Bill Smith take turns as the heroes of alternating novels. *A Bitter Feast* is the latest Lydia Chin mystery, now in mass market paper. Here Lydia goes undercover as a worker in a dim sum restaurant in New York's Chinatown while she looks into the disappearance of four waiters. Rozan highlights the conflict between the older Cantonese community and the newer Fukienese immigrants in Chinatown in her usual crisp but evocative style. (\$5.99 pb, 0-312-97011-0,

July, St. Martin's Press.) This will be followed in the fall by *Stone Quarry*, presumably featuring Bill Smith. (\$24.95 cl, 0-312-20912-6, St. Martin's Press.)



Spinters Ink continues its reprint program of Val McDermid's excellent lesbian mysteries with *Conferences Are Murder*, set at a journalists' union conference and featuring investigative reporter Lindsay Gordon. (\$12 tp, 1-883523-30-3.) McDermid is no longer the only Scottish lesbian mystery writer in print; she's now joined by Manda Scott, author of *Hen's Teeth* and *Night Mares*. *Hen's Teeth* introduces Dr. Kellen Stewart, a Glasgow psychiatrist, whose ex-lover Bridget dies suddenly of a heart attack at the age of forty-one. When she discovers that Bridget's brother also died recently of a heart attack, just after he dropped off some special hens at her farm, Kellen investigates. Manda Scott is herself a veterinary surgeon, so her character is surrounded by animals, and it seems the mysteries will also involve animal pathology. (Unfortunately animals will also die, something far more upsetting to most mystery readers than the requisite human murders.) I didn't love *Hen's Teeth* but it has a number of virtues. Lesbianism is presumptive. The Glasgow setting is authentic and unusual. Kellen is a smart, complex, professional woman surrounded by others like her, in a sometimes confusing but true-to-life network of friendship and shared history. This is certainly something to offer lesbian mystery readers tired of the same old girl-meets-girl. (\$5.50 pb, 0-553-57967-3, Bantam.) In the sequel, *Night Mares*, Kellen deals with a deadly horse infection that is now killing her client, a veterinarian. (\$5.50 pb, 0-553-57968-1, July, Bantam.) By the way, Bantam is marketing these as mainstream mysteries with cozy-looking covers without pulling punches about the lesbian relationships. Hmmm.

Potentially the biggest bestseller in this column is the new comic thriller by Janet Evanovich, *High Five*.

(\$23.95 cl, 0-312-20303-9, June, St. Martin's Press.) Although Evanovich made the *New York Times* bestseller list with her last book, **Four to Score** (now in paper), it seems to me there's a much wider audience who have yet to discover her. These laugh-out-loud funny yet suspenseful adventures star novice New Jersey bounty hunter Stephanie Plum and are set in The Burg, a close-knit, working-class neighborhood in Trenton. I usually hate romance in my mysteries and I usually hate comic mysteries, but I'm crazy about Evanovich and I loved **Four to Score**. Go figure. (\$6.99 pb, 0-312-96697-0, June, St. Martin's Press.)

As for other potential bestsellers, Perri O'Shaughnessy's **Act of Malice** brings back Nevada attorney Nina Reilly in a case of an apparent skiing accident which turns out to be murder. (\$23.95 cl, 0-385-33276-9, August, Dell/Delacorte.) Her previous legal thriller, *Breach of Promise*, will be out in mass market paperback at the same time. Another legal eagle, Lisa Scottoline, has a Spring hardcover called **Mistaken Identity** in which an attorney is hired by an accused murderer who claims to be her long-lost twin sister, and, of course, they look exactly alike. (\$24 cl, 0-06-018747-6, HarperCollins.)

The words "forensic" and "female" are a siren call to Cornwell fans, and Sarah Lovett has a series featuring a female, forensic psychiatrist named Dr. Sylvia Strange. In **Dantes' Inferno**, she deals with a Unabomber-type killer in Malibu. You might want to try her previous paperbacks, *Acquired Motives*, *Dangerous Attachments*, and *A Desperate Silence*. \$24 cl, 0-684-85598-4, August, Simon and Schuster.

Old hands Anne Perry and Martha Grimes have hardcovers out. **Bedford Square** by Anne Perry is the 21st Victorian mystery solved by Charlotte and Thomas Pitt. (\$24.95 cl, 0-345-43298-3, Ballantine.) **Biting the Moon** by Martha Grimes is not part of her cozy British series, but concerns an abducted woman found by a 14-year-old girl in New Mexico. (\$25 cl, 0-8050-5621-1, Holt.)

Ghost Country, Sarah Paretsky's non-mystery novel about a contemporary appearance of the Virgin Mary to a disparate group of homeless people, is now out in paper. Good critical quotes but a hard sell to mystery fans. \$13.95 tp, 0-385-33336-6, Delta/Dell.

Several African-American women have mysteries out. **No Time to Die** is the third in Grace F. Edwards' series about Harlem sleuth Mali Anderson.

Here, Mali's close friend is an early victim of a serial killer. (\$22.95 cl, 0-385-49247-2, Doubleday.) Edwards' second effort, **A Toast Before Dying**, is now available in paper. (\$5.99 pb, 0-553-57953-3, Bantam.) Her debut, *If I Should Die*, was nominated for several awards and made a number of "best mystery" lists in 97. These are notable chiefly for their loving yet realistic portrait of Harlem as a vital neighborhood with an important historic legacy. **A Darker Shade of Crimson** by Pamela Thomas-Graham is an engaging academic mystery introducing Nikki Chase, a Black economics professor investigating murder at Harvard. (\$6.99 pb, 0-671-01670-9, Pocket.) **White Chocolate** by Elizabeth Atkins Bowman, reviewed in the January 99 *FBN*, is being marketed in paper as a steamy romance, but it's also a thriller with a biracial heroine and important political content about white supremacists. (\$6.99 pb, 0-812-57181-9, Forge/St. Martin's Press.) Better late than never, I wanted to note the publication last winter of Penny Micklebury's **Where to Choose**, sequel to *One Must Wait*, about attorney Carole Ann Gibson investigating crimes in West Los Angeles. (\$22 cl, 0-684-83742-0, Simon & Schuster.)



Also in the better-late-than-never department, here's a round-up of some Spring mass markets that no feminist bookseller should miss. Of course you already stock **N is for Noose** by Sue Grafton. (\$7.99 pb, 0-449-22361-2, Fawcett.) **Bloody Secrets** by Carolina Garcia-Aguilera is the latest fast-paced Miami adventure for Cuban American private eye Lupe Solana. (\$6.50 pb, 0-425-16779-8, Berkley.) In **Killing Grounds** by Dana Stabenow, Aleut detective Kate Shugak is deckhanding on a fishing boat when a body comes up in the net. This is Stabenow in her more comic, slice-of-Alaskan-life mode, and Kate's "aunties," a trio of elderly Aleut women bent on preserving tribal traditions, are fabulous. (\$5.99 pb, 0-425-16773-9, Berkley.) **Cold Blood** by Lynda La Plante is the somewhat disappointing sequel to *Cold*

Shoulder, about alcoholic private eye Lorraine Page. La Plante created the PBS mini-series "Prime Suspect" and had a smashing novelistic debut, which should be enough to carry the sequel. (\$6.99 pb, 0-515-12479-6, Jove.) **Blind Descent** by Nevada Barr takes park ranger Anna Pigeon on a claustrophobic rescue mission in Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico. (\$6.99 pb, 0-380-72826-5, Twilight/Avon.) **Thrones, Dominations** is a Harriet Vane and Lord Peter Wimsey mystery from the Golden Age, left unfinished by Dorothy L. Sayers and finished by Jill Patton Walsh. (\$6.50 pb, 0-312-96830-2, St. Martin's Press.)



Some other old reliables have new entries in series that are often of feminist interest, and certainly won't embarrass you. **Hard Bargain** is the latest paperback in Barbara D'Amato's very issue-oriented series featuring investigative reporter Cat Marsala, and here the issue seems to be domestic violence. (\$5.99 pb, 0-425-16898-0, Berkley.) In Linda Grant's **Vampire Bytes**, corporate P.I. and computer maven Catherine Saylor investigates the disappearance of the programmer who created a vampire role-playing game. (\$5.99 pb, 0-8041-1862-0, Ivy.) Educational consultant Thea Kozak is on the case when a pregnant student drowns at a New England prep school in **An Educated Death** by Kate Flora. (\$6.99 pb, 0-812-57156-8, Forge.) **While Other People Sleep** by Marcia Muller is the umpteenth adventure for San Francisco P.I. Sharon McCone. (\$6.99 pb, 0-446-60721-5, Warner.) Little, Brown will simultaneously publish Muller's new hardcover, **A Walk Through the Fire**. (\$23 cl, 0-892-92288-2.) The Victorian Egyptologist Amelia Peabody is back for another romp among the tombs in **The Ape Who Guards the Balance** by Elizabeth Peters. (\$6.99 pb, 0-380-79856-5, Twilight/Avon.) Sharyn McCrumb continues to mine the Appalachian past in the rather bleak **The Ballad of Frankie Silver**. (\$7.50 pb, 0-451-19739-9, Signet.)

Finally, here are some interesting historical mysteries. **Invitation to a Funeral** by Molly Brown

stars the real historical figure Aphra Behn, a former spy, actress, and the first woman playwright in England. *Library Journal* said this "stunning re-creation of Restoration England...belongs in every mystery collection." (\$5.99 pb, 0-312-97094-3, July, St. Martin's Press.) Margaret Miles has two paperbacks set in colonial Massachusetts, with a male/female sleuthing duo dubbed by one reviewer "a colonial Scully and Mulder" presumably because they look into such 18th-century mysteries as witchcraft and smallpox. They debuted in **A Wicked Way to Burn** (\$5.50 pb, 0-553-57862-6, Bantam), followed by **Too Soon for Flowers** (\$5.99 pb, 0-553-57863-4, July, Bantam). Deborah Woodworth is on the third in her series set in the 30s about Shaker herbalist and sleuth Rose Callahan, **Sins of a Shaker Summer**. (\$5.99 pb, 0-380-79204-4, Twilight/Avon.) Victoria Thompson has a paperback original called **Murder on Astor Place** featuring a midwife in early 20th-century New York. (\$5.99 pb, 0-425-16896-4, Berkley.) ○

Bestsellers, continued from page 36.

4. **Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood** by Rebecca Wells
5. **Bridget Jones's Diary** by Ann Fielding
6. **Fall on Your Knees** by Ann Marie MacDonald
7. **Love Ruins Everything** by Karen X. Tulchinsky
8. **God of Small Things** by Arundhati Roy
9. **Stone Butch Blues** by Leslie Feinberg
10. **Strange Heaven** by Lynn Coady

NONFICTION

1. **Speaking of Sex** by Meg Hickling
2. **Road from Coorain** by Jill Ker Conway
3. **Writing Down the Bones** by Natalie Goldberg
4. **Under the Tuscan Sun** by Frances Mayes
5. **No Previous Experience** by Elspeth Cameron
6. **Teaching to Transgress** by bell hooks
7. **Sister Outsider** by Audre Lorde
8. **Bird by Bird** by Anne Lamott
9. **Last Gift of Time** by Carolyn Heilbrun
10. **Anything We Love Can Be Saved** by Alice Walker

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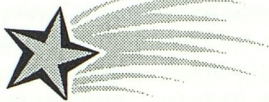


SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY



By Heather Whipple/Swarthmore College Library, PA, and Laura Quilter/The Exploratorium, CA

The James Tiptree, Jr., Award recognizes works of speculative fiction that explore and expand notions of gender. The 1998 winner is the thought-provoking short story by Raphael Carter, "Congenital Agenesis of Gender Ideation," from the anthology **Starlight 2**. (See Tor section below.) The award was announced in February 1999 and presented at the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts in March. Carter's story focuses on the clinical question of how the human mind seems to know what gender is "when we see it" and what it is, exactly, that may be recognized as gender. For more information on the Tiptree award, visit <<http://www.tiptree.org>>.



Other 1998 works recommended by the Tiptree judges include:

- **Parable of the Talents** by Octavia Butler, Seven Stories Press
- **Black Glass** by Karen Joy Fowler, Henry Holt
- **Halfway Human** by Carolyn Ives Gilman, Avon Eos
- **Flesh and Gold** by Phyllis Gotlieb, Tor
- **Brown Girl in the Ring** by Nalo Hopkinson, Warner Aspect
- **Dragon's Winter** by Elizabeth A. Lynn, Ace/Berkley
- **Mission Child** by Maureen F. McHugh, Avon Eos
- **Ghost Country** by Sara Paretsky, Delacorte Press
- **Hand of Prophecy** by Severna Park, Avon Eos

- **Weird Women, Wired Women** by Kit Reed, Wesleyan University Press
- **The Children Star** by Joan Slonczewski, Tor
- **Mockingbird** by Sean Stewart, Ace
- **Playing God** by Sarah Zettel, Warner Aspect

Also, WisCon 23, the annual feminist science fiction writers convention, will be held May 28–31 in Madison, Wisconsin. Among the guests are Maria Doria Russell, Terri Windling, Suzy McKee Charnas, Ellen Datlow, Karen Joy Fowler, and Susanna Sturgis.

Ace

A "special collector's edition" of Patricia A. McKillip's **Riddle Master: The Complete Trilogy** in one volume reprints one of the best-loved fantasy series from the 1970s. McKillip weaves Earth magic, self-discovery, witches, shape-changers, and love of the land into a rich tapestry that will be enjoyed by 1990s readers. With a new introduction by the author. \$16 tp, 0-441-00596-9.

In **The Border** by Marina Fitch, "Creation — of family and art — provides the focus for this haunting fantasy, bordering on magical realism, about a pregnant Mexican woman desperate to enter the U.S. in search of her long-lost sister." —*Locus Magazine*. \$5.99 pb, 0-441-00594-2.

Avon

Another wonderful collection of modern fantasy edited by Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling! **Silver Birch, Blood Moon** is the fifth volume in this series of original stories revisiting and revisioning classic fairy tales. Included are tales by Nalo Hopkinson, Nancy Kress, Robin McKinley, Patricia A. McKillip, and Delia Sherman. \$13.50 tp, 0-380-78622-2.

Baen

The latest Miles Vorkosigan novel from Lois McMaster Bujold is now available in paperback. **Komarr** is a must-read for the many Miles addicts, and Bujold continues to satisfy while keeping the craving alive. \$6.99 pb, 0-671-57808-1.

DAW (an imprint of NAL)

Another chapter in Marion Zimmer Bradley's epic Darkover series, **Traitor's Sun**, is co-authored by Bradley and Adrienne Martine-Barnes. The novel takes place at the end of the reign of Regis Hastur, during the political upheaval brought on by shifting power on Darkover and within the Terran government. \$24.95 cl, 0-88677-810-7.

Del Rey (an imprint of Ballantine Books)

The Divided is the second novel from acclaimed new author Katie Waitman. The story explores the horrors of war from the point of view of military officer Sekme as she begins to question violence and the political motivations to continue fighting. \$12.95 tp, 0-345-41437-3.

Gauntlet

Are You Loathsome Tonight? brings together twelve stories by erotic horror maven Poppy Z. Brite, including two new stories written for this collection. \$40 cl, 1-887368-16-7. Gauntlet, 309 Powell Rd., Springfield PA 19064; (610) 328-5476, <<http://www.gauntletpress.com>>.

Tor

Starlight 2 edited by Patrick Nielsen Hayden includes the 1998 Tiptree winner by Raphael Carter as well as several other excellent stories. Of particular note to *FBN* readers is a translation by Ursula Le Guin of Argentinian writer Angelica Gorodischer's "The End of a Dynasty." \$24.95 cl, 0-312-86184-2.

Phyllis Gotlieb has written a sequel to *Flesh and Gold*, **Violent Stars**. Many of the same characters reappear to contend with a string of murders aimed to snuff out opposition to an interstellar family corporation. \$22.95 cl, 0-312-86953-3.

Suzy McKee Charnas (*Walk to the End of the World*, *Motherlines*, *The Furies*) has written the fourth book in the Holdfast Chronicles, **The Conqueror's Child**. The sequel to *The Furies*, this novel chronicles how the

Free Fems reclaim the Holdfast from the men who ruled them. It's also the story of Sorrel, the adopted daughter of Alldera the Conqueror, who joins her mother to claim her attention and love. Eventually, she learns to find her place outside of her mother's influence. \$24.95 cl, 0-312-85719-5.

Warner

Peg Kerr's (*Emerald House Rising*) **The Wild Swans** is a fantasy novel of two stories of persecution occurring in two vastly different times. In 15th-century England, Lady Eliza Grey frees her brothers from a terrible magic, only to be accused of witchcraft. In late 20th-century New York City, Elias Latham finds acceptance as a gay man, but finds his family and friends falling victim to a mysterious plague. Elias vows to stand beside those he loves, though this loyalty may cost him his life. **The Wild Swans** shows how hope will triumph in any age, despite life's horrifying realities. \$13.99 pb, 0-466-67366-8. ○

Music and the Internet, continued from page 11.

driving force behind the sales and promotion of these independent artists.

So what do we do now as we watch the miracles of technology change our universe? Rather than take the "doom and gloom" approach that some retailers have taken and focus on "lost" sales, now is the time for all of us to begin the brainstorming. For getting together and coming up with ideas that take advantage of the increased promotion and marketing available through the Internet and use it to make our network even stronger. For beginning a dialogue about how to tap into the excitement of the Internet and transfer it to our stores and our artists. There is great potential in this new digital age — let's show the world how creative we've always been and become the leaders of those who merge the "old world" and the new.

Let us all gather (in the new-tech way) to discuss this issue and come up with a most marvelous plan — send your thoughts to the Feminist Bookstore Network e-list to start this dialogue! If you are not a member of the list and want to contribute to the discussion, send an e-mail to Carol Seajay, <Carol@FemBkNews.com>. She'll create a mini e-list for everyone that wants to participate. ○

GAY MEN'S LIT FOR FEMINIST BOOKSTORES

by Richard Labonté
A Different Light Bookstores

OK, how many of you out there were at OutWrite in Boston in February of this year? Two, three, five? That many?

It's sad that a celebration of the queer literary arts, started back in 1990 to bring together writers and thinkers, editors and publishers, agents and publicists and booksellers, and most memorably the readers themselves, has become a ho-hum formulaic weekend trademarked and "owned" by the Bromfield Street Educational Foundation. Over the past couple of years, self-congratulatory fervor has diminished what once was for OutWrite's first years, starting in San Francisco in 1990 before being relocated to Boston in 1992, a joyous meeting of minds and talents.

It has been dumb for Bromfield to plant OutWrite in Boston for so long, even though any money made (was there any this year? has there ever been an accounting?) helps support the Foundation, which is a perfectly useful little Boston organization: it publishes a couple of issues a year of *Gay Community News*, a vital and venerable but mostly invisible magazine, and runs a couple of progressive programs (a prisoner information exchange, for example) — but none of this has much to do with queer literature or the arts in Boston or nationally. OutWrite has shrunk from a national celebration into a regional habit.

This criticism isn't intended to diminish the hard work of the organizers, particularly the programmers — but as producers of the event, Bromfield has failed queer lit, its creators, and its consumers. For the past couple of years OutWrite has lacked appeal to anyone other than insiders, it has seen a marked drop in paid attendance, and it is missing dozens and dozens of the

women and men who write the words OutWrite was intended to showcase. It needs new thinking, needs to be re-invented, needs to be more than a rhetoric-laden Creating Change conference with books and authors as an afterthought.



Before I get into a last couple of dozen Spring/Summer/early Fall titles I favour, I'd like to highly recommend one new novel and then compare and contrast four new books....

Maybe 1000 queer-interest books are published a year, maybe 300 of them novels, maybe 30 of them pretty good books, maybe three actually special: not very good odds.

The winner this month is **Frontiers** by Michael Jensen, a debut novel that's part Stephen King, part James Michener, part Jonathan Katz, and part *Best Gay Erotica*.

Jensen has suffused his unique story with a fascinatingly well-researched setting (the American frontier, circa 1797, back when western Pennsylvania *was* the frontier) and crafted it with dialogue and descriptions that slip across the eye with velvet fonts. It's about young John Chapman, fleeing an Army fort when his sex with a Major is discovered; making his way across the Allegheny Plateau to an isolated winter cabin; being taken in by a drunk, uncouth, and sexually ambivalent savior; fleeing months later from emotional, physical, and sexual savagery; stumbling into a frontier settlement headed by a charismatic kook; surviving its cataclysmic destruction to embark on a romantic future with the right man. So, yeah, it's fundamentally a love story, but one wrought with uncommon grace. \$24 cl, 0-671-02720-4, Pocket Books.

P.S. Think Johnny Appleseed as you read.

Two books concerned with the early beginnings and current state of queer politics, two concurrent books covering the Andrew Cunanan saga — the contrasts are instructive.

First, history and activism past and present, as covered in one really, really good book, **Tales of the Lavender Menace: A Memoir of Liberation** by Karla Jay (\$24.95 cl, 0-465-08364-1, Basic Books), and one should-have-been better book, **Out for Good: The Struggle to Build a Gay Rights Movement in America** by Dudley Clendinen and Adam Nagourney (\$30 cl, 0-684-81091-3, Simon & Schuster).

Jay, a Pace University professor, goes back to the very post-Stonewall beginnings, the founding in New York of the Gay Liberation Front, its fragmentation into the Gay Activist Alliance and other offshoots, and the formation of lesbian/feminist groups such as the Redstockings and Radicalesbians — it's a primer on the anger, passion, and activism that blossomed after the 1969 Stonewall Riot, supplanting earlier groups like the Mattachine Society and the Daughters of Bilitis, and it's a reminder that when every revolution starts, it starts at the grassroots. Beyond educating, informing, and recalling, though, Jay's immensely readable memoir (a blend of the personal and the political) entertains: she could've been a stand-up comic contender, and her accounts of early GAA dances or the "Lesbian Menace" action at an early NOW meeting and the occupation of the offices of the male-edited *Ladies Home Journal* are a fabulous blend of the hilarious and the analytical. That mix of remembrance, eyewitness, and interpretation is what gives **Tales of the Lavender Menace** its heartiness and its soul.



At nearly three times the length, but covering 20 years instead of two, **Out for Good** is no less readable — it's reported exhaustively and crafted masterfully by two distinguished *New York Times* veterans — but in the end it's a disconcertingly hollow book, too objective for its own good, too reportorial, too much an agglomeration of he said, he said, he said, he said, with not enough interpretation of conflicting interviews, not enough flesh and blood on the historical skeleton. Even so, Clendinen and Nagourney have

produced a book every bit as important to the future's understanding of our queer past as, say, John Rechy's *City of Night* or Randy Shilts' *And the Band Played On* or Paul Monette's *Borrowed Time*; it's a pity the passion's missing, but any young queer who wants to know just the facts will find every page fascinating.

The essential difference? Jay, a lifelong lesbian activist, was there; Clendinen and Nagourney, excellent chroniclers of another time, were not.

The insider/outsider element is far more pronounced in the case of the multiple-personality Cunanan books, **Three Month Fever: The Andrew Cunanan Story** by Gary Indiana (\$25 cl, 0-06-019145-7, HarperCollins), and **Vulgar Favors: Andrew Cunanan, Gianni Versace and the Largest Failed Manhunt in U.S. History** by Maureen Orth (\$24.95 cl, 0-385-33286-6, Random House). Indiana, a gay novelist and essayist, weaves facts and interpretation into a compelling and even poetic narrative; his is an hypnotic collage of first-hand interviews, interior-monologue impressions, and queerly savvy understanding, first deconstructing the years and days leading up to Cunanan's first killing, then reconstructing the story of Cunanan's spree with the fluidity and intensity of irresistible fiction.

Orth, a straight reporter, jumped on the Cunanan story for *Vanity Fair* just days after the killing-sprees surfaced; that magazine's pretense of insider writing pervades this book spun off from Orth's early reporting and, to her credit (as much as to Indiana's), exhaustive and wide-ranging interviews. But where Indiana is able to provide a knowing context for the glib, crass, and shallow elements of the community through which Cunanan trolled for status, sex, friendship, and victims, to Orth it's all a miasma of buffed bodies, fucked-up minds, depraved emotions, and sleazy sex — a titillating hyperinflation of a small segment of the gay community into its purported norm. There are dozens of points of conflict between the two books, of course, as is the case when "facts" are what people pretend them to be when interviewed, too many differences to worry about, really, but in themselves fascinating.

So: four factual books, four takes on what it has taken to be homosexual and gay and queer over the past 30 or so years. They all deserve to be read, Jay and Indiana foremost because we're telling our own stories, Clendinen/Nagourney because they

tell an important story with honest if dry intent, Orth because she tells a darn good story aside from her appalling judgments — and because you'll see, from her book (but not from the other three) how strange we are to outsiders, as opaque now as we were at Stonewall.



Here are a few more upcoming titles, a mix of the new and the paperback rerelease, with books especially worth stocking noted with an (*) asterisk.

***Blood and Tears: Poems for Matthew Shepard** edited by Scott Gibson — Among the contributors: John Ashbery, Eileen Myles, Alfred Corn, Joan Larkin, Rachel Hadas, and Harold Norse. \$15 pb, 1-891305-15-8, Painted Leaf. Distributed by LPC.

***Besame Mucho: An Anthology of Gay Latino Fiction** edited by Jaime Manrique with Jesses Dorris — Long overdue, a first collection of fiction from new and more established writers, among them Emmanuel Xavier, Guillermo Reyes, Ernesto Mestre, and editor Manrique. \$15 pb, 1-891305-06-9, Painted Leaf. Distributed by LPC.

Certain Ecstasies: Bedtime Stories or Night-time Stories, Naked City Stories or Night City Stories, or Stories Dark and Light by Michael Lassell — Not sure if the publisher's undecided about the subtitle, or simply liked them all and listed them in the catalog...but trust Lassell's prose to be beautifully crafted, straddling literature and erotica. \$15 pb, 1-891305-12-3, Painted Leaf. Distributed by LPC.

E.M. Forster: Passion and Prose by Arthur Martland — A reassessment of one of the English language's most popular writers, challenging queer theorists who attack his work for timidity about homosexuality. \$24.95 pb, 0-85449-268-2, Gay Men's Press. Distributed by LPC.

Titanic: Forbidden Stories Hollywood Forgot by Jack Fritscher — Four charged erotic fictions (including a novella about sex below decks on the doomed ship) and a saucy screenplay. \$14.95 pb, 1-890834-30-0, Palm Drive Publishing. Distributed by LPC.

The Male Couple's Guide: Finding a Man, Making a Home, Building a Life — Third edition of a landmark guide (first edition, 1988) for gay men, a

must for the couple's section. \$17 pb, 0-06-095275-X, June, HarperCollins.

Why Christianity Must Change or Die: A Bishop Speaks to Believers in Exile by John Shelby Spong — Paper edition of a bestseller detailing the perils of fundamentalism and the need for a church supportive of its many communities, lesbian and gay included. \$14, 0-06-067532-2, HarperCollins.

***One of the Guys** by Robert Clark Young — Here's a sleeper and a keeper: an exciting debut novel about a down-on-his-luck drifter who, when he discovers the body of a dead man, decides to assume his identity as a means of escaping his misery...and finds himself transformed not only into a U.S. Navy Chaplain, but also into a married man who's a closeted homo. \$24 cl, 0-06-019365-4, HarperCollins.

***Gore Vidal: Sexually Speaking** — This cloth first for Cleis is something of a coup. Eminent essayist Vidal's collected sex writings (turning tricks for Dr. Kinsey, cruising postwar Italy with Tennessee Williams, bedding Jack Kerouac) are buttressed by four interviews conducted between 1961 and 1998. \$23 cl, 1-57344-082-5, June, Cleis.

The Gay and Lesbian Self-Esteem Book: A Guide to Loving Ourselves by Kimeron N. Hardin — A clinical psychologist's step-by-step guide for those struggling with self-image in a homophobic society. \$13.95 pb, 1-57224-131-4, New Harbinger.

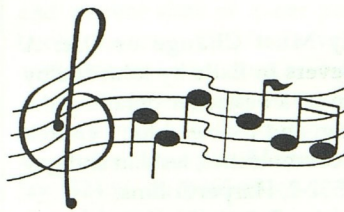
Same Embrace by Michael Lowenthal — Paper edition of an excellent debut novel about Jewish twins, one Orthodox and one not, one gay and one not. \$12.95, 0-452-27975-5, Penguin.

Armistead Maupin by Patrick Gale — A concise bio of the life and times of the author of the fabulous Tales of the City series; the author's a British writer, by the way, most recently of the Faber novel *Tree Surgery for Beginners*, a quite comic book. \$9.95 pb, 1-899791-37-X, Outlines.

Coming Out Spiritually by Christian de la Huerta — The organizer of San Francisco's Q-Spirit spiritual group writes about accepting self while learning from others...a swell book, even with an intro by Arriana Huffington. \$13.95 pb, 0-87477-966-9, Putnam.

***The Coming of the Night** by John Rechy — Though he's best known as author of the 1960-ish *City of Night*, Los Angeles writer and teacher Rechy has

See Gay Lit, page 87.



MUSIC NEWS

Compiled by Barb Smalley/Ladyslipper Music
Original reviews by Laurie Fuchs, Mary Alice
McCarthy, Matt Nicholson, Marianne Rigatti,
Grace Ryan, and Cara Valenti

The following titles will distinguish your music section from the discounters and are entirely Y2K compliant:

Mile Marker/Ana Egge. Ana follows up her critically acclaimed, award-winning debut with this solo acoustic live album. It highlights the talents of this young singer-songwriter perfectly, accompanying her "Bonnie Raitt-like blanket of a voice" (*Austin Chronicle*) with the guitar she built herself. Grace Records 99012

betty3/Betty. The spine-tingling harmonies, hip-shaking rock, and razor-sharp wit on their 99 release show why this female trio of NYC singer-songwriters has captured a fanatical international following. Their songs explore the bewitching topics of love, sex, and sins of passion. Blistering performances from outstanding accompanists combine with the warmth and emotion of their interwoven voices. Kathy Najimy has said, "betty3 will make my favorite band a household name...like Jell-O or Trojans." Betty 4.



Inside Out...The IMA Sessions/Ferron. Ferron and friends turn out some of the sassiest renditions of songs we grew up with, reclaiming them for the world of women's music! IMA is the Institute for Musical Arts, founded by June Millington and Ann Hackler to encourage and support women in music. Sounds like the place is really hopping, with

workshops and a very fine recording studio. Cherrywood Station 009.

Sacred Chants of Contemporary Synagogue/Cantor Rebecca Garfein. Berliners say New York's Rebecca Garfein is causing a revival of Reform Judaism in Germany; this mezzo-soprano is making herstory with her music, recorded in the country where her great-grandmother perished in the Holocaust. In 1997, she became the first female cantor to sing in a synagogue in Germany, where she performed as part of Berlin's International Jewish Cultural Festival; this exquisite 1998 release captures that groundbreaking moment. It contains Jewish liturgical music previously only chanted by male cantors. The music is operatic in character, and Garfein performed it in what was once the women's gallery in the Oranienburger Strasse Synagogue before its destruction. This live performance was attended by Jews and non-Jews, women and men together, shattering the historical separation of faiths and genders. Beautiful, significant, and highly recommended! Bari Productions 1.

A Woman's Touch/Gayla Drake Paul. This guitarist/composer once again wows us with her extraordinary playing, passion, and emotion. These compositions are mini-portraits of women who have catalyzed her creativity and inspired her life, sung without words by the deep expressiveness of her solo fingerstyle guitar playing. Flowing from one song to the next, the album draws the listener into the love that Paul has for these women. The unique packaging consists of an elegant greeting card in an envelope, perfect for a special gift or a treasure for yourself. Exquisitely recorded and highly recommended! Ivanhoe Road Music 20499.

Vision of the Grail/Hollienea. This Renaissance, goddessy, pagany, magical, Celtic blend, with a

serene and spiritual ambiance, comes from a harper whose enchanting and passionate approach to music stems from a most auspicious and unique upbringing. Born and raised by a traditional Hungarian-Irish family, Hollienea's Gypsy blood and cultural heritage convinced her at an early age that music would be her way. Her travels with Gypsy musicians and dance troupes inspired her to share this culture with others. Waterark 0001.



Soy de Ti/I Am Yours/Irene Farrera. This long-awaited summer 1999 release contains ten original songs in Español and English (plus a traditional "gaita"), in which Afro-Latin percussion, steel drums, violin, cuatro, and accordion form a rich backdrop for Irene's deep, husky, passionate voice and her percussive guitar. The title track is a tender love ballad celebrating commitment between women. "In My Bones," inspired by the plight of a Haitian orphan, is an ode to the spirit and strength of all immigrants. Boleros, calypso-soca, bata rumba, samba reggae, and Venezuelan hip-hop round out this exciting collection. We love this artist; recommended! Same Sea Music 1003.

Never Turning Back: A Retrospective/Judy Small. Shortly, this recording (which contains lots of out-of-print material and best-of-the-80s songs) will replace Small's entire back catalog. There are so many classics from this amazing Australian singer-songwriter, it's a must for your regular stock. Crafty Maid 010.

Let the Rainbow Shine/Judy Small. Here's the album this prolific Australian singer-songwriter (and as of recently, a lawyer too!) has always wanted to make: a whole album "about" gay and lesbian issues, yet an album for everybody. Crafty Maid 011.

Mother/Susan McKeown, Cathie Ryan, and Robin Spielberg. Besides being a good collaboration between singer-songwriters Susan McKeown and Cathie Ryan and pianist/composer Robin Spielberg (with guests like Aine Minogue and Joanie Madden), we also like the artists' sensitivity to the fact that relationships involving mothers are complicated. This collection will resonate with every listener who has had a mother. North Star 0111.

Voce: Music from Women of the World/Various Artists. If I had to compile an album with some of my very favorite artists and tracks, it might look something like this 1999 release! It features some of the world's most creative song musicians, who also happen to have some of the most transcendent voices: Laura Love, Loreena McKennitt, Mercedes Sosa, Susana Baca, Deep Forest with Marta Sebestyen (and the Grammy-winner "Marta's Song"), Caroline Lavelle, Victoria Williams, Dead Can Dance, Tish Hinojosa, Madeleine Peyroux, Clannad, Najma, Jane Siberry (who contributes liner notes), and more. As Jane writes, "They are the future looking back at the music of their and other cultures. These women are preserving traditional styles before they are lost. They have rescued a connection to the past that perhaps gives us keys to the spirit of our musical ancestors." Highly recommended! Rhino 75613.

Private Wars/Zrazy. With their third release, this Dublin duo-turned-quintet returns to their first

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big love: jazz; despite a nod or two in a soul and funk direction, the album remains firmly committed to a mellow mood. Maria Walsh wraps her ravishing voice around Carole Nelson's lyrics, always finding an intense emotion and depth with no concession to sentimentality. Most of these original songs were recorded as first takes, capturing a freshness, spontaneity, and great band vibe. Sheer class! Crazy 1000.

Nectar/Kitka. This collection of 18 haunting and emotive songs from Bulgaria, Georgia, Hungary, Macedonia, Russia, and Ukraine is performed mostly acappella by the ensemble's eight vocalists (with some accompaniment on tambura/Bulgarian lute, folk harp and hand percussion). With their mastery of the demanding techniques of Balkan and Slavic vocal stylings, they bring Eastern European women's vocal traditions to a U.S. audience and beyond. These songs were gathered from a variety of sources, including ethnographic field recordings collected by Kitka in

Eastern Europe, and reflect women's experiences as expressed through centuries-old traditions of women singing together through life's passages: love, loss, work, play, and resistance. Diaphonica 098.

Halim/Natacha Atlas. This multi-talented artist, singer, and belly dancer — whose music always provides great accompaniment for this dance form, in case you're looking — grew up in the Moroccan suburbs of Brussels, where she immersed herself in Arab culture while becoming fluent in French, Spanish, Arabic, and English. This release is influenced by a wide range of Middle Eastern and North African music. In Arabic, to be "Halim" is to be beautiful on the inside. Koch 7981.

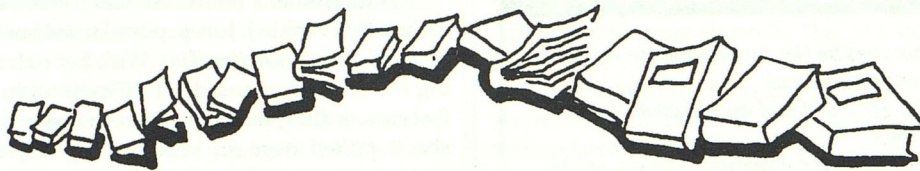
Modern Cool/Patricia Barber. On this excellent release, Patricia sets provocative and poetic lyrics to the cool beat of her own unique jazz style. Tracks range from the political satire "Postmodern Blues," which laments the decline of the 20th century's great ideological movements, to great revivals of "Light My Fire" and "She's A Lady" (female pronouns intact). This is an intelligent album with lyrics that will make you think and melodies that will make you stop and listen. Premonition Records 741.

Live at the Freight & Salvage/Rebecca Riots. The third release from this Berkeley-based acoustic female trio is fresh and immediate, and they're not just singing about anything: Their thought-provoking lyrics reveal an awareness and sensitivity to the world around them. Call 'em good citizens of the women's music scene (as we know it today). You know these gals are for real because they frequently do benefits and support a variety of causes. Rebecca Riots 41.



A Good Day for the Blues/Ruth Brown. We're noticing a growing trend among our customers to go back to the blues, and as long as Ruth Brown is singing, everyday is a good day for the blues! At the age of 70, Ruth shows no sign of slowing down as she explores the territory between jazz and the blues. Her repertoire here ranges from classic ballads like "Never Let Me Go" and "A Lover Is Forever" to the foottapping, make-you-wanna-sing-along title track. Bullseye 9613. ○

FROM OUR OWN PRESSES



Compiled by Teri Mae Rutledge

Not a New Zine, but...

Since the ladies of the Clit Collective, creators of *The Volcano: A Subversive Dyke Reader*, took a break to relocate to San Francisco from Madison, regular readers of the zine — which *Factsheet Five* recommends to “lesbians and het feminists who will not be put down” — have been eagerly anticipating the zine’s next installment. *FBN* personality Kristin Redmon (she moonlights here as our office manager, and her dossier includes work at A Room of One’s Own) serves as the zine’s de facto managing editor. Past *Volcano* themes include the infamous, controversial, titillating Butch on Butch issue (still available for re-order: retail \$2). In the new issue, Redmon and her posse provide insights on alternative treatments of yeast infections, an erotic drag king fantasy, poetry, photos of naked girls, rants, raves, and more. The design is, as always, sleek and professional. Bookselling women: this zine is the real thing. It pushes all sorts of important boundaries, and the personality of the Collective — at turns angry, sexy, and fall-down funny — shines through every article. A great no-fluff alternative for readers of *On Our Backs* and *Girlfriends*, and I daresay even readers of *Curve* might learn a thing or two. Certainly a must for your subversive lesbian clientele, and well worth the effort to order. \$2. Terms: 1–5 copies: 40%, 6 or more: 50%. Order from the Madison office, please: The Volcano, PO Box 682, Madison WI 53701; 608-256-5685, email <thevolcano@hotmail.com>. —TMR

Naiad Press

In Diana Tremain Braund’s enticing new romance *Wicked Good Time*, rugged Maine forest ranger Miki Jamieson is unmatched when it comes to

dealing with the dangers of life in the wilderness. But dangers of the heart are another matter, for when stalking victim Christina Reynolds seeks the safe refuge of her arms, the shy ranger can’t figure out whether the distraught woman only needs her as a protector, or wants her as a lover. (Hmmm...that’s a tough one!) \$11.95 pb, 1-56280-241-0, July.

Pat Welch’s highly suspenseful *Snake Eyes* is the seventh Helen Black mystery from the popular author of *Fallen from Grace*, *Still Waters*, and *Smoke and Mirrors*. After surviving a near-fatal shooting, Helen and her lover Alison are taking a much-needed vacation at a

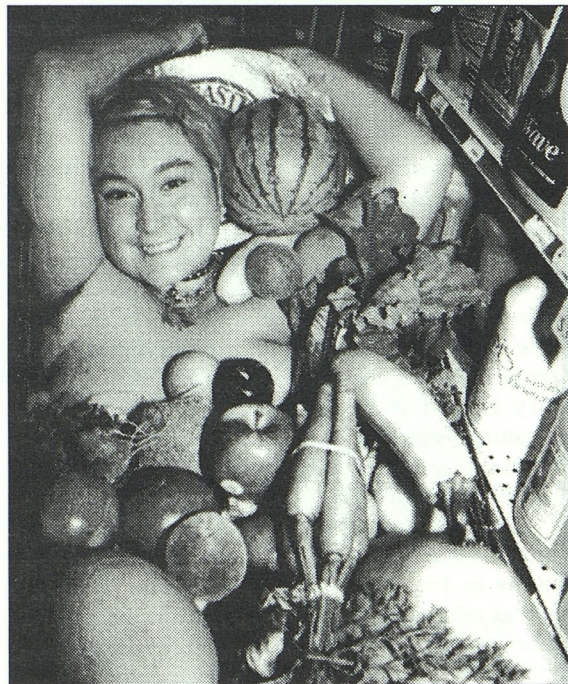


Photo by Kati Toble in *The Volcano*

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ANATOMY'S DESTINY by Louise Annschild

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popular casino. The shell-shocked Helen is seriously thinking of leaving the PI business for good, but a cold-blooded killer is betting she can be lured back into the game. \$11.95 pb, 1-56280-242-9, July.

Lela Johns wants nothing more than to finish her brief tenure as an English teacher at Franklin High while she completes her dissertation. Then, one of her students — the pretty, shy Carly Matson — comes to her for help. Carly's plight triggers memories for Lela — memories so terrible they have kept Lela a prisoner of her own fear and guilt for more than a decade. Memories that will drag your readers into a riveting story ripped from today's headlines in Diane Salvatore's new novel **One of Our Own**. By the author of *Benediction* and *Love, Zena Beth*. \$11.95 pb, 1-56280-243-7, August.

Tough, smart, and definitely not by-the-book, Toronto's hotshot homicide detective Stevie Houston returns in Tracey Richardson's **Double Take Out**, another edge-of-your-seat thriller from the brilliant author of *Over the Line*, *Last Rites*, and *Northern Blue*. A routine murder investigation turns personal when Stevie discovers that the chief suspect had passionate

affairs with numerous other women, including Stevie's own lover, forensic pathologist Jade Agawa-Garneau. \$11.95 pb, 1-56280-244-5, August.

The summer's hottest lesbian romance is **Captive Hearts** by Frankie J. Jones, popular author of *Whispers in the Wind* and *Rhythm Tide*. With her rich daddy paying the rent, 28-year-old C.J. Riley lives in a world of fast cars, willing women, and zero responsibility until she is pulled over for speeding by tall, tanned San Antonio police officer Lois Franklin. Never one to resist a challenge, C.J. sets out to add the captivating cop to her conquests. \$11.95 pb, 1-56280-258-5, August.

Naiad books are available from the publisher and distributed by BP, LPC, Ingram, et al. The Naiad Press, PO Box 10543, Tallahassee, FL 32302; 800-533-1973. —Naiad Press

Paris Press

Ordinary Words, Ruth Stone's eleventh collection, is the recipient of the Academy of American Poets Eric Mathieu King Award. Stone's poems take place in trailer parks in Vermont, in trains traveling through Texas; her heroes are "crazy" Aunt Mabel, struggling single mothers, daughters, and her sister, dead from lung cancer, who smoked for a little glamour. At 84, Stone captures true Americana, weaving confrontations of racism, poverty, aging, and the environment into poems of direct language and stunning lyricism. \$17.95 cl, 0-9638183-9-2. Paris Press, PO Box 487, Ashfield, MA 01330; email <parispr@crocker.com>. Distributed by Consortium. —Jan Freewoman, Paris Press

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John Greyson's award winning **Lilies** (Canada's 1996 Best Picture) is an emotionally intense, suspense-laden tale of first love, jealous betrayal, and well-honed revenge. On the pretext of hearing a dying prisoner's confession, a bishop is held hostage by the confessor and his fellow inmates. The prisoners reenact a 40-year-old story that reveals the bishop's youthful betrayal and the tragedy that followed. \$89.95, 96 minutes.

Bent. From Martin Sherman's "powerful and provocative" (*The New York Times*) play comes an incredible film recording the forgotten persecution of homosexuals during the Nazi reign of terror. Featuring Lothaire Bluteau, Clive Owen, Ian McKellen, and Mick

Jagger. Highly recommended. \$89.95, 104 minutes.

Having fled years earlier, a once inept William returns home now a confident, together gay young man. Still, old demons must be met and new wonders explored. **Hanging Garden** presents the most modern, lyrical, and humorous approach to family reunions to date. \$89.95, 91 minutes.

Stolen Moments weaves together lost threads of lesbian history: from Sappho's poems to the 20s Parisian salons to prewar-Berlin's cabarets to Stonewall and the present. By celebrating their achievements, this acclaimed film brings the pioneers of lesbian history to life. \$39.95, 91 minutes.

Price Reductions: **Gia** (to \$19.95), **Opposite of Sex** (to \$19.95), **Ma Vie En Rose** (to \$22.95), **Foxfire** (to \$14.95), **Different For Girls** (to \$19.95), and **The Real Ellen Story** (to \$19.95).

Wolfe Video, PO Box 64, New Almaden CA 95042; 408-268-6782, fax 408-268-9449. —*Wolfe Video*

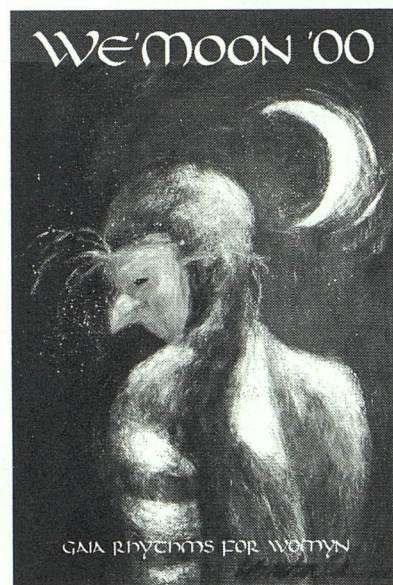
Women's Press — U.K.

Diana, Princess of Wales: How Sexual Politics Shook the Monarchy by Beatrix Campbell analyzes the life and death of Princess Diana through a feminist lens. From the blurb: "Diana's only qualifications for her arranged marriage were her body, her face, her fertility, and her virginity, and the world assumed public ownership of her as it followed and assessed her every move; never before had a young woman been subject to such scrutiny." Campbell reveals Diana's simultaneous powerlessness and power as a princess, and details how Diana used her limited power to champion the cause of AIDS sufferers, battered women and children, women with eating disorders, and people injured by land mines. Campbell also explores Diana's disruption of the power structure of the royal family and the role of the media in Diana's death. From the blurb: "Diana died...hounded by a posse of men who refused her the right to say yes when she meant yes and no when she meant no. But Diana was mourned by millions of women; women who identified with Diana's life and who, consciously or subconsciously, understood the messages of her death." I think that Campbell's take on the worldwide media's moralizing about the paparazzi is also interesting. She claims that Diana's suffering *as a woman* was eclipsed by discussions of media and privacy laws. This book is a fascinating

and worthwhile analysis. I do wish the cover were a bit more interesting (with all the paparazzi pictures of the princess available, it seems that the Women's Press could have found one...), but if you have any Anglofiles in your clientele, this is a book to stock. \$14.95 pb, 0-7043-4585-4.

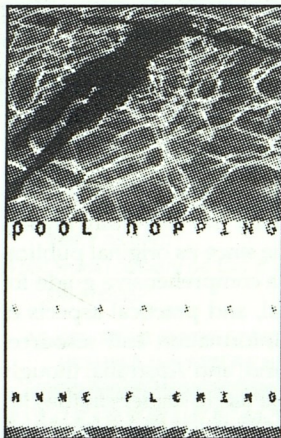
Understanding Abortion by Mary Pipes with the Women's Heath research center has been fully revised and updated for the first time since its original publication in 1986. It claims to be a comprehensive guide for the medical, legal, emotional, and practical aspects of abortion. (All of the legal information and resources refer to the U.K., New Zealand, and Australia, though, making those sections of little use to readers in the U.S. and Canada.) However, the emotional support offered, and the factors to consider, and the personal testimonies of women who have had abortions are all useful for readers everywhere. \$15.95 pb, 0-7043-4480-7.

The Women's Press — U.K., 34 Sutton St., London EC1V 0DX. Distributed in the U.S. by Trafalgar Square, North Pomfret VT; 800-423-4525. —TMR ○



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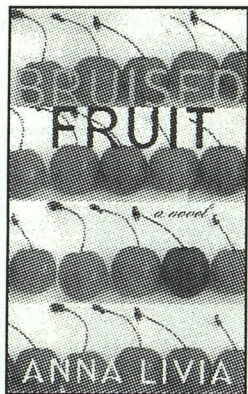
Pool-Hopping and Other Stories by Anne Fleming

\$13.95 paper, 1-896095-18-6, Available POLESTAR BOOK PUBLISHERS

Anne Fleming is nominated for the second annual DANUTA GLEED LITERARY AWARD for this first collection of stories. The Danuta Gleed Award honours the best first collection of short stories by a Canadian author and has a \$5000 first prize. It is administered by the Writers' Union of Canada. The winner will be announced on Canada Book Day, April 23, 1999.

With humour and insight, Fleming creates a fascinating, diverse cast of characters—women and men, old, middle-aged and young, many of them queer, lesbian or gay. In a review of *Pool-Hopping*, The Georgia Straight writes, "Her evenhanded, sharp-eyed and often hilarious narratives traverse the frenzied chaos of urban life with ease and precision."

And *Publishers Weekly* writes, "At once ruthlessly precise with her descriptions ("Winters now were petulant and bitter, like the brothers of kings") and generous to her characters, she makes a bracing, truthful debut with these 13 stories."



Bruised Fruit

A Novel

Anna Livia

\$13.95 paper, 1-56341-106-7

Available

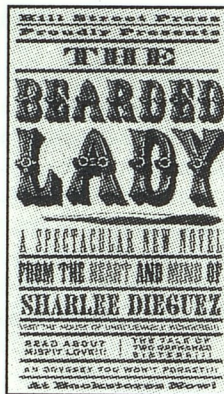
FIREBRAND BOOKS

A chilling comedy from Lammy finalist Anna Livia.

Anna Livia's astringently humorous, no-holds-barred

novel is the story of British Caroline, lesbian escapee from an abusive relationship; Sydney, dainty hermaphrodite with a Southern drawl; and Patti, a bisexual with a trust fund who inexorably, it seems, kills every man she sleeps with.

Written as a mixture of chilling comedy and neogothic, *Bruised Fruit* is Anns Livia's fifth novel. Her two short story collections, *Incidents Involving Mirth* and *Incidents Involving Warmth*, have been Lammy finalists. The author lives in Berkeley, California with her lover and their soon-to-be-born twins.



The Bearded Lady

A Novel

Sharlee Dieguez

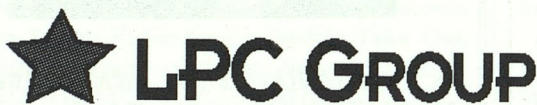
\$24.00 cloth, 1-892514-15-X

May, 1999

HILL STREET PRESS

A stunning debut novel of family ties and sexual awakening with the most memorable characters since Mark Twain's Tom and Huck as if seen through the eyes of Diane Arbus.

Set against the colorful and often bizarre backdrop of a traveling circus in the early part of the 20th century, *The Bearded Lady* is the story of two high-spirited, parentless, young sisters—one conventionally beautiful, the other possessing a rather eccentric sort of attraction. The plight of women in the early 1900s is explored alongside the relationships and sisterhood of females when faced with hardship, competition, doomed love affairs, and manipulative employers. Yet in the end, love conquers all, and Jessie and Tweets grow up despite unusual and often terrifying obstacles.

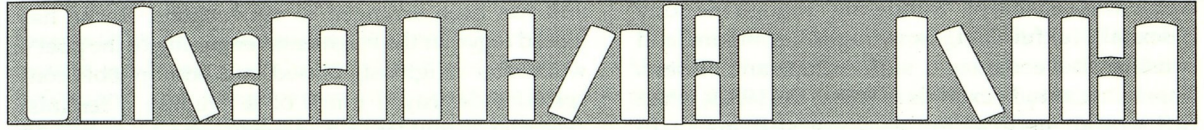


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FROM THE SMALL PRESSES



By Teri Mae Rutledge

Women Together: Portraits of Love, Commitment, and Life with essays by Mona Holmlund, photographs by Cyndy Warwick, and a foreword by Candace Gingrich celebrates long-term lesbian relationships from famous couples to everyday ones. Read about the letter/application Alison Maddex put together to catch Camille Paglia's attention. Or follow the hard path that LaVerne Harvey and Teresa Walker took to get away from LaVerne's abusive husband, begin their own business, and raise LaVerne's children. From activists to actresses, the couples profiled are fascinating, and their relationships run the gamut from traditional girl-meets-girl, girls-get-married to open relationships that don't equate "commitment" with "monogamy." Includes portraits of: Amanda Bearce and Dell Pearce, Muffin Spencer-Devlin and Lynda Roth, Margarethe Cammermeyer and Diane Divelbess, Susan Johnson and Connie Wolfe, Antoinette Pregil and Tammy Rodrigues, and many more. \$27.50 cl, 0-7624-0064-1, June. Running Press, 125 S. 22nd St., Philadelphia PA 19103; 215-567-5080, fax 215-568-2919. Available from the publisher and all major wholesalers, including Ingram, B&T, BP, et al.

Prostitution: On Whores, Hustlers, and Johns edited by James E. Elias, Ph.D., Vern L. Bullough, R.N., Ph.D., Veronica Elias, Ph.D., and Gwen Brewer, Ph.D., with a foreword by Joycelyn Elders, M.D., brings together the thoughts of sex workers, researchers, johns, therapists, attorneys, and government officials to present a diverse and cross-cultural look at

prostitution. In her foreword, Elders says, "Nobody should be forced into prostitution or into having sex. Let me tell you a fact. Eighty-four percent of girls fourteen and under who become pregnant were abused by somebody in their own home. Eighty-four percent! Sixty-six and two-thirds percent of all the teenagers who become pregnant have been abused at some time in their life. We spend billions of dollars in this country trying to prosecute prostitution, which is sex between consenting adults, and we do nothing about the abuse of children." Among the essays are, "Forty Reasons Why Whores Are My Heroines," "Being a John," "Feminist Issues in Prostitution," "Whore Stories: Prostitution and Sex-Positive Feminism," "On Owning the Body," and "The Sexual Tourist and International Law." I really appreciate the efforts of the editors to include the voices of sex workers in this volume. This is sure to educate, enlighten, and disturb. \$29.95 cl, 1-57392-229-3.



Photo by Cyndy Warwick, in *Women Together: Portraits of Love, Commitment, and Life* (Running Press)

Lana Thompson leads us on a tour through 4000 years of Western civilization's beliefs about women's bodies in **The Wandering Womb: A Cultural History of Outrageous Beliefs About Women**. The title refers to the ancient Egyptian belief that the womb was capable of "wandering" though the body if sexually unfulfilled, crowding other organs and causing tissue damage, suffocation, and illness. Thompson's study extends as late as the 1950s, when influential medical minds were still going to extremes to eradicate the "dangerous" practice of female masturbation. Thompson examines religious, medical, and social histories to trace myths regarding menstruation, masturbation, childbirth, and hysteria. As I page my way through, I'm finding myself amused and horrified at the same time. (A favorite passage is John Harvey Kellogg's thoughts on masturbation, which he blames for everything from "general debility" to "lassitude" to "bashfulness" to "unnatural boldness" to "confusion" — there are a full 13 lines of masturbation's negative effects!!) **The Wandering Womb** is illustrated, and some of the early depictions of women's uteruses

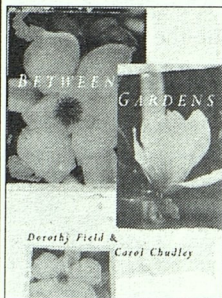
alone are worth the price of the book. A fascinating study. \$19.95 cl, 1-57392-264-1.

The Love Songs of Sappho translated by Paul Roche and with an introduction by Page duBois retains the standard numerical order of the poetry and has been arranged in six sections. Roche has pieced together the fragments remaining of the poet's work after religiously biased and homophobic conspiracies destroyed much of it. DuBois, a feminist classicist, provides a historical introduction, and Roche added an essay, "Portrait of Sappho." I'm not going to claim a great deal of knowledge on either translated poetry or Sappho's work, but these translations seem to be attentive to the poet's intention and are lovely to read in English. \$8.95 pb, 1-57392-251-X.

Prometheus Books, 59 John Glenn Dr., Amherst NY 14228; 716-691-0133, fax 716-691-0137. Available from Ingram, B&T, and all other major wholesalers.

Dangerous Intersections: Feminist Perspectives on Population, Environment, and Development edited by Jael Silliman and Ynestra King approaches these global issues with vital and often disregarded

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Between Gardens: Observations on Gardening, Friendship and Disability

by Dorothy Field and Carol Graham Chudley

In 1995, Dorothy Field and Carol Graham Chudley began corresponding about their gardens. At the same time, Carol suffered from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, an illness that forced her to alter her active lifestyle. Despite chronic pain and sleep deprivation, she recorded the cycles of her beloved garden and corresponded with Dorothy. She also kept a record of her illness. These letters between friends, excerpts from Carol's journals and reproductions of Dorothy's artwork together create a joyous meditation on living with simplicity, faith and integrity.

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Pool-Hopping and Other Stories

by Anne Fleming

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perspectives: multicultural and feminist. The contributors address the shortsighted policies of politicians and nongovernmental organizations, policies that focus on the fertility of poor women of color as the primary threat to the ecological viability of the planet. Instead, the contributors argue that women need to be agents in their own fate. The pieces reveal the racism behind environmental degradation and immigration control, the paternalism underlying population control efforts, and the general scapegoating of women, the poor, and immigrants as the source of world problems. This is an important collection, one that stresses the importance of localized solutions for global problems, and one that reveals the incredible racism and sexism of national and international developmental and environmental policy. \$20 pb, 0-89608-597-X. South End Press, 7 Brookline St. #1, Cambridge MA 02139; 617-266-0629. Distributed by LPC.



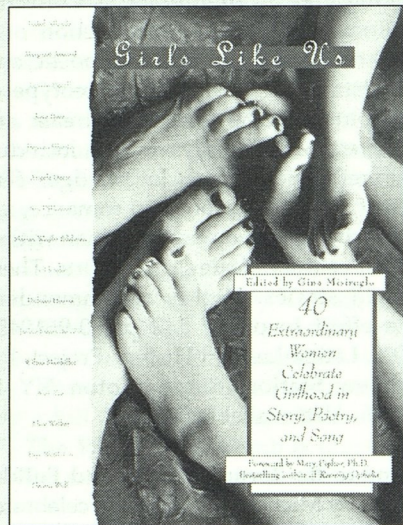
In Nancy Kim's debut novel, **Chinhominey's Secret**, a Korean-American family tries to avoid a 20-year-old prophecy given to the family's estranged Korean grandmother, Chinhominey, by a fortuneteller. When she arrives in America for her first visit to her daughter's family, Chinhominey realizes that the family is battling against the prophecy so assiduously that they may, in fact, be making the prediction self-fulfilling. She attempts to steer the family's behavior in a more hopeful direction. At the same time, the intergenerational conflicts between Chinhominey, her immigrant daughter and son-in-law, and her Americanized granddaughters rankle the family. Kim's writing is gorgeous, and her characterization of each generation rings true. \$22.95 cl, 1-882593-28-6. Bridge Works Publishing, Bridge Ln., Box 1798, Bridgehampton NY 11932; 516-537-3418, fax 516-537-5092. Distributed by National Book Network, 800-462-6420.

Speaking Like an Immigrant: A Collection by Mariana Romo-Carmona is a collection of short stories that are at times surreal, ironic, poetic, and fanciful. Her characters subvert the stereotype of the immigrant pursuing the American dream and, as Elizabeth Crespo-Kebler says in her introduction, "force us to rethink customary knowledge." She tells the stories of a Catholic schoolgirl romance, a witch who sails a private ship, an urban lesbian with a mission, a 22nd-century healer, and more. These are lovely, vivid stories. Highly recommended and worth the effort to order! \$12 pb, 0-9619450-3-6. Terms: 40%. Latina Lesbian History Project, PO Box 678 Westview Station, Binghamton NY 13905; 607-777-4916. Also available from BP.

A Time to Be Born: Customs and Folklore of Jewish Birth by Michele Klein, Ph.D., celebrates and preserves the rich and far-reaching folklore surrounding pregnancy and childbirth in Jewish tradition. This traditional lore is beginning to disappear from the Jewish community's memory. Klein interviewed Jewish women and men from all over the world and in Israel: pregnant women, mothers, fathers, grandmothers, and elderly midwives who ranged from Orthodox to secular. She found that, though the lives of her interviewees varied widely, they shared many ideas, traditions, and stories about birth. Klein then researched the origins for these traditions. **A Time to Be Born** is divided into four sections, "Conception," "Pregnancy," "Birthing," and "Welcoming the Newborn." Buttressed with a glossary, a list of historical personalities, and an index of Biblical and Talmudic references, this is a fascinating and important work. \$39.95 cl, 0-8276-0608-7. Jewish Publication Society, 1930 Chestnut St., Philadelphia PA 19103; 800-234-3151, fax 215-564-6640.

Strangers is a literary memoir by Emma Tennant, a British novelist with an extremely eccentric family. Her lyrical and attentive account begins with a feud between Emma's great-aunt and her

40 Extraordinary Women Celebrate Girlhood in Story, Poetry, and Song



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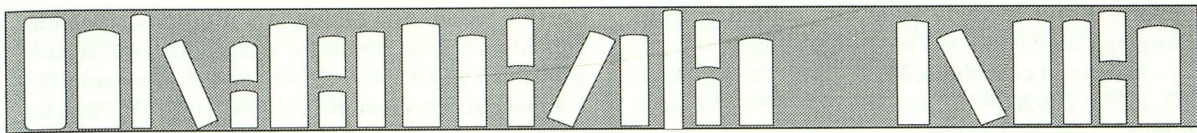
grandmother at the onset of World War I. Emma gradually reveals her own life as a lonely child left in Glen in World War II, the witness to mysterious comings and goings of her extended family. The memoir also chronicles the decline of Emma's famous uncle, Stephen Tennant. In all, this book beautifully describes a strange family and one child's navigation within it. Allison Lurie and Gore Vidal have both praised this book. \$22.95 cl, 0-8112-1409-5.

Anne Tyler said that Nina Berberova's (*The Ladies from St. Petersburg*) writing in **The Book of Happiness** is "as graceful and subtle as Chekhov." This semi-autobiographical novel follows the life of Vera, who lives a dreary life tied down by a demanding and invalid husband. However, when a childhood friend commits suicide, she is called to the scene. As she mourns his death, she reflects upon her life in Russia, and the disappointing path that it has taken since. Berberova is an important rediscovery, and her writing is, as the copy says, both poignant and unsentimental. \$23.95 cl, 0-8112-1401-X.

After Denise Levertov's death in 1997, forty unpublished, finished poems were found, and they comprise her **This Great Unknowning: Last Poems**. Levertov has published 20 collections of poetry in the 50 years her work has been in print. This collection, though Levertov did not get the chance to organize it, is every bit as skilled as her other work. "What characterizes Denise Levertov's poetry is an untiring creativity, a freshness, and sense of urgency. She wrote lyrical, celebratory poems, and poems that found hard-hitting and appropriate imagery for the horrors of our times.... There is a consistent clarity in her voice and a sparseness in her language. She was a mystical poet who wrote aggressively of the spiritual, and a political poet who continued to find images to make us think. Denise Levertov was an inspiration." —*The Independent* (London). This is a must for stores with strong poetry collections. \$19.95 cl, 0-8112-1403-6.

New Directions Press, 80 Eighth Ave., NY NY 10011. Available from BP.

Under Gemini: A Memoir by Isabel Bolton is Steerforth's latest in a series of rediscovered writing by Bolton. *The Times Literary Supplement* said of her, "Bolton has been compared to Henry James, Virginia Woolf, and Elizabeth Bowen, among others, an



attempt to place her that only goes a little way to establish her skill and originality." Bolton's parents died of cholera when she was very young. She and her four siblings moved in with their maternal grandmother. At the heart of this book is the author's relationship with her identical twin sister, Grace. Bolton says, "It was never I but always we." But their bond was broken when Grace drowned at age 14 (Bolton managed to swim ashore). Sixty-eight years after Grace's death, Bolton shows that her love for her sister is still remarkably strong, remarkably alive. \$12 pb, 1-883642-68-X. Steerforth Press, PO Box 70, South Royalton VT 05068; 802-763-2808, fax 802-763-2818. Distributed by PGW.



Joan Givner (*Katherine Anne Porter: A Life*) has written a collection of stories and essays, **Thirty-four Ways of Looking at Jane Eyre**. (The title of the collection is taken from one of the stories; the entire collection is not, in fact, about *Jane Eyre*.) Givner's prose explores how fiction insinuates itself into non-fiction, and how biography and autobiography insinuate themselves into fiction. As she says in her preface, "Fiction and nonfiction have always for me been two sides of the same coin, parallel ways of exposing and at the same time shielding myself. The fictional representatives of my stories stand in the same relationship to me as do my biographical subjects, for all biography is really autobiography." Givner's writing is feminist, compassionate, and unflinching. \$20 pb, 0-921586-67-1. New Star Books Ltd., 107-3477 Commercial St., Vancouver BC V5N 4E8, Canada; 604-738-9429, fax 604-738-9332. Distributed by General Distribution Services, 800-805-1083.

Deepstep Come Shining is C.D. Wright's ninth book. Wright's writing is narrative and experimental, and this book-length poem takes the reader on a

journey through the rural South on a visceral path that slides back and forth between logic and instinct. From the book: "Private-party love. By one sixty-watt bulb. And it be blue. The cool produces an halation. The couple standing underneath stir the floor as one. Some modeling on the side of the face. When directly below the bulb. All other detail dropped out. The eye gradually grows accustomed to this. The music circling. Huge and dark. *Eroico furore*. Supremely insane. Accelerated arpeggios. Unchain a cruel streak. Breath. Nerve. Mind. Pain. Teeming tonal centres. D-state. Nocturnal emission of sperm. Corner of Hamlet and Bridges. And in the last year. They say he did. See angels. A synergism of cancer and dwelling in musical extremis." For stores with strong poetry sections, **Deepstep** is a must. As usual for Copper Canyon, the book is also beautifully produced. \$14 pb, 1-55659-092-X. Copper Canyon Press, PO Box 271, Port Townsend WA 98368; 360-385-4925, fax 360-385-4985. Distributed by Consortium.

Harvey Shapiro said of Kimiko Hahn's newest poetry collection, **Volatile**, "Kimiko Hahn manages to take the air of atrocity we breathe in daily and turn it into fierce political/lyrical poetry.... Current events ripped open and the entrails exposed in living color. She is one of our strongest poets." Her subjects are various and striking, and on the whole, **Volatile** is a strong collection. Kahn recently wrote and performed voice-overs for the HBO special, "Ain't Nuthin' but a She-thing." \$13 pb, 1-882413-56-3.

"Donna Brook is writing out of a voice I know in my bones, a voice full of seasoned grief and enormous human authority. Over and over, she gives me that shiver of recognition that I love — the one in which the poet gives you back a feeling you have experienced and left behind. She turns to us a more human face, and we know it is our own." —Dorothy Allison, about Donna Brook's newest collection of poetry, **A More Human Face**. From a New York hospital to the Seattle Indian Heritage School, Brook's vision is both deeply observant and deeply grieving. This is another

important and lovingly produced collection from Hanging Loose Press. \$13 pb, 1-882413-58-X.

Hanging Loose Press, 231 Wyckoff St., Brooklyn NY 11217; 212-206-8465, fax 212-243-7499. Available from SPD, BP, and Koen.

Scenes for Women, by Women edited by Tori Haring-Smith is a compilation of more than 50 scenes for women only. Many of the scenes have never before been published, so this book is a great resource for actresses, directors, and acting teachers. The scenes themselves are comedic, tragic, surreal, and realistic. This book represents a great deal of versatility in women's playwriting and includes scenes by Susan Yankowitz, Laura Harrington, Naomi Iizuka,

Corrine Jacker, and others. An additional appendix lists 50 additional scenes for women that are "readily available." \$13.95 pb, 0-325-00067-0. Heinemann, 361 Hanover St., Portsmouth NH 03801; 603-431-7894, fax 603-431-7840. Distributed by the National Book Network, 800-462-6420.

Dr. Paula Reeves, a therapist in applied psychoneuroimmunology (the study of the biochemical relationship between the mind and body), claims that women's intuition is more than an old wives' tale, it's biological fact. In **Women's Intuition: Unlocking the Wisdom of the Body**, she explains how intuition is encoded in a woman's DNA and passed on through the matrilineal line. Reeves also claims that, as a result of social conditioning that exalts the mind over and in opposition to the body, women are disconnected from their bodies. This disconnection, she says, causes a number of physical and psychological disorders. Finally, Reeves guides women in simple exercises to find their body-based intuition and wisdom. \$15.95 pb, 1-57324-156-3, June.

200 Ways to Raise a Girl's Self-Esteem: An Indispensable Guide for Parents, Teachers, and Other Concerned Caregivers by Will Glennon gives parents and teachers practical and simple suggestions of ways to raise girls' self-esteem. Each section outlines a strategy and follows up with specific plans of action designed for parents and for teachers. A great and decisively active approach to girls' self-esteem. \$11.95 pb, 1-57324-154-7, June.

The editors of *Random Acts of Kindness* have now written **The Community of Kindness: Reconnecting to Friends, Family, and World Through the Power of Kindness**, a collection of stories and meditations that encourage people to connect deeply with others and to consider how to reach out to the wider world. The editors of *Random Acts* feel that their books are widely read (the series has a million copies in print) because people desire the sense of community that *RA* offers. This book addresses that need head-on, with the characteristic "kindness" anecdotes for which the series is known. \$10.95 pb, 1-57324-148-2.

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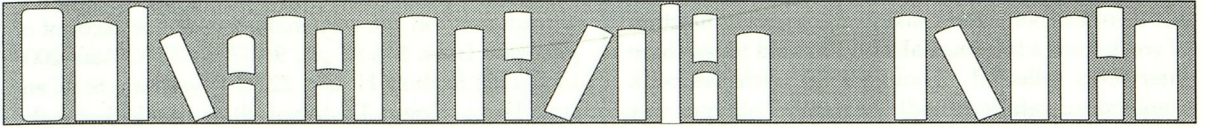


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Celebrate Sexuality & the Erotic Mind



assistants, bookkeepers, go-fers, and other support staff by Dee Rosenfeld is the self-published guide to handling on-the-job troubles in the lives of support workers. Rosenfeld describes her own experiences as an office manager, and her actions exemplify how to negotiate troubles within an office without losing one's job or one's self-esteem. Her views on the workplace are dead-on, and her advice is smart and absolutely practical. I was impressed again and again by Rosenfeld's incredible sense of self-respect and professionalism in dealing with her superiors. Everyone who is holding or has held an office support staff position should read this book. \$8.95 pb, 0-9669335-08. MDR Press, 45 Lottie Bennet Ln. #5, San Francisco CA 94115; 415-346-9534. Also available from Ingram.

Learning from Other Women: How to Benefit from the Knowledge, Wisdom, and Experience of Female Mentors by Carolyn S. Duff introduces to women the concept of choosing women as mentors in their careers. The book tackles the myths that prevent women from seeing other women as mentor figures, shows how to initiate and maintain learning relationships with other women, anticipates and addresses challenges in women-to-women learning relationships, and demonstrates knowledge that only other women have. It's nice that a business publisher is recognizing a need for female relationship-building in (male-dominated) office settings. This is a good primer for women to establish professional relationships with one another, a practice that should be much more commonplace than it is. \$22.95 cl, 0-8144-0455-3, June. AMACOM, 1601 Broadway, NY NY 10019; 800-250-5308, 518-891-2372. Available from B&T, Ingram, Koen, and New Leaf.

Alice Walker said of Paul Kivel's **Men's Work: How to Stop the Violence That Tears Our Lives Apart**, "This earnest and practical book will serve as a primer for the millions of men and boys who have begun to recognize that the stopping of male

violence is, as author Kivel writes, truly **Men's Work.**" Kivel, who has worked extensively with men to help them confront and change violent behavior at the Oakland Men's Project, writes of the political, social, and personal forces that reward misogyny, hatred, anger, and violence in men. He also guides men and women in responding in new, productive ways to this systemically enforced behavior. His analysis is thoughtful and male positive, and he urges men to take the power and responsibility to unlearn lessons of control and aggression. Finally, he identifies a new framework to replace men's patterns of dominance with an egalitarian partnership with women and among themselves. \$13.95 pb, 1-56838-233-2. Terms: 45%. Hazelden Information and Educational Services, PO Box 176, Center City MN 55012; 800-328-0094. Available from the publisher and all major wholesalers.



Voices of Color edited by Yolanda Ananiz and Nellie Wong is a collection of 35 articles from African American, Chicana/o, Asian Pacific American, Jewish, and Native American women and men that address a number of issues including self-identity, land rights, bias in the entertainment industry, organizing efforts for affirmative action and bilingual education, and confrontations with racism, sexism, and homophobia. The articles were originally written for the "Voices of Color" column in the *Freedom Socialist* newspaper and ran between 1981 and 1997. \$12.95 pb, 0-932323-05-7. Red Letter Press, 409 Maynard Ave. S. #201, Seattle WA 98104; 206-682-0990. Available from the publisher and from BP, Partners, and SPD.

In What Matters: Interviews and Conversations, Anne Kreilkamp, the editor and founder of the *Crone Chronicles*, collects the best interviews published in the magazine between 1989 and 1998. From politicians to filmmakers to sculptors to Betty

Dodson, the *Chronicles* has talked to many old and not-so-old movers and shakers. It's a great collection of work from a fine journal, and I'm glad to see these interviews collected. (Though I do wish the book were more carefully edited! The number of typos was downright distracting.) As is the policy of Ladybug Press, the editor has chosen a charity to which 15 percent of the proceeds of the book's sales will benefit: the Crone's Council, Inc. Ladybug Press, 751 Laurel St. #223, San Carlos CA 94070; 650-591-6212, fax 650-591-1123. Available from most distributors, including B&T and Ingram.

Lesbian Sex Scandals: Sexual Practices, Identities, and Politics edited by Dawn Atkins is an exploration of the problematic nature of a community's (in this case the lesbian community's) political identification based on sexual practice. It further enables readers to understand these contradictions, and suggests ways to redefine sexual identity and community. She, in particular, is vested in arguing against the "minority approach" to sexual politics (i.e. "I was born this way — my gayness is an inescapable characteristic — and therefore, I deserve not to be discriminated on the basis of that characteristic"), saying that this argument downplays the role of gay sexual practices in socio-political discussions. Furthermore, one's "choice" of gayness is not addressed in this argument, and thus gayness is, by default, undesirable. It seems a wee bit thick at times, but these explorations of identity politics are incredibly important. Worth stocking for your aca-dyke clientele. \$19.95 pb, 1-56023-118-1. Harrington Park Press, an imprint of Haworth Press, 10 Alice St., Binghamton NY 13904; 800-HAWORTH.



Walking to the Mountain: A Pilgrimage to Tibet's Holy Mount Kailash by Wendy Teasdill, with a foreword by the Dalai Lama, chronicles the author's journey on foot across Tibet to Mount Kailash. Even though Tibet was closed to travellers in 1988, Teasdill was determined to make the journey. She hitchhiked from Lhasa and walked 400 miles over a road closed due to "political reasons" as well as damage from summer rains. Her tales of the journey

and the people, landscape, dangers, and delights she encountered on the way make this a rare account of post-riot Tibet. \$16.95 pb, 962-7160-27-X. Asia 2000 Ltd., 1101 Seabird House, 22-28 Wyndham St., Central, Hong Kong. Distributed in the U.S. by the University of Washington Press, PO Box 50096, Seattle WA 98145. 206-543-4050, fax 206-543-3932.

Girls Like Us: 40 Extraordinary Women Celebrate Girlhood in Story, Poetry, and Song edited by Gina Misiroglu with an introduction by Mary Pipher, Ph.D, author of *Reviving Ophelia*, is a collection of writing about girlhood. As the copy says, "We all have moments from childhood that have molded our perceptions of ourselves and our lives. In **Girls Like Us** 40 accomplished and influential women share these tender and uplifting moments from their own childhoods and teenage years." The list of women included is incredible: Isabel Allende, Amy Tan, Margaret Atwood, Lauren Bacall, Wilma Mankiller, bell hooks, Joan Baez, Ani DiFranco, Naomi Wolf, and more. Some photos of the contributors (at the age they are recalling) are included, as well as brief biographies of each. Looks like a nice collection of coming-of-age stories from many famous women. Should be an easy book to sell. \$14.95 pb, 1-57731-084-5.

Sobonfu Somé grew up in the West African nation of Burkina Faso, in the Dagara tribe. She now lives in America, but feels that the traditions and rituals of her tribe have much to teach people in the West about spirituality and community. She sets out to guide Westerners toward spiritual enrichment in **Welcoming Spirit Home: Ancient Teachings for Pregnancy, Children, and Family**. In particular, this book focuses on important passages of life for youth as they make their way toward adulthood. She shows why children are considered "the soul of every Dagara village," and shows how Dagara ritual will steer children toward a balanced, spiritually connected life. \$16 cl, 1-57731-009-8.

Shakti Gawain's (*Creative Visualization, Living in the Light*) **The Four Levels of Healing: A Guide to Balancing the Spiritual, Mental, Emotional, and Physical Aspects of Life** describes these four levels of human existence and provides meditations and exercises that readers can use to integrate them into their lives. "I highly recommend this book, as it contributes



so much insight into the human journey." —Caroline Myss. \$10.95 pb, 1-57731-099-3.

New World Library, 14 Pamaron Way, Novato CA 94949; 415-884-2100. Distributed by PGW.

Marnie Muller's American Book Award-winning novel, **Green Fires: A Novel of the Ecuadorian Rainforest**, is now available in paperback. The story of a disillusioned Peace Corps volunteer who returns to Ecuador to come to terms with her experiences there, Annie instead finds a mysterious secret, one that reveals a conspiracy of international proportions. \$13.95, 1-880684-59-4. Curbstone Press, 321 Jackson St., Willimantic CT 06226; 860-423-5110, fax 860-423-9242, email <curbston@connix.com>. Distributed by Consortium.



Dianne Highbridge (*A Much Younger Man*) has just written another novel, **In the Empire of Dreams**, in which five expatriate women's lives intertwine in Tokyo. The women, originally from England, Australia, and the U.S., navigate their way in Japan, slowly finding a place there. As Highbridge describes their relationships, triumphs, and failures, the reader sees Japan's incredible landscape, overcrowded trains, bursting cherry blossoms, New Year's celebrations, tea ceremonies, and the beauty and quiet of the mountains. "**In the Empire of Dreams** vividly portrays the trade-offs demanded of the western expatriate in Japan. Like most passionate love affairs, entrancement with a foreign culture can prove costly. Yet the unattended funerals back home and ghostly faux pas in-country are sometimes compensated by singular rewards. Dianne Highbridge's insight into the Japanese is sharp as a fish-knife, and her prose is as smooth, subtle, and sweet as fresh sashimi." —Lionel Shriver. \$24 cl, 1-56947-146-0.

Soho has just released Elaine Crowley's memoir, **A Dublin Girl: Growing Up in the 1930s** in

paperback. *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* called this "The feminine counterpart to *Angela's Ashes*." As such, it's certainly a memoir to stock. Crowley recalls a life of struggle as the oldest of three children in a tenement in Dublin. She witnesses her father's infidelity, her mother's attempts to end the affair, her father's abuse of her mother, her father's death of TB, and the family's eventual rise out of debt. \$10, 1-56947-131-7. Soho, 853 Broadway, NY NY 10003. Distributed by FSG.

Dan Poynter's **The Self-Publishing Manual: How to Write, Print, and Sell Your Own Book** is now available in a 20th-anniversary edition. This guide is a reference for the writing, printing, publishing, promoting, marketing, and distributing of self-published books. \$19.95 pb, 1-56860-059-3. Para Publishing, PO Box 8206, Santa Barbara CA 93118; 805-968-7277, fax 805-968-1379. Distributed by PGW.

Before her death a year ago, Ayya Khema (*Being Nobody, Going Nowhere*) wrote **Be an Island**, which leads readers along the path of Buddhist meditation in an accessible and practical manner. This book is versatile enough that it can serve as an introduction to Buddhist teachings even as it continues Khema's personal vision of Buddhist practice. Khema has written 25 books. She was ordained as a nun in Sri Lanka in 1979, and she established several Buddhist centers around the world. \$14.95 pb, 0-86171-147-5. Wisdom Publications, 199 Elm St., Somerville MA 02144; 617-776-7416, fax 617-776-7841. Distributed by the National Book Network, 800-462-6420. Available from all major wholesalers, including Ingram and BP.

ReVisions: Seeing Torah Through a Feminist Lens by Rabbi Elyse Goldstein is an interpretation of the Torah that will give women a new understanding of Jewish life and Jewish thought. Goldstein examines the stories of Eve, Leah, Rachel, and all the women of the Exodus story; shows how the women operated within biblical power structures; and explains how

they were able to subvert and change those structures. Goldstein also looks at how blood and water, symbols for life and death, appear in the Torah. She unravels the mixed messages that these symbols seem to give about women's bodies. She talks about purity and impurity in relation to women, as well as menstruation and childbearing in relation to one's female identity. Her analysis reveals the Torah's "female spirit," and how that spirit relates to modern Jewish women's search for meaning and spirituality. \$19.95 cl, 1-58023-047-4. Jewish Lights Publishing, PO Box 237, Sunset Farm Offices, Route 4, Woodstock VT 05091; 802-457-4000, fax 802-457-4004. Available from Ingram and B&T.

By Donna Niles

Green Witchcraft II: Balancing Light and Shadow by Ann Moura has a beautiful cover. Moura dispels common prejudices about the "shadow side" of nature, the self, and the divine. Through guided meditations, spells, and step-by-step rituals, you can learn to face your greatest fears so you can release them. \$12.95 pb, 1-56718-689-0.

Moving to Success: The Astrology of Location by Rose Murray is the first book on astrological relocation. It introduces general readers to a simple and highly effective way to determine their best places to be in the world. \$12.95 pb, 1-56718-478-2.

In **In Praise of the Crone: A Celebration of Feminine Maturity**, Dorothy Morrison, who was thrown into an early menopausal metamorphosis at the age of 32, writes with humor and compassion to help other women recognize the balance and beauty in later life. Includes such witchy help as: home remedies that take the edge off minor menopausal aggravations; invocations, rituals, and spells; chants; and songs. Nice cover. \$14.95 pb, 1-56748-468-5.



Dancing with the Sun: Celebrating the Seasons of Life by Yasmine Galehorn is a complete guide to the Sabbats, life transitions and rites of passage. Included is spellwork, background information, and even recipes for: pagan holidays of different cultures; rituals of birth, adoption, youth, and separation; and

rituals for Samhain, Yule, Imbolic (Candlemas), Beltane, and more. So-so cover. \$14.95 pb, 1-56718-300-X.

In **The Office Oracle: Wisdom at Work**, well-known writer Patricia Monahan offers strategies to help manage power situations without losing your soul. May review copies arrive for all of you. \$7.95 pb, 1-56718-464-2.

If you've never encountered the goddess outside your own heart, **The Goddess Path: Myths, Invocations, and Rituals** by Patricia Monaghan will introduce you to some of her manifestations. Beautiful cover. \$14.95 pb, 1-56718-467-7.

The House Book: Keys to Planetary Influence by Stephanie Camilleri provides a basic overview on the principles of each of the twelve houses in a horoscope. I can think of no other title that singles out this aspect of astrology with such clarity. Camilleri extensively researched many charts for reference. A beautiful cover. \$14.95 pb, 1-56718-108-2.

Fortune in a Coffee Cup: Divination with Coffee Grounds by Sophia. You'll love this author's big grin. Like her other books in which she demystifies the mystical, she here tells us how to read coffee grounds! Yes, coffee grounds. Sounds wacky, but I have a good feeling about it. In this day and age of coffee mania, what can you lose by trying it? \$9.95 pb, 1-56718-610-6, June.

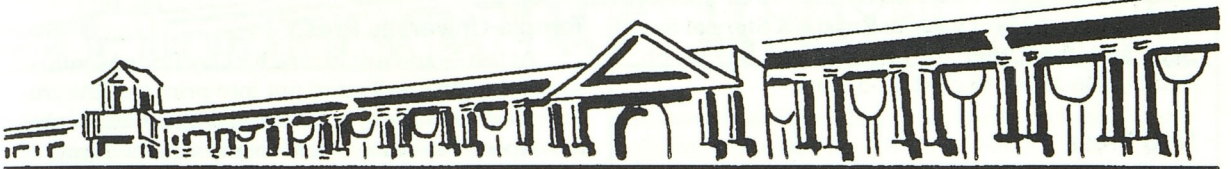
Predicting Events with Astrology by Celeste Teal is a comprehensive overview of predictive astrological techniques. Probably not for your store unless you already have a strong buyership in this area. Good cover. \$14.95 pb, 1-56718-704-8, June.

Wheels of Life: A User's Guide to the Chakra System by Anodea Judith is revised and expanded. The new cover will help sales, as will growing awareness and interest in the subject. \$17.95 pb, 0-87542-320-5, July.

Several new calendars may be of interest: **The Witches Calendar 2000** (\$12, 1-56718-951-2, July), **The Witches Datebook 2000** (\$9.95, 1-56718-952-0, July), **Tarot Calendar for the Year 2000** (\$12, 1-56718-960-1, July), **Llewellyn's 2000 Herbal Almanac** (\$6.95, 1-56718-961-X, July), and **Llewellyn's 2000 Astrological Pocket Planner** (\$6.95, 1-56718-956-3, July).

Llewellyn Publications, PO Box 64383, St. Paul MN 55164; 800-843-6666, fax 612-291-1908. Available from BP, Koen, B&T, and Ingram. ○

FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESSES



By Mev Miller
Amazon Books/Minneapolis

Gay Pride Month is June, so I thought I'd highlight the "we're here, we're queer" titles at the top of the column this issue. As women's studies shift more towards gender studies and queer studies become more visible, the number of lesbian- and gay-interest titles from university presses increases. Here's a very small sampling of what's out there.

Columbia University Press

Sometimes you just can't judge a book by its cover — or by its title! Such is the case with **Female Desires: Same-Sex Relations and Transgender Practices Across Cultures** edited by Evelyn Blackwood and Saskia Wieringa. On the one hand, this collection of 13 essays from historians, sociologists, and anthropologists discusses same-sex desire among women outside the West, exploring female eroticism in societies and cultures such as India, Polynesia, Latin America, Native North America, and South Africa. What becomes confusing, though, is that the discussion of same-sex attraction, butch-femme expression, descriptions of compulsory heterosexuality, and lesbian movements are equated with the term "transgender" in ways that imply that lesbians are transgendered persons. This will surely create some debate. \$18.50 pb, 0-231-11261-0.***

One-fourth biography, one-fourth literary criticism, and one-half queer theory, **Willa Cather: Queering America** by Marilee Lindemann is an

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

innovative form that makes a major contribution to the ways in which lesbian and gay identities have emerged in the 20th century. For Cather fans, this will surely be a provocative study of Cather's novels and writings. \$16.50 pb, 0-231-11325-0; \$45 cl, -11324-2.***

Lesbians and Lesbian Families: Reflections on Theory and Practice edited by Joan Laird provides a collection of articles examining the sociocultural context of the lives of lesbians and lesbian families and revealing how new insights into lesbian identities, experiences, and relationships can be integrated in clinical practice. \$21.50 pb short discount, 0-231-10253-4; \$49.50 cl, -10252-6.

Now available in paperback: **Poems Between Women: Four Centuries of Love, Romantic Friendship, and Desire** edited by Emma Donoghue (\$16.50, 0-231-10925-3) and **Gay Science: The Ethics of Sexual Orientation Research** by Timothy Murphy (\$16.50, 0-231-10849-4).



Duke University Press

Don't: A Reader's Guide to the Military's Anti-Gay Policy by Janet E. Halley explains how the military's new anti-gay policy is fundamentally misdescribed by its common nickname, "Don't ask/Don't tell." She argues that this statement implies military personnel will be free from persecution if they keep their homosexual desires and conduct quiet. However, in reality, this is not true. She further asserts that the policy is both unconstitutional and an act of bad faith. \$14.95 pb, 0-8223-2317-6; \$39.95 cl, -2285-4.

Representation, gaze, and spectatorship have been crucial elements in queer theory. **Out Takes: Essays on Queer Theory and Film** edited by Ellis

Hanson adds to the discourse as it brings together the work of both film scholars and queer theorists to advance a more sophisticated notion of queer film criticism. \$19.95 pb, 0-8223-2342-7; \$59.95 cl, -2309-5.

Also of interest: **Queer in Russia: A Story of Sex, Self, and the Other** by Laurie Essig. \$17.95 pb, 0-8223-2346-X; \$49.95 cl, -2312-5, June.

NYU Press

Passionate Communities: Reading Lesbian Resistance in Jane Rule's Fiction by Marilyn Schuster is the first full-length study of Jane Rule's life and work. Schuster draws on interviews, conversations, and personal encounters with Rule to examine the ways in which Rule interrogates the meanings and politics of sexuality, the relationship between sexuality and language, and the stakes of communities on individual claims on identity. \$20 pb short discount, 0-8147-8133-0; \$55 cl, -8130-6, June.

Of related interest: **Sissies and Tomboys: Gender Nonconformity and Homosexual Childhood** edited by Matthew Rottnek. \$18.95 pb, 0-8147-7484-9; \$55 cl, -7483-0.

Now available in paperback: **Your John: The Love Letters of Radclyffe Hall** edited by Joanne Glasgow. \$17.95, 0-8147-3125-3.

Temple University Press

At last — and just in time for Gay Pride Month — someone who's willing to put into print that the crucial flaw in the gay and lesbian marriage rights movement lies in its failure to address the forms of gender, racial, and economic oppression that lead society to privilege the nuclear family in the first place. **Queer Family Values: Debunking the Myth of the Nuclear Family** by Valerie Lehr debates why gays and lesbians want to participate in a socially defined institution designed to perpetuate inequalities. She also devotes a chapter to gay and lesbian youths growing up isolated in traditional families and argues that "family values" should be seen as a community function. \$19.95 pb, 1-56639-684-0; \$59.50 cl, -683-2, June.

The Global Emergence of Gay and Lesbian Politics: National Imprints of a Worldwide Movement edited by Barry Adam, Jan Willem

Catalan Feminist Novels

DETECTIVE

Blue Roses for a Dead...Lady? Maria-Antonia Oliver

Translation by Kathleen McNerney

"Lònia Guiu cracks another case, searching for a woman's missing daughter..."

ISBN 1-889431-30-3 \$49.95

Discounts: 50% students; 20% retailers

HISTORICAL

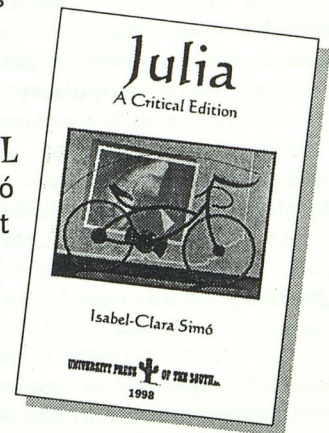
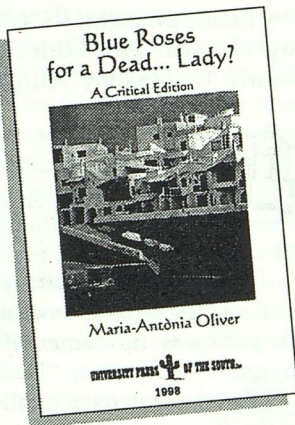
Júlia Isabel-Clara Simó

Translation by Patricia Hart

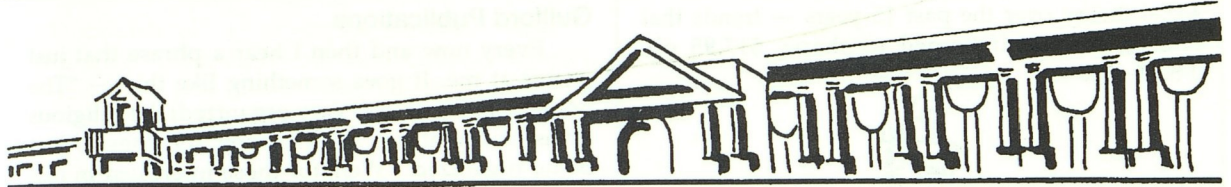
"Lovely Júlia marries the boss, but can she survive the family and take control?"

ISBN 1-889431-31-1 \$49.95

Discounts: 50% students; 20% retailers



University Press of the South unprsouth@aol.com



Duyvendak, and André Krouwel offers a rich portrayal of gay and lesbian activism around the globe — beyond Stonewall. Political and cultural conditions in Latin America, Eastern Europe, parts of Asia, and Africa are presented here with those of Europe, the U.S., and Australia. \$22.95 pb, 1-56639-645-X; \$59.95 cl, -644-1.**

University of Chicago Press

The Constitutional Underclass: Gays, Lesbians, and the Failure of Class-Based Equal Protection by Evan Gerstmann examines the ways in which the Supreme Court divides people into legal classes that receive varying levels of protection — not surprisingly, lesbians and gays, along with the old and poor, receive the least protection. In spite of “victories” like the defeat of Colorado’s Amendment 2, there still remains widespread discrimination against lesbians and gays, particularly in the areas of employment, child custody, and other forms of liberty. \$15 pb, 0-226-28860-9; \$35 cl, -28859-5.***

Women’s stores with gay male sections may also want to consider **Gay Lives: Homosexual Autobiography from John Addington Symonds to Paul Monette** by Paul Robinson (\$30 cl, 0-226-72180-9) and **Gay Men’s Friendships: Invincible Communities** by Peter Nardi (\$15 pb, 0-226-56849-0; \$36 cl, -56843-1, July).



And here’s everything else...

Columbia University Press

There are many books available about Eleanor Roosevelt but it’s rare to have access to her writings and political positions. **Courage in a Dangerous World: The Political Writings of Eleanor Roosevelt** edited by Allida Black gathers together 200 columns, articles, essays, and speeches culled from the

Roosevelt archives. The volume also includes 30 rare photographs. \$29.95 cl, 0-231-11180-0.

Columbia has initiated a new series — Columbia Critical Guides — which includes in a single volume comprehensive overviews, reviews, articles, and concise analyses of key critical texts and approaches to the most-studied works of literature. The first group to be published includes: **Toni Morrison: *Beloved*** edited by Carl Plasa (\$14.50 pb, 0-231-11527-X; \$39.50 cl, -11526-1) and **Virginia Woolf: *To the Lighthouse*** edited by Jane Goodman (\$14.50 pb, 0-231-11533-4; \$39.50 cl, -11532-6).

—*Mev*

Now available in paperback: **Lesbian Desire in the Lyrics of Sappho** by Jane McIntosh Snyder examines Sappho’s poetry through the lens of lesbian desire. \$17.50, 0-231-09995-9.

—*TMR*

Cornell University Press

For those who like biography filled with speculation about the strength of personality of an individual woman mixed with the intrigue of her position and times, then get a copy of **Alias Olympia: A Woman’s Search of Manet’s Notorious Model and Her Own Desire** by Eunice Lipton. Here Lipton explores the life of Manet’s model, Victorine Meurent — visible in paintings yet invisible in history — through layers of speculation and revelation. It’s an interesting and fun read. \$11.95 pb, 0-8014-8609-2.*

Of interest: **Patriotic Toil: Northern Women and the American Civil War** by Jeanie Attie. \$37.50 cl, 0-8014-8462-6.****

Now available in paperback: **We’ll Call You If We Need You: Experiences of Women Working Construction** by Susan Eisenberg. \$14.95, 0-8014-8605-X.

The Play of Reason: From the Modern to the Postmodern brings together for the first time Linda Nicholson’s highly influential essays, many of them classics. Nicholson is a prominent scholar in social philosophy and feminist theory, and these essays provide a compelling view of many of the major trends in

social theory over the past 15 years — trends that Nicholson herself helped to shape. \$17.95 pb, 0-8014-8516-9.



Duke University Press

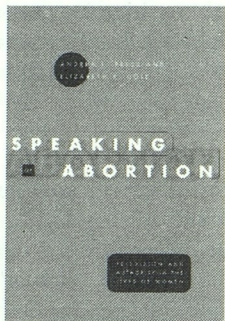
Sure to cause controversy: **Bound and Gagged: Pornography and the Politics of Fantasy in America** by Laura Kipnis. \$14.95 pb, 0-8223-2343-5.**

Of literary and historical interest: **The Web of Iniquity: Early Detective Fiction by American Women** by Catherine Ross Nickerson. \$17.95 pb, 0-8223-2271-4; \$49.95 cl, -2251-X.

Guilford Publications

Every now and then I hear a phrase that just gnaws at me. It goes something like this — “The political Left just isn’t very organized; the religious Christian Right has more money and they’re just better organized.” Well, for those interested in just how organized the Christian Right is, how complex their relationship with the Republican Party is, and how they are setting the U.S. agenda on important issues like gender roles, gay rights, abortion, public education, and arts funding, have a look at **Not by Politics Alone: The Enduring Influence of the Christian Right** by Sara Diamond. This is a well-researched and readable book — especially insightful on right-wing opinions and strategies

This Spring from **CHICAGO**



Speaking of Abortion
Television and Authority in the Lives of Women
Andrea L. Press and Elizabeth R. Cole

“An exceptional piece of feminist research. It’s not only different, it’s positively daring to go into women’s homes and allow them to speak to the politics of abortion in their own terms and on their own turf.”—Myra Marx Ferree, coauthor of *Controversy and Coalition: The New Feminist Movement*

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—Celeste DeRoche, *Lambda Book Report*

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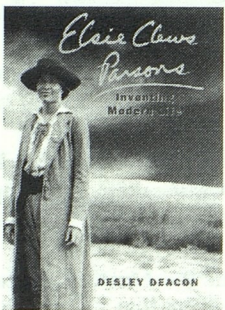
New in Paper

Sexuality across the Life Course
Edited by Alice S. Rossi

“A treasure trove of brilliant essays on human sexuality which might well be described as both ‘state of the art’ and ‘top of the line.’”—Andrew M. Greeley, Ph.D., *National Opinion Research Center*, University of Chicago

Paper \$20.00

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Series on Mental Health and Development,
Studies on Successful Midlife Development



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

www.press.uchicago.edu



towards feminism and women's equality. \$23.95 cl, 1-57230-385-9.***

The Alcoholic Family in Recovery: A Development Model by Stephanie Brown and Virginia Lewis is intended for clinicians working with families in recovery. The writing is fairly accessible. Though this is not a casual read, some of the insights here could be useful for families in recovery. If you're in a community with a strong emphasis on recovery, this book may be worth considering. \$32.50 cl, 1-57230-402-2.***

Harvard University Press

Halving It All: How Equally Shared Parenting Works by Francine M. Deutsch demonstrates that equality-based parenting is possible and, indeed, a reality in many families. Deutsch interviews many couples who share parenting equally and some who don't. The differences between parents who can achieve equality and those who don't has nothing to do with class, education, or political ideals, but rather has to do with how couples negotiate and regard issues of parenting. Deutsch argues that rigid ideas about "good mothers" and "good fathers" must give way to a more flexible ideal, the "good parent." Patricia Schroeder says **Halving It All** is "...an essential guidebook for the world of shared parenting we all find ourselves in now. A *must* read." \$24.95 cl, 0-674-36800-2. —TMR



Indiana University Press

For those with strong theater sections, you'll want to be sure to add **Latin American Women Dramatists: Theater, Texts, and Theories** edited by Catherine Larson and Margarita Vargas. Contributors discuss the works of 15 Latin American playwrights from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico,

Puerto Rico, and Venezuela. The collection also explores the ways in which these playwrights navigate gender issues and the problems they face writing under repressive governments. Their commonality is an understanding that theater can facilitate social change. \$19.95 pb, 0-253-21240-5; \$39.95 cl, -33461-6.***

Figuring Age: Women, Bodies, Generations edited by Kathleen Woodward is one of the first academic books I remember that looks at the cultural and artistic representations of aging and old women. These essays examines representation of older women in 19th- and 20th-century cultural texts, reflecting on how women can reconfigure the cultural process of aging. \$24.95 pb, 0-253-21236-7; \$49.95 cl, -33450-0.***

Johns Hopkins University Press

Women and Democracy: Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe edited by Jane Jaquette and Sharon Wolchik will be an important book for anyone seeking to understand women's participation in political process. The authors examine the ways in which the experiences of women from two regions of the world that have moved from authoritarian to democratic regimes appear similar but have notable differences. Personally, I find the book fascinating: This analysis demonstrates the ways in which democracies work, how women define their roles and interests in them, and the ways in which women become involved in current political processes. \$16.95 pb, 0-8018-5838-0; \$49 cl, -5837-2.***

Regrettably, I somehow missed this important book published last September — if you missed it too, it would be worth getting a copy, especially if you have a strong women's studies clientele. In **When Women Ask the Questions: Creating Women's Studies in America**, Marilyn Jacoby Boxer traces the successes and failures of women's studies programs over the past 25 years. She examines the field's impact on higher education in general and compares the

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ways in which women’s studies programs challenge the university to the ways that feminism challenges society at large. \$29.95 cl, 0-8018-5834-8.***

Also of interest: **The Technology of Orgasm: “Hysteria,” the Vibrator, and Women’s Sexual Satisfaction** by Rachel Maines. \$22 cl, 0-8018-5941-7.***

Now available in paper: **Made to Play House: Dolls and the Commercialization of American Girlhood, 1830–1930** by Miriam Formanek-Brunell. \$15.95, 0-8018-6062-8.***

Of interest: **Women’s Education in Developing Countries: Barriers, Benefits, and Policies** edited by Elizabeth King and M. Anne Hill. \$24.95 cl, 0-8018-5828-3.

Jossey-Bass

It’s too bad I didn’t have enough time to get this into the Women’s History Month *FBN*, but this book is still worth mentioning and certainly one for feminist stores to carry. **True to Ourselves: A Celebration of Women Making a Difference** edited by Nancy Neuman offers an opportunity to learn about women not typically covered in these sorts of anthologies — writing in their own words. Among the more familiar names (Tipper Gore, Bella Abzug, Carol Moseley-Braun) are women equally as interesting but perhaps not as well known (Polly Baca, Anne Bancroft, Angela Oh, Maria Hinojosa, and many others). \$22 cl, 0-7879-4175-1.*

Louisiana State University Press

Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom: The Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery by William Craft with a foreword and biographical essay by R.J.M. Blackett is the first-person account of husband and wife William and Ellen Craft’s escape from slavery in 1848. Fair-skinned Ellen disguised herself as a white slave master, and William pretended to be her servant as the couple fled from Macon, Georgia, to Philadelphia and then to Boston. An incredible and important story, and Blackett’s writing offers further details on the life of the Crafts. \$14.95 pb, 0-8071-2320-X. —TMR

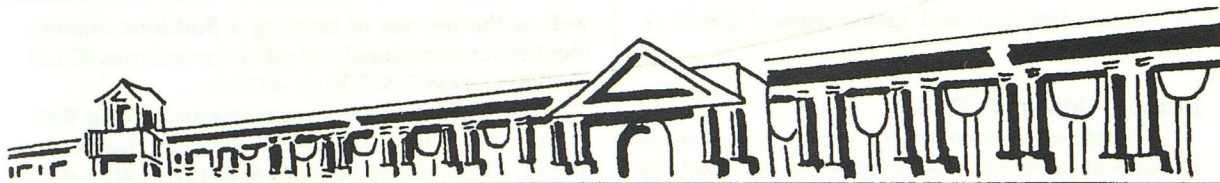
NYU Press

In a rather hefty volume (540 pages), **Sex, Love, Race: Crossing Boundaries in North American History** edited by Martha Hodes provides an historical foundation for contemporary discussions of sex across racial lines. These essays cover a range of regions and racial, ethnic, and sexual identities while redefining the intersections of sex, violence, and love across racial boundaries. \$24.95 pb, 0-8147-3557-6.**

Now available in paperback: **In Defense of Single-Parent Families** by Nancy Dowd. \$18.50 short discount, 0-8147-1916-3.

Northeastern University Press

Grounded in feminist research methodology, **No Safe Haven: Stories of Women in Prison** by Lori Girshick examines the life stories of 40 women inmates at a minimum security prison in North Carolina. It explores the women’s lives before



becoming imprisoned, giving the reader the context of their girlhood and adult experiences: domestic violence, drug abuse, low education levels, and poor work histories. Girshick also relates the prisoners' views on doing time, the criminal justice system, and their own rehabilitation. She interviews family members, friends, and social service providers to demonstrate how support networks function or fail. \$45 cl, 1-55553-373-6. —TMR

Ohio State University Press

Crack Mothers: Pregnancy, Drugs, and the Media by Drew Humphries explores the media portrayal of "crack mothers" as a reason for moral panic. As stated in the introduction, "This book is organized to answer a central question about 'crack mothers': How and with what consequences did an unusually powerless category of women emerge as a threatening symbol of disorder, the unenviable enemy in the domestic war on drugs?" \$30 cl, 0-8142-0816-9.***

Oxford University Press

White Women's Rights: The Racial Origins of Feminism in the United States by Louise Michele Newman examines a core contradiction in early feminist theory. Developed when white elites were concerned with imperialist projects and "civilizing missions," early white progressives called for the elimination of imperialist behavior when it affects the civilized (i.e. white women), while still defending its practice among "primitives." An important historical inquiry that informs current debates about the effect of race on feminist scholarship. \$19.95 pb, 0-19-512466-9. —TMR

Princeton University

Spiritual Interrogations: Culture, Gender, and Community in Early African American Women's Writing by Katherine Clay Bassard is the first detailed account of pre-Emancipation writings (from the period of 1760–1863) that highlights developing

African American religious culture and emerging free Black communities. The study focuses on four women — poets Phillis Wheatley and Ann Plato, itinerant preacher Jarena Lee, and Shaker eldress Rebecca Cox Jackson — who made significant contributions to an early African American community bound together by shared experiences and spiritual values. \$16.95 pb, 0-691-01647-X; \$42.50 cl, 01639-9.***

Rowman and Littlefield

Beauvoir and *The Second Sex*: Feminism, Race, and the Origins of Existentialism by Margaret A. Simons is an exploration of the life and work of Simone de Beauvoir. Simons dispels the mainstream dismissal of Beauvoir as being simply "Sartre's girlfriend" and discovers the true origins of her existential philosophy. Simons examines Beauvoir's early diaries, exposes evidence of the sexist exclusion of Beauvoir from the philosophical canon, reveals that Richard Wright provided Beauvoir with the model of oppression she used in *The Second Sex*, and shows the influence of *The Second Sex* on Sartre's philosophy. Simons also addresses racism, motherhood, and lesbianism in this look at Beauvoir's life and work. \$25.95 cl, 0-8476-9256-6. —TMR



Russell Sage Foundation

A "healthy economy" and the current workfare policies contribute to the many persistent misunderstandings related to women in the labor market and their so-called progress. **Latinas and African American Women at Work** by Irene Browne offers a comprehensive look into the ways in which gender and race intersect to disadvantage Black and Latina women and shows how their "progress" is eroding in the current labor market. Empirical data and important findings combine in this book to substantiate social inequalities and economic disadvantages faced

by African American and Latina women. \$39.95 cl, 0-87154-147-5.***

Rutgers University Press

Sometimes, those of us of a certain generation or ideological perspective will just shake our heads at youth culture and fashion and simply question, "Why?" **Pretty in Punk: Girls' Gender Resistance in a Boys' Subculture** by Lauraine LeBlanc interviews 40 girls and women between the ages of 14 and 37 who have embraced the subculture of the punk movement and outlines their forms of rebellion and survival. Resisting traditional 'femininity' and trying to create their own identity in a masculine world has brought these girls parental rejection, school expulsion, institutionalization, and harassment. \$20 pb short discount, 0-8135-2651-5; \$50 cl, -2650-7. —*Mev*

Living in the Lightning: A Cancer Journal by Natalie Robins was first serialized in *Self* magazine in 1996. Robins writes frankly of her journey of learning to live with cancer. She struggles with the hard questions, such as: How should I tell my mother? Will my husband re-marry after I die? What should I wear to chemotherapy? What would happen if I jumped off the table during radiation treatment? Can I ever forget I have cancer? This testimony of quiet courage is a must for people with cancer and those who love them. \$14 pb, 0-8135-2665-5. —*TMR*



State University of New York (SUNY)

A Spiritual Life: A Jewish Feminist Journey by Merle Feld explores the complex facets of a Jewish woman's spiritual coming-of-age, capturing the emotional and spiritual reality of contemporary Jews. This will satisfy religious seekers of all types. \$24.50 cl, 0-7914-4117-2.

Keeping in the religious tone, **Buddhist Women Across Cultures: Realizations** edited by Karma Lekshe Tsomo illuminates the lives and thought of women in Buddhist cultures, integrating them more fully into feminist conversations. I've noticed in the past few years, that Buddhism — especially Zen — has been gaining popularity among women, especially lesbians. This book addresses women's struggle for religious equality in Asian Buddhist cultures as

well as the process of creating a Buddhist feminist identity across national and ethnic boundaries. \$21.95 pb, 0-8147-4138-5; \$65.50 cl, -4137-7.

Of related interest: **Feminisms and World Religions** edited by Arvind Sharma and Katherine Young. \$24.95 pb, 0-8147-4024-9; \$74.50 cl, 4023-0.

I'm one of those women who strongly supports girls-only schooling, knowing firsthand the benefits it brought me in my education and life. **For Girls Only: Making a Case for Single-Sex Schooling** by Janice Streitmatter explores single-sex schooling, especially girls-only classes in public, coeducational schools. She uses both current research and public policy issues — especially the recognition of Title IX. \$19.95 pb, 0-8147-4094-X; \$59.50 cl, -4093-1.

Now in paperback: **Hisland: Adventures in Ac-Ac-ademe** by Fedwa Malti-Douglas. \$19.95, 0-8147-3604-7.

Teacher's College Press

It's not enough to insist that girls can learn science and math. Thankfully, Angela Calabrese Barton recognizes this, and in her book **Feminist Science Education** she presents ways in which science education from a feminist perspective can be liberatory. Using stories about life in and out of the classroom, she describes the potential impact of exploring the nature of science and teaching for transforming science education. \$19.95 pb, 0-8077-6293-8.

Remember being punished in school or just not feeling like you had control? **Disciplining Sexuality: Foucault, Life Histories, and Education** by Sue Middleton explores through a Foucauldian perspective, the ways in which control and agency, discipline and power are used daily in many schools. \$19.95 pb, 0-8077-6291-1.***

Working for Equity in Heterogeneous Classrooms: Sociological Theory in Practice edited by Elizabeth Cohen and Rachel Lotan will be of interest to stores with a strong emphasis on educational theory. The data presented here illustrate the ways in which classrooms can achieve goals of equity and abolish ability groupings without compromising educational integrity. \$30.95 pb, 0-8077-3643-0.****

Temple University Press

Taking Time: Parental Leave Policy and Corporate Culture by Mindy Fried explores the



ways in which workers and managers struggle with the realities of taking family leave time — a benefit mandated in large corporations by the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993. Fried underlines the ways in which the pressure to work overtime (ten to twelve hours a day rather than the legal eight) threatens to undermine the good intentions of supporting family leave time. \$16.95 pb, 1-56639-647-6; \$49.95 cl, -646-8.**

University of California Press

When she died in 1994, Marija Gimbutas had been working on **The Living Goddesses**, which has been completed — edited and supplemented by Miriam Robbins Dexter. This volume contains the distillation of Gimbutas' studies combined with new discoveries, insights, and analyses. \$35 cl, 0-520-21393-9.

Now available in paperback: **On Our Own: Unmarried Motherhood in America** by Melissa Ludtke. \$16.95, 0-520-21830-2.



University of Chicago Press

In her first collection of poetry, **The Reef**, Elizabeth Arnold documents her struggle with cancer. These poems explore the depths of illness, investigating the ways in which one's attitudes change over time. \$12 pb, 0-226-02737-6; \$28 cl, -02736-8.*

In **Elsie Parsons: Inventing Modern Life**, Desley Deacon provides a portrayal of this pioneering feminist, eminent anthropologist, and ardent social critic. Parsons challenged gender biases in academia and society. \$20 pb, 0-520-13908-5.**

Of literary interest: **Respectability and Deviance: Nineteenth-Century German Women Writers and the Ambiguity of Representation** by Ruth-Ellen Boetcher Joeres. \$25 pb, 0-520-40066-2.****

Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in

Ancient Greece and India by Wendy Doniger. \$20 pb, 0-520-15641-9, June.****

University of Illinois Press

Of interest: **Seventh-Day Adventism in Crisis: Gender and Sectarian Change in an Emerging Religion** by Laura Vance. \$18.95 pb, 0-252-06744-4.*** —*Mev*

The Lesbian Family Life Cycle by Suzanne Slater examines the special bonds and stresses common to lesbian families and creates a five-stage model for the development of lesbian relationships. Slater explores how lesbian families interact with their families of origin, the straight world, and the lesbian community. She also draws on years of clinical experience to describe lesbian relationships in their own terms. \$14.95 pb, 0-252-06783-5. —*TMR*

University of Iowa

If you don't get anything else from university presses this year, make it a point to get **Tight Spaces — An Expanded Edition** by Kesho Scott, Cherry Muhanji, and Egyirba High. Originally published by Aunt Lute Books in 1987, this edition includes six new essays. These African American women, related to each other by blood and kinship, explore the experiences of Black women who struggle and survive with family, men, children, poverty, madness, addiction, and the "tight spaces" that keep them from becoming fully themselves. Highly recommended. \$19.95 pb, 0-87745-665-8.

University of Massachusetts Press

Of literary interest: **Hungry Heart: The Literary Emergence of Juliet Ward Howe** by Gary Williams. \$34.95 cl short discount, 1-55849-157-0.****

University of Michigan Press

What a find! **When Romeo Was a Woman: Charlotte Cushman and Her Circle of Female Spectators** by Lisa Merrill covers the loves and career of Charlotte Cushman (1816–76), considered one of the U.S.'s greatest actresses and one of the most

famous women in the English-speaking world. As an open lesbian (in a time before that word was used), Cushman challenged gender roles by playing male characters, androgynous female characters, and living independently as a businesswoman who supported her family, friends, and woman lovers. \$35 cl, 0-472-10799-2.** —*Mev*

The topic of prostitution seems to be getting renewed attention lately (see also Prometheus Books' *Prostitution* in Small Press). Julia O'Connell Davidson's **Prostitution, Power, and Freedom** is another exploration of prostitution informed by worldwide research and interviews with prostitutes, clients, and procurers active in the international sex trade. Davidson takes the middle road in the debate on prostitution, saying that the practice is neither simply the effect of male oppression and violence or insatiable male needs, nor is it just an unproblematic economic encounter. Or perhaps I should say she takes no road at all, but elevates the discussion to a more sophisticated plane where economics, power relations, gender, age, class, and "choice" intersect. Her consideration of the topic is careful, open, and detailed; her work is a necessary contribution to current debates. \$19.95 pb, 0-472-06695-1. —*TMR*



University of Minnesota Press

Autobiography can be a dangerous thing — especially when used in educational settings by marginalized groups — because it threatens institutional assumptions. **Framing Identities: Autobiography and the Politics of Pedagogy** by Wendy Hesford centers on two questions: How do historically marginalized groups expose the partiality and presumptions of educational institutions through autobiographical acts? And how are the stories we tell used to justify resistance to change or institutional complacency? Hesford emphasizes the importance of autobiography as a tool to help both students and teachers understand power, influence, and identity and to help students emerge as social, political, and intellectual beings. \$19.95 pb, 0-8166-3154-9; \$49.95 cl, -3153-0.**

Fields of Protest: Women's Movements in India by Raka Ray provides a look at the long and rich history of women living, working, and

struggling to survive in two Indian cities — Calcutta and Bombay. Whether fighting for safe contraception, literacy, and water or resisting sexual harassment, Indian women have been making a vibrant and active women's movement. \$19.95 pb, 0-8166-3132-8.**

Of related interest: **Spaces of Their Own: Women's Public Sphere in Transnational China** edited by Mayfair Mei-Hui Yang. \$19.95 pb, 0-8166-3146-8.**

University of Missouri

Crossing Borders Through Folklore: African American Women's Fiction and Art by Alma Jean Billingslea-Brown examines the expressive forms of folklore in the writings of Toni Morrison and Paule Marshall and the use of material forms of folklore in the visual art of Faith Ringgold and Betye Saar. Unlike typical works of literary or art criticism, the author offers a refreshing look at how these four artists engaged the identity issues of the 60s and used folklore as a strategy for "crossing borders" between African solidarity and American experience. \$27.50 cl short discount, 0-8262-1199-2.**

Blue Money: Stories by Susan Hubbard presents a collection of stories in which ordinary things can be magical and the most ordinary people can be extraordinary. \$17.95 pb, 0-8262-1210-7.*

University of Nebraska

There has been a growing number of writings by women about the Holocaust experience — memoirs, biographies, histories, and so on. **Women's Holocaust Writing: Memory and Imagination** by S. Lillian Kremer is the first book of literary criticism devoted to Holocaust writing by and about women. She extends Holocaust and literary studies by examining women's artistic representations of female Holocaust experiences. \$45 cl short discount, 0-8032-2743-4.

West End Press

Distributed by University of New Mexico Press

Destruction Bay is the first collection of poetry by Lisa D. Chavez, a Chicana/Mestiza poet and teacher who lives in Alaska. The poems are filled with the hard realities in which many women live — abandoned, angry, and making do. Some of the poems possess a wildness, others are bitter or filled



with grief. Even through all this, the last poem "Approaching the Winter Solstice," offers a bit of hope in the harshness. \$8.95 pb, 0-931122-92-9.*

University of North Carolina

Sometimes I worry that certain academic studies which focus on a seemingly narrow part of history in a particular region (e.g. those by Ineeda Thesis) will be of too limited interest to most stores. This is *not* the case with **Fertile Ground, Narrow Choices: Women on Texas Cotton Farms, 1900-1946** by Rebecca Sharpless. I picked a random spot in the book, started reading and was immediately drawn in by the stories, information, and history. Not dry like the dust of Texas, this study, though academic, will appeal to causal readers of women's history as it surveys how poor women from German, Czech, African American, Mexican, and Anglo-American ethnic backgrounds coped with difficult circumstances. \$19.95 pb, 0-8078-4760-7.**

Also of interest: **Rank Ladies: Gender and Cultural Hierarchy in American Vaudeville** by M. Alston Kibler. \$16.95 pb, 0-8078-4812-3; \$45 cl, -2483-6, June.***



University Press of Florida

Penelope: The Story of the Half-Scalped Woman is a narrative poem by Penelope Scambly Schott which tells the life of a woman shipwrecked in the 1640s on the shores of modern-day New Jersey and the difficulties she encountered. The poem transcends the history of settler/Native American relations. \$10.95 pb, 0-8130-1639-8.*

Yale University Press

One of the ways in which the feminist movement has been disarmed has been its dismissal as a white middle-class women's movement. Not only does this "quiet" the movement, it renders invisible

working-class women and women of color who have been active from the beginning. **The Other Feminists: Activists in the Liberal Establishment** by Susan Hartmann challenges these perceptions and focuses discussion on the International Union of Electrical Workers (IUEW), the American Civil Liberties Union, the Ford Foundation, and the National Council of Churches. She illustrates how feminist footholds were established in male-dominated arenas and made important contributions to the overall women's movement. \$30 cl, 0-300-07464-6.** —*Mev*

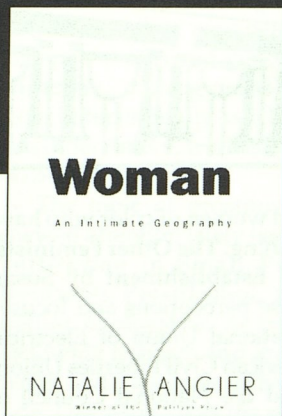
Sight Unseen by Georgia Kleege offers the author's account of blindness and of sight. Kleege testifies about her own experiences of being visually impaired, about the world of the blind, and about the world's view of her. She discusses the negative social status of the blind, analyzes stereotypes of the blind supported by media portrayals, and conveys the visual experience of someone with severely impaired sight. \$25 cl, 0-300-07680-0. —*TMR* ○

Gay Lit, continued from page 59.

crafted ten other novels, including most recently *Marilyn's Daughter*, *Our Lady of Babylon*, and *The Miraculous Day of Amalia Gomez*, all rich mainstream reads; here, though, nearly 40 years later, he returns to the themes of gay lusts and male desires, visits a pre-AIDS year of sexual self-discovery, and writes with wisdom about the reality of an ever-present sexual underground. \$23 cl, 0-8021-1650-7, August, Grove Atlantic.

And my favorite women's book of the issue: **The Ultimate Guide to Pregnancy for Lesbians** by Rachel Pepper, not just because it's a spanking new unique addition to the slowly maturing shelf of parenting titles, but also because Rachel, a one-time assistant manager of *A Different Light* in San Francisco (and now owner of her own wonderful store, Bernal Books), is a friend I admire and respect and am honored to tout. \$14.95 pb, 1-57344-080-9, Cleis. ○

“Anyone living in or near a female body should read this book.”*



WOMAN

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Natalie Angier

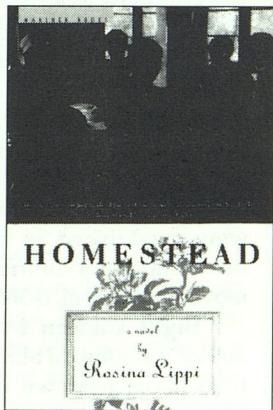
“You gotta love a self-described **‘female chauvinist sow’** who writes like **Walt Whitman crossed with Erma Bombeck** and depicts the vagina as a ‘Rorschach with legs’... a **delicious cocktail of estrogen and amphetamine** designed to pump up the ovaries as well as the cerebral cortex.”

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“*Woman* . . . is **nothing less than liberation biology** . . . Anyone living in or near a female body should read this book.”*

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HOMESTEAD

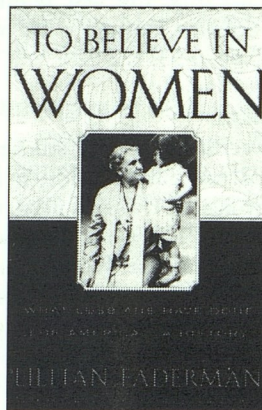
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“Rosina Lippi is one of those impassioned storytellers who **moves us to tears** and makes us grateful for it. . . . Reading *Homestead*, I felt some deep, tender part of me touched and made stronger. It is a **heartbreakingly beautiful** piece of work.”

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TO BELIEVE IN WOMEN

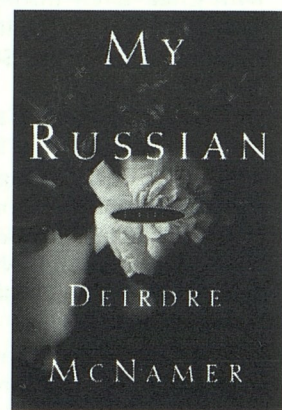
What Lesbians Have Done for America
Lillian Faderman

A landmark work of lesbian history from the acclaimed author of *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers*

“**Will raise eyebrows and consciousness.**”

— DIANE WOOD MIDDLEBROOK,
author of *Suits Me: The Double Life of Billy Tipton*

Available in June!



MY RUSSIAN

Deirdre McNamer

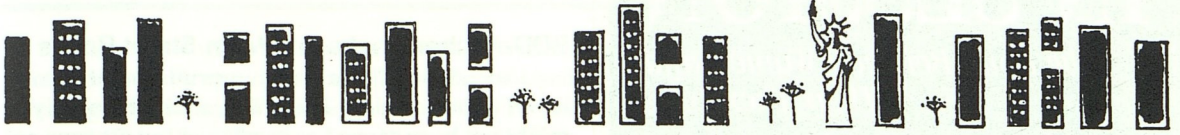
“*My Russian* is about the mutability of identity and the shifting forces, internal and external, that determine the stories we choose to call our lives. It’s a **riveting novel, written with grace and assurance.**”

— ANN BEATTIE

Available in June!



AND ON PUBLISHER'S ROW



Compiled by Teri Mae Rutledge

Avon

Johnathon Littman chronicles the incredible journey of the Santa Rosa Thunder, a girls' soccer team, during the year the team's first woman coach took charge in **The Beautiful Game: Sixteen Girls and the Soccer Season That Changed Everything**. A college All-American who broke school scoring records, this coach was the real thing. And she began to train the team to be champions, drilling them until even the star players knew and worked on their weaknesses. The girls learned to love discipline and thrive on competition, and they made a serious run on the Northern California State Championship. A story of the role of sport — in this case soccer — in strengthening self-confidence and ability in girls. \$23 cl, 0-380-97796-6, June.

Now available in paperback: Nicola Griffith's first mystery, **The Blue Place**, which follows icy, sexy, Nordic former police lieutenant Aud Torvingen's untangling of international intrigue, at the center of which is the lovely Julia Lyons-Bennet. (They've kept the same cover — a smart thing, I think.) \$12, 0-380-79088-2, June. —TMR



Ballantine Books

Song of Exile by Kiana Davenport, set in post-World War II Hawaii, is a tale of love and survival based on a story that circulated in Honolulu about a musician who spent his life looking for his lost love. "This story always haunted me. It made me want to address loss and survival, and how we rescind grief by retreating into memory and imagining," says

Davenport. This novel sheds light on the fate that befell thousands of women before Hawaii became a U.S. state. It is, as the copy says, "a mesmerizing story of music and myth, tragedy and triumph, survival and transcendence." \$24.95 cl, 0-345-42539-1, July.

Now available in paperback: Maria Doria Russell's acclaimed sequel to *The Sparrow*, **Children of God**. Russell is one of the special guests at this year's feminist science fiction conference, WisCon. Here, Russell continues the story of Emilio Sandoz, a Jesuit priest who had been disillusioned by the people of Rakhat in *The Sparrow*. When he returns to the planet, he witnesses the effects of his last visit — effects that he never anticipated — playing themselves out in a new generation. "A gem...sweeping, operatic...Russell's gift for dialogue and the novel's questioning of our very souls at the dawn of a new millennium give **Children of God** a quality that transcends genre." —*Toronto Globe and Mail*. \$12.95, 0-449-00483-X.

Quest: A Guide for Creating Your Own Vision Quest by Denise Linn is the latest of a string of self-help books from Linn and Ballantine's Well-spring imprint. Here, Linn draws on her Native roots to help modern-day people to create a quest of the spiritual intensity of ancient rites of passage. Among the tasks this book purports to aid are: discovering one's life purpose, finding the mystery at the core of one's life, releasing limiting beliefs about oneself, calling a vision, harnessing the power of the sacred circle, confronting and freeing oneself from one's fears, healing emotional wounds, and developing peace of mind. \$12 pb, 0-345-42544-8.

And one more by Denise Linn: **Sacred Legacies: Healing Your Past and Creating a Positive Future** is a guide to unlocking the ancestral wisdom inside to heal one's past and develop an

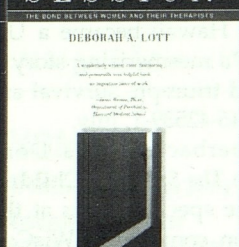
"An insightful and beautifully written book. . . . A fascinating read."**

IN SESSION

The Bond Between Women and Their Therapists

Deborah A. Lott

IN
SESSION



Why do so many women in therapy fall in love, and what happens when they do? Deborah Lott sought out the stories of nearly 300 women in therapy to provide this

unprecedented perspective on the psychotherapy bond. What they told her dramatically reveals the dilemmas and dynamics of therapy-love.

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—DREW WESTEN, PH.D. DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY,
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*—HOPE EDELMAN, AUTHOR OF MOTHER OF MY MOTHER
AND MOTHERLESS DAUGHTERS

NOTE: Every copy of the book includes a special *Reader's Guide* that offers some provocative questions to think about and discuss.

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www.whfreeman.com

inspirational and healthy future. Once again, Linn draws upon her Native roots, the stories of other cultures, and her own story to help readers embark on their journey of self-discovery and healing. \$23 cl, 0-345-42515-4.
—TMR

BDD-Anchor Books and Main Street Books

Anchor and Main Street imprints are now combined in one catalog. They have a bunch of books you might not have carried as hardcover but are now out in trade paper.

Appetite for Life: The Biography of Julia Child by Noel Riley Fitch. \$15, 0-385-49383-5.

Indian writer Kiran Desai gives us a "wryly hilarious yet poignant...gently comic satire" in **Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard**. It's the story of a young man born under auspicious circumstances who fails to live up to the villagers' expectations until adulthood, when fate intervenes and all hell breaks loose. \$12.95, 0-385-49370-3.

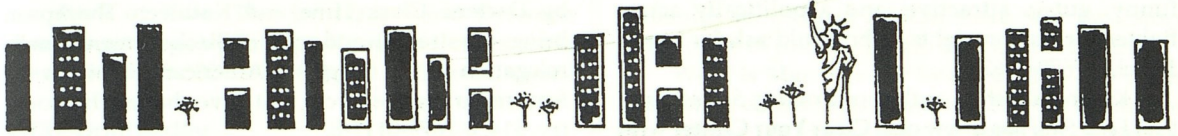
The Media Literacy Handbook: An Educator's Guide to Bringing New Media into the Classroom by Dr. Cornelia Brunner and Dr. William Talley is a guide to the ever-growing world of new media and new technology. Written for teachers, it's a useful, painless way for any of us to "develop our visual literacy skills, become more sophisticated and reflective users of media...and develop evaluation criteria for media products." \$14, 0-385-49614-1.

Bitch: In Praise of Difficult Women by Elizabeth Wurtzel. \$14.95, 0-385-48401-1.

Our Babies, Ourselves: How Biology and Culture Shape the Way We Parent by Meredith F. Small explores "why we raise our children the way we do" and suggests "that we reconsider our culture's traditional views on parenting." \$14.95, 0-385-48362-7.

Together Forever: Gay and Lesbian Couples Share Their Secrets for Lasting Happiness by Eric Marcus tells of the lives and secrets to long-term happiness found by couples who have created satisfying lifelong relationships. \$14.95, 0-385-48876-9.

Development Girl: The Hollywood Virgin's Guide to Making It in the Movie Business by Hadley Davis includes a crash course on the ins and outs of the movie business, an insider's account of life in show biz, and her secrets for success. \$10.95, 0-385-49431-9.



You gotta stock this one: **The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Group of Extraordinary Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them** by The Freedom Writers with Erin Gruwell. It's the life-affirming story of a young school teacher and her "unteachable, at risk" class. When she found out that her class didn't know about the Holocaust, she began a remarkable, life-changing, inspiring journey to change that. She changed her students' lives as well as her own and gave us all hope for the future. Told by the teacher and the students. \$11.95, 0-385-49422-X, June.

—*Sylvia Crannell*

BDD-Bantam

Famous cat sleuth Sneaky Pie Brown and Rita Mae Brown have co-authored seven mysteries. However, their most recent collaboration, **Sneaky Pie's Cookbook for Mystery Lovers**, is a collection of recipes and personal anecdotes, sprinkled liberally with drawings. \$15.95 cl, 0-553-10635-X.

If country music is big where you live, you better stock a copy or two of **Comfort from a Country Quilt: Finding New Inspiration and Strength from Old-Fashioned Values** by Reba McEntire. There's a lot of marketing money behind this one, including national print and radio advertising, an author tour, and floor and counter displays. \$19.95 cl, 0-553-10794-1.

If Amy Tan's and Alice Walker's books sell for you then **One Hundred and One Ways** by Mako Yoshikawa will probably also do well. This story about a young Japanese-American woman "traces the desires and discoveries of three generations of women." \$21.95 cl, 0-553-11099-3.

Hot Sex: How to Do It by Tracey Cox. The title pretty much says it all. Candid and funny. \$12.95 pb, 0-553-38032-X.

The New York Times Book Review calls **Rose's Garden** by Carrie Brown "A magical first novel...both luminous and wise." It's a touching story about a seventy-five-year-old man working through his grief

over the loss of his beloved wife with the help of her warm friends and some miraculous gifts. \$11.95 pb, 0-553-38028-1.

The Houston Chronicle called Laurie R. King's book **The Moor** the most successful recreation ever attempted of Sherlock Holmes. She's done it again with **O Jerusalem: A Novel of Suspense Featuring Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes**. Lots of print advertising and other noise so your customers will certainly have heard about it. \$23.95 cl, 0-553-11093-4, June.

The Scalpel and the Silver Bear: The First Navajo Woman Surgeon Combines Western Medicine and Traditional Healing by Dr. Lori Arviso Alvord and Elizabeth Cohen Van Pelt integrates the "healing rituals of...Navajo heritage with the most up-to-the-moment technology modern medicine has to offer." \$23.95 cl, 0-553-10012-2, June.

Bombay Ice by Leslie Forbes is a novel of literary suspense, "a dazzling, dense, and exotic thriller set in India." \$13.95 pb, 0-553-38047-8, June.

Strong Women Stay Slim by Miriam E. Nelson and Sarah Wernick. Yeah, well, just so you know — it's out in paper now. \$11.95, 0-553-37945-3, June.

—*Sylvia Crannell*



BDD-Broadway Books

Because the Broadway catalog came out too late for the last *FBN* issue, I have four April releases worth noting that are being reprinted in trade paper: **Rock 'n' Roll Babes from Outer Space** by Linda Jaivin (\$13, 0-7679-0200-9), **The Art of Everyday Ecstasy** by Margot Anand (\$13, 0-7679-0199-1), **Everybody Was So Young: Gerald and Sara Murphy — A Lost Generation Love Story** by Amanda Vaill (\$15, 0-7679-0370-6), and **Falling Leaves** by Adeline Yen Mah (\$13, 0-7679-0357-9).

Wake Up, I'm Fat! by Camryn Manheim is my personal favorite. Broadway likes it too — they're spending \$100,000 in national marketing. Manheim is

funny, gutsy, attractive, and a politically active fighter for human rights. Who could ask for more? \$23 cl, 0-7679-0362-5.

Karen Kingston, author of *Creating Sacred Space with Feng Shui* has a new one: **Clear Your Clutter with Feng Shui**. \$10 pb, 0-7679-0359-5.

National cancer survivor's day is June 6, a great reason to carry **Cancer Talk: Voices of Hope and Endurance from "The Group Room," the World's Largest Cancer Support Group** by Selma R. Schimmel with Barry Fox. "Support and inspiration from myriad voices of cancer patients and survivors, as well as their relatives, therapists, and doctors — drawn from America's only talk radio cancer support show." \$13 pb, 0-7679-0325-0.

Passing for Normal: A Memoir of Compulsion by Amy Wilensky is a harrowing and humorous account of living with Tourett's Syndrome and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. \$23 cl, 0-7679-0185-1, June.



Managing Martians by Donna Shirley with Danelle Morton, now in paper, tells of Shirley's career as an aerospace engineer with a lifelong quest to "get to Mars." Inspirational for any woman aspiring to succeed in a male-dominated field. \$13, 0-7679-0241-6, June.

The 30-Day Plan to Whip Your Career into Submission: Transform Yourself from Job Slave into Master of Your Destiny in Just One Month by Karen Salmansohn. The title says it all. \$13 pb, 0-7679-0182-7, June.

Elaine N. Aron's **The Highly Sensitive Person: How to Thrive When the World Overwhelms You** (\$15 pb, 0-553-06218-2, June) is being reissued with a new preface. In addition, she's giving us **The Highly Sensitive Person's Workbook** (\$16 pb, 0-7679-0337-4, June), a collection of helpful exercises for HSPs.

Wired Style: Principles of English Usage in the Digital Age by Constance Hale and Jessie Scanlon has been revised and updated. \$13 pb, 0-7679-0372-2, June. —*Sylvia Crannell*

Now available in paperback: **A Shining Thread of Hope: The History of Black Women in America**

by Darlene Clark Hine and Kathleen Thompson brings the strength and spirit of Black women from its relegation to the fringes of American history to the fore, revealing the forces that have shaped this country. \$14, 0-7679-0111-8. —TMR



BDD-Dell

Belva Plain has more than 25 million books in print, which is good reason to consider ordering a few of her newest, **Fortune**, even if it is expensive. And then there's the marketing Dell is putting into it: national TV advertising and publicity, a bunch of floor display options, simultaneous release from BDD Audio, and a feature on their Web site. \$25.95 cl, 0-385-31692-5.

City of Light by Lauren Belfer is an historical novel set in 1901. A thriller and a love story, it stars Miss Barrett, "an anomaly for her time: an attractive, single, professional woman who freely travels unescorted among the upper class, treated as an equal by the men who control the life of the city." \$24.95 cl, 0-385-33401-X.

Secrets of the Third Little Pig: 7 Steps to Building a Child's Inner Strength by Charlene Messenger "shows parents how to help children develop the skills necessary to survive and thrive in an increasingly difficult world." \$12.95 pb, 0-440-50876-2.

Two hardcovers are being released as trade paperbacks in May: **Lost in Translation** by Nicole Mones (\$12.95, 0-385-31944-4) and **Ghost Country** by Sara Paretsky (\$13.95, 0-385-33336-6).

Champions Are Raised, Not Born: How My Parents Made Me a Success by Summer Sanders with Melinda Marshall. "For parents who feel their children have exceptional talents but fear pushing them too hard." Hmmm. \$21.95 cl, 0-385-33421-4, June.

The Outlandish Companion by Diana Gabaldon is the companion guide to her epic, four-volume *Outlander* series. \$24.95 cl, 0-385-32413-8, June.

The author of *Revising Ophelia*, Nathalie Bartle, writes a guide for talking about sex for mothers and daughters: **Venus in Blue Jeans: Why Mothers and Daughters Need to Talk About Sex**. \$12.95 pb, 0-440-50880-0, June.

Pack of Two: The Intricate Bond Between People and Dogs by Caroline Knapp is coming out in paper. \$12.95, 0-385-31701-8, June. —*Sylvia Crannell*

BDD-Doubleday

Doubleday has two May releases worth noting, **In the Drink** by Kate Christensen (\$22.95 cl, 0-385-49450-5) and **No Time to Die** by Grace F. Edwards (\$22.95 cl, 0-385-49247-2). The first is a novel chronicling the lives of urban twenty/thirtysomethings and the second is the third installment of the Mali Anderson mystery series.

God, Dr. Buzzard, and the Bolito Man: A Saltwater Geechee Talks About Life on Sapelo Island by Cornelia Walker Bailer with Christena Bledsoe is a cultural memoir that tells of the struggle to preserve the "Geechee culture — a rich combination of West African and African American traditions found in the coastal regions of Georgia and South Carolina." \$22.95 cl, 0-385-49376-2, June.

Fingernail Moon: The True Story of a Mother's Flight to Protect Her Daughter is Janie Webster's story of fleeing the United States with her daughter to protect the child from an abusive father. \$19.95 cl, 0-385-49529-3, June.

—*Sylvia Crannell*

Money Makeovers: How Women Can Control Their Financial Destiny by Dr. Christopher L. Hayes and Kate Kelly helps women to figure out the connections between their personality types and money attitudes in order to best overcome their specific troubles with money. There's a Women's Cents Self-Test to figure out your "financial personality profile." (All the questions I looked at made me anxious — I'm not sure what that says about my "fpp...") Basically, this book aims to eradicate women's psychological barriers to being sensible about money, and therefore pave the way to economic security. \$14.95 pb, 0-385-48541-7.

—*TMR*

Beacon

Song for Anninho by Gayl Jones. Bookstores that carry Jones' novels (*Corregidora*, *Eva's Man*, *Mosquito*, *The Healing*) may want to stock this book-length poem about Almeyda and her beloved

Aninho, an escaped African slave. The love story takes place in colonial Brazil. \$22 cl, 0-8070-6854-3.

What Is Marriage For by E.J. Graff. Graff traces the history of marriage from a feminist perspective as she argues for legalization of same-sex marriage. Graff has written for *Out, Ms.*, and the *New York Times*. \$25 cl, 0-8070-4114-9, June.

Now in paperback: **Girl in the Mirror** by Natasha Tarpley, a family memoir of relocation. *PW* called the book "a meditation on the African American family and the genealogy of self." (\$15, 0-8070-7203-6.) **Improper Bostonians** by The History Project. A forward by Barney Frank introduces

this lesbian and gay history from the Puritans to Playlands in Boston. The History Project is a volunteer group of Bostonians committed to preserving the history of lesbians and gay men. (\$22.50, 0-8070-7949-9, June.)

Mother Troubles. Feminist scholars Julia E. Hanigberg and Sara Ruddick have edited these essays on the dilemmas of motherhood in America today. \$20 pb, 0-8070-6787-3, August.

Proud Shoes by Pauli Murray. Another reissue of this important family history, first published in 1956, by a co-founder of NOW and the first African American woman to be ordained as an Episcopalian minister. With a new forward by Patricia Bell Scott (who is now working on a book about Murray's relationship with Eleanor Roosevelt). \$14 pb, 0-8070-7209-5, August.

The Presence of Absence by Doris Grumbach. An account of Grumbach's epiphany on experiencing the presence of God. For stores which carried *Fifty Days of Solitude*. \$13 pb, 0-8070-1233-5, August.

Sharing Her Word by Elizabeth Schussler Fiorenza. More feminist biblical interpretation from the respected feminist theologian. \$16 pb, 0-8070-1233-5, August.

The Face of Love: Feminism and the Beauty Question by Ellen Zetzel Lambert. Her own mastectomy spurred Lambert to investigate beauty and its connection with love. This got rave reviews in hardcover. Lambert has taught at Sarah Lawrence, Bard College, and the Dalton School. \$16 pb, 0-8070-6501-3, June.

—*Patty Callaghan*
Brigit Books/St. Petersburg FL



Chronicle Books

The fabulous Trina Robbins returns with a new collection, **From Girls to Grrrlz: A History of Women's Comics from Teens to Zines**. \$17.95 pb, 0-8118-2199-4, June.

Things Unspoken by Anitra Peebles Sheen is a first novel about an unusual family in 1950s Los Angeles. \$22.95 cl, 0-8118-2355-5, June.

As I Am: Young African American Women in a Critical Age is a photo/essay collection by Julian C. R. Okwu, who also produced *Face Forward: Young African American Men in a Critical Age*. These collections celebrate the diversity of young women within African American communities. \$22.95 pb, 0-8118-2073-4.

And finally, just for fun: new from the folks who brought us the delightful parody *Why Cats Paint* is **Dancing with Cats** by Burton Silver and Heather Busch. \$16.95 pb, 0-8118-2415-2, June.

—Suzanne Corson

Boadecia's Books, North Berkeley CA

Farrar, Straus, & Giroux

Just As I Thought by Grace Paley. This collection of autobiographical essays lets us glimpse the personal Paley as well as the political. Here is a multifaceted collection which provides a vivid record of Paley's life: her humor, art, activism, and humanity. \$13 pb, 0-374-52585-4, June.

Makai by Kathleen Tyau is a novel about friendship, loss, and the sea that gives us an opportunity to observe the intertwined lives of two Chinese-Hawaiian women: best friends who become rivals over a young man. The girls graduate from high school with gas masks slung across their shoulders in the spring after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. After the war, Alice, the shy one, stays close to home while her bold friend Annabel goes to Florida to live the mainland life of her dreams. Years later, the girls meet again in Hawaii where they confront their difficult history, which seems to be repeating itself in their children. \$23 cl, 0-374-20000-9, June.

George Eliot by Kathryn Hughes is a very readable new biography of the complex and controversial English novelist. Despite her scandalous liaison with

a married writer, the force of her writing and her understanding of the intellectual and political debates of her day gave her an unprecedented measure of literary fame. Hughes' sympathetic biography is the first to grapple with the personal dramas that shaped her, as well as her social and intellectual context. She shows how these elements together forged the themes of Eliot's work, and how relevant it is for us today. \$30 cl, 0-374-16138-0, July.

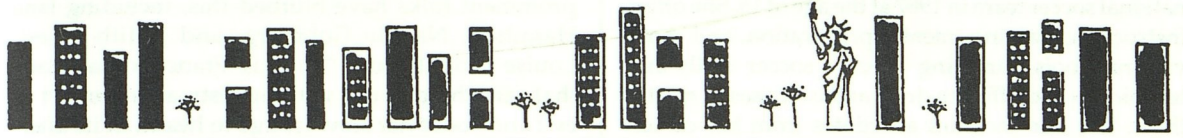
Whatever It Takes edited by Joli Sandoz and Joby Winans. This collection of women's personal essays on sports covers everything from finding a mentor to reveling in female team spirit. The contributors, world-class athletes and celebrated writers, tackle the expected: softball and basketball, as well as less common sports like boxing and rock climbing. There are historical selections and discussions of current developments like Title IX. **Whatever It Takes** demonstrates the importance of sports for girls and women. \$13 pb, 0-374-52597-8, August.

Hard Laughter by Anne Lamott. This is a reissue of Lamott's (*Bird by Bird*) long out-of-print first novel, a book that details how a good family works. When Jennifer is 23, her father is diagnosed with a brain tumor. This discovery changes the lives of Jen and her two brothers. With affection and accuracy, Lamott sketches this offbeat family and their friends as they draw ever closer. This book got great reviews when it first came out and it is still timely and touching. \$13 pb, 0-865-47280-7, North Point Press.

Hers 3 edited by Terry Wolverton with Robert Drake. This is the third volume of the Lammy-winning series of lesbian short fiction. Featuring stories by noted authors Emma Donoghue and Barbara Wilson as well as newcomers Natasha Cho and Carolyn Clark among others, **Hers 3** reveals the breadth of lesbian imagination in 21 stories that challenge, provoke, arouse, and surprise. (\$15 pb, 0-571-19962-3, July, Faber & Faber.) Also available: **Hers** (\$14.95 pb, 0-571-19967-8) and **Hers 2** (\$15.95, 0-571-19909-7).

Love is Where it Falls by Simon Callow. This lovely memoir paints the picture of a very unorthodox love affair. Thirty-year-old homosexual stage





and screen star Callow formed an intense intimate affair with the seventy-year-old agent, Margaret Ramsey. The book captures all the bliss, tenderness and anguish of overwhelming love, a love whose course also embraces Callow's Turkish lover. \$23 cl, 0-880-64239-4, June, Fromm International.

—Harriet Clare

W.H. Freeman

context is everything: The Nature of Memory by Susan Engel explores how place, company, purpose, and situation (both at the time of a remembered event and at the time of its retelling) affect the essence and experience of memory. Engel includes anecdotes along with memory research to explore how motivation and context affect past events. She also examines the implications of her findings on recovered memory and on remembered testimony. A fascinating look at the workings of the human mind, with important ramifications. Grace Paley said of this book: "...it is the 'fact' literature reveals: how many stories are necessary to tell one story." \$23.95 cl, 0-7167-2997-0. —TMR

Grove/Atlantic

Young new author Galaxy Craze has written her debut novel about a twelve-year-old girl growing up with a single mother at an oceanfront bed-and-breakfast in **By the Shore**. May tries to put faith in the elements in life that are absent: her father, the London life that her family has left behind, the acceptance of the popular girls who have boyfriends, off-the-rack clothing, and real mothers who give their children more than tea and toast at mealtimes. When a writer and editor come to the bed-and-breakfast just before Christmas, the life of May and her family slowly begins to change. But then her playboy father also drops in and threatens to destroy this fragile possibility. \$24 cl, 0-87113-746-1.

Now available: a bevy of paperbacks by Penelope Lively. In **Passing On**, two middle-aged children must deal with the ramifications of their late mother's domineering and manipulative legacy. (\$12, 0-8021-3626-5.)

Also available: **Moon Tiger** (\$12, 0-8021-3533-1), **Pack of Cards** (\$12, 0-8021-3624-9), and **The Road to Lichfield** (\$12, 0-8021-3625-7). Also available in paperback is Bharati Mukherjee's **Jasmine**, the story of a woman widowed at 17 who lives a larger life than the one proscribed for her in the small Indian village in which she was born. In a few years, she is no longer Jasmine, but Jane Ripplemeyer, pregnant by a middle-aged Iowa banker and the adoptive mother of a Vietnamese refugee. (\$12, 0-8021-3630-3.)

Another young author, 24-year-old Antonia Logue, has written an extraordinary literary debut novel, **Shadow-Box**. Based on a true story, her novel follows the affair of Arthur Craven — semi-professional boxer, surrealist manqué, influential art critic, and nephew of Oscar Wilde — and modernist poet Mina Loy. Their affair was interrupted by World War II, when Craven, fleeing conscription in the army, sailed into a hurricane and was presumed dead. A fascinating love story, beautifully told. \$24 cl, 0-8021-1647-7. —TMR



HarperCollins

What Mama Couldn't Tell Us About Love: Healing the Emotional Legacy of Slavery by Brenda Richardson and Dr. Brenda Wade explores the implications of the historical experience of African American women on their present-day relationships. The authors describe how the relationship patterns learned during slavery have resulted in anti-intimacy beliefs that prevent closeness. Includes case studies and offers seven life-enhancing beliefs to help readers heal. \$24 cl, 0-06-019296-8, June.

Go for the Goal: A Champion's Guide to Winning in Soccer and Life by Mia Hamm is the author's guide to being a champion on and off the field. Hamm, who was called "the greatest woman soccer player on the planet" by *Sports Illustrated*, became the youngest player ever on the U.S. women's

national soccer team in 1987 at the age of 15. She offers instruction, training, mental preparation, and motivational tools, targeting specific soccer skills and techniques and offering drills and exercises to master them. She also includes anecdotes from her career. \$18 cl, 0-06-019342-5.

Jo-Ann Mapson, the author of *Loving Chloe* and *Hank & Chloe* has written a novel exploring the relationship between two sisters, **The Wilder Sisters**. Rose is a widow in her forties, wondering if she'll ever love again. Lily is a single woman in her thirties wondering if she'll ever love at all. They haven't spoken to each other in years, but both decide to escape to their parents' ranch in New Mexico. As they begin to navigate their narrow common ground, they face the two men who have followed them "in pursuit of their hearts." \$24 cl, 0-06-019116-3, June, HarperFlamingo.

The Bingo Queens of Paradise is June Park's debut novel. Stuck in Oklahoma, 28-year-old Darla Moon wants desperately to flee to New York City. She's hampered by her semi-retired hooker mother, her hypochondriac sister, her lazy brother-in-law, her frog-collecting grandma, and her mother's British lesbian friends ("Clairvoyants and Tea Leaf Readers Extraordinaire"). When she falls in love with a traveling preacher, she doubles her efforts to escape. But at the novel's climax, Darla must face hard truths about love, duty, and survival. \$24 cl, 0-06-019312-3, June.

HarperFlamingo is calling Michael Lee West (*American Pie*, *She Flew the Coop*) "the Laurie Colwin for the 90s" and has compared her new **Consuming Passions: A Food-Obsessed Life** with *Fried Green Tomatoes* and *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*. West writes vividly about her own love affair with food. Both distinctly Southern and "an accidental gourmet," West lets her humor shine through. \$25 cl, 0-06-018371-3, June.



Telling: A Memoir of Rape and Recovery by Patricia Weaver Francisco recounts the author's 15-year journey to recognize and overcome the effects of a violent rape. She chronicles her struggle to turn trauma into strength, wrestling with spiritual despair, outrage, and a longing for justice. An important testimony of healing and power. Many

prominent folks have blurbed this, including Jane Hamilton, Natalie Goldberg, and Judith Guest. Louise Erdrich said, "Patricia Francisco has done that rare thing: write with honesty about an act of evil and about her slow trudge to health in its aftermath. Her story is important for every woman to hear and every man to know." \$23 cl, 0-06-019291-7, Cliff Street Books.

—TMR

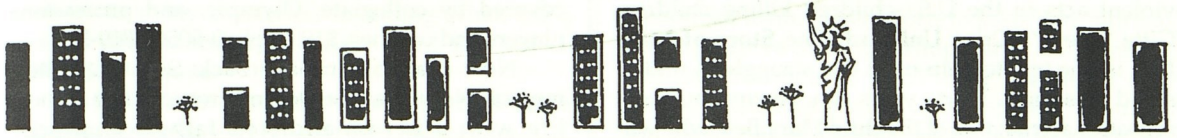
HarperSanFrancisco

What Her Body Thought: A Journey into the Shadows by Susan Griffin explores how illness interacts with society. Griffin considers how understanding illness benefits society physically, spiritually, and emotionally. In her analysis, Griffin draws upon her own experience recovering from chronic fatigue and immune dysfunction syndrome; themes of social justice, economic inequality, and women's body imagery; and the story of Marie de Plessis, an 18th-century courtesan who died of TB. Griffin here blurs the boundaries between public and private and makes connections between literature, mediataion, illness, and corruption. Another brilliant analytical journey by the author of *Women and Nature*. \$23 cl, 0-06-251435-0.

Black Angel Cards: A Soul Revival Guide for Black Women by Earthlyn Marselean Manuel draws on African American women's experience, beauty, and strength. The 32 cards guide women toward self-acceptance and identification with archetypal women: the Earth Mother represents endurance and strength, the Dancer represents creativity, and the Drummer represents the profound expression of the soul. As Manuel says, "these cards do not tell the future but rather speak to the soul." \$18 pb, 0-06-251612-4.

Rachel Bagby, a vocal artist, attorney, ecofeminist, composer, and writer, discusses the connection between self-expression and personal power in **Divine Daughters: Liberating the Power and Passion of Women's Voices**. She draws upon her own experiences, including rape, homelessness, and then critical success, to demonstrate her own reclamation of voice and passion and to encourage other women to do the same. She urges readers to tap their own power through sound and song. \$22 cl, 0-06-251426-1.

Creating a Charmed Life: Sensible, Spiritual Secrets Every Busy Woman Should Know by



Victoria Moran offers, instead of a sea of theoretical and spiritual musings, a proven and practical way to "unconditional peace and joy." She arrived at her methods after examining the lived experiences of thousands of women. I have to admit that, after reading her dossier, I'm a bit suspicious of her work. (She's written such titles as *Love Yourself Thin* and *Get the Fat Out*.) But perhaps here she refrains from naming dieting as a component of joy. I suppose I'll just have to read it to find out for sure. \$12 pb, 0-06-251580-2.

Now in paperback: **At the Root of This Longing: Reconciling a Spiritual Hunger and a Feminist Thirst** by Carol Lee Flinders, Ph.D., sets out to reconcile the conflicts between spirituality and feminism. Flinders draws from the voices of mystics, from feminist theory, anthropology, women's psychology, contemporary fiction and film, and her experience as a meditation practitioner and healer in her exploration of these two bodies of thought. *Publishers Weekly* said, "In the spirit of *Women Who Run with the Wolves* and *Reviving Ophelia*, this book has the potential to change women's lives." (\$13, 0-06-251315-X, June.) Jamie Sams' **Dancing the Dream: The Seven Sacred Paths of Human Transformation** is a definition of the seven paths and a guide to traveling them. Sams is also the creator of the bestselling *Medicine Cards*. (\$13, 0-06-251514-4, June.)

Now available in a revised edition: **Is It a Choice? Answers to 300 of the Most Frequently Asked Questions About Gay and Lesbian People** by Eric Marcus is the "bestselling, practical, nonthreatening, definitive resource" for insight into the lives of gay men and women, from family relationships and coming-out issues to same-gender marriage and adoption. \$13 pb, 0-06-251623-X, June.

Now available in paperback: **Before the Change: Taking Charge of Your Perimenopause** by Ann Louise Gittleman, M.S., C.N.S., is the do-it-yourself guide to controlling the symptoms of perimenopause, and, if we are to believe the blurb, sailing effortlessly through it. \$13, 0-06-251537-3. —TMR

Henry Holt

Terry Tempest Williams called Ellen Meloy's latest book, **The Last Cheater's Waltz: Beauty and Violence in the Desert Southwest**, "Exuberant, smart, irreverent." Meloy attempts to find historical, scientific, and spiritual connection to her home of 20 years, Utah's San Juan River. She creates a "Map of the Known Universe" to guide her search, and finds incredible details of a "physical link between the atomic age and her home." She also finds "local bestiaries, the bodies of long-buried neighbors, an underground bubble of nuclear physics in a national forest, and the rich textures of nature on her own eight acres of land." An insightful exploration from a gifted author. \$23 cl, 0-8050-4065-X.

Martha Grimes is back with a new mystery, **Biting the Moon**. A girl suffering from amnesia escapes her abductor, a man who claims to be her father, and flees to the mountains. Months later, she knows that "daddy" is still looking for her and decides that her best strategy is to find him first. Nail-biting suspense ensues, including whitewater rafting, dog fights, canned hunts, molestation, and murder. \$25 cl, 0-8050-5621-1.



Madeleine Albright: The Making of an American Woman by Michael Dobbs is a meticulously researched biography of the first female U.S. Secretary of State. Of Czech Jewish origin, Albright was taken to freedom after Hitler's invasion. To escape further persecution, her parents kept their Jewishness secret, and raised their children as Catholics. Dobbs traces Albright's life from a European ghetto to the White House and shows how Albright's life was shaped by the rise and fall of Nazism and communism, the Holocaust, the women's movement, and America's rise to "superpower status." A chronicle of an incredible life. \$27.50 cl, 0-8050-5659-9.

The late 1990s has seen a trend of disturbing and

violent acts in the U.S.: children killing children. Gitta Sereny's **Cries Unheard: The Story of Mary Bell** is one text to help us in our struggle to understand these acts. Thirty years ago, Sereny covered a sensational trial: that of the child Mary Bell, who was convicted of murdering two small boys in England. Sereny never believed the characterization of Bell as the incarnation of evil, and she decided that "if we are ever to understand the pressures that lead children to commit serious crimes, then only the children, as adults, can enlighten us." Bell agreed to talk to Sereny, and here she describes her harrowing childhood, her terrible acts, her public trial, and her years of imprisonment. She talks about what was done to her, and she talks about the woman she is today. Bell does not make excuses for her crime, but Sereny urges us to assess society's responsibility for children at the breaking point. \$26 cl, 0-8050-6067-7, Metropolitan Books.

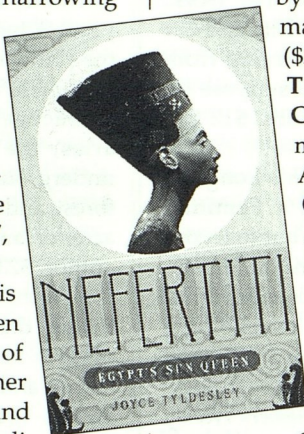
The White Bone by Barbara Gowdy is an interesting exercise. Gowdy has written an entire novel from the point of view of elephants. Her book follows Mud and her family as they try to survive drought and ivory hunters. Nothing that was once reliable — the terrain, the rhythms of life, or even memory — is the same. But there is a prophecy of hope that the elephants hold onto: that the sacred white bone of legend will point them toward the Safe Place. The survivors begin a journey that will end in a "decisive trial of loyalty and courage." \$25 cl, 0-8050-6036-7, Metropolitan Books.

Amira Hass, a reporter, drove to Gaza to cover a story and stayed, becoming the first Israeli journalist to live in the Palestinian enclave so feared by most Israelis. She chronicles her experiences in **Drinking the Sea at Gaza: Days and Nights in a Land Under Siege**. She describes the daily life of Palestinians at Gaza, which is restricted by sealed borders and curfews. Her portrait shows a people eloquent, spiritually resilient, bleakly funny, and morally courageous. \$26 cl, 0-8050-5739-0, Metropolitan Books.

The Louisville Slugger Complete Book of Women's Fast-Pitch Softball by John Monteleone and Deborah Crisfield is an instructional book on women's softball. All relevant aspects of the game are

covered by collegiate, Olympic, and professional players and coaches. \$19.95 pb, 0-8050-5809-5.

Now available in paperback: Susan J. Miller's memoir **Never Let Me Down** chronicles the author's life with a heroin-addicted father. "...precise, insightful, and strangely healing." —*The New Yorker*. (\$12.95, 0-8050-6129-0.) *The Chicago Tribune* called C.S. Godshalk's novel, **Kalimantan** "the wisest book about love since Gabriel García Márquez's *Love in the Time of Cholera*." (\$14, 0-8050-5534-7.) **Completely Queer: The Gay and Lesbian Encyclopedia**



by Steve Hogan and Lee Hudson explores many facets of gay and lesbian culture. (\$25, 0-8050-6031-6, June.) **Hope in a Jar: The Making of America's Beauty Culture** by Kathy Peiss is a history of makeup and the beauty industry in America. (\$15.95, 0-8050-5551-7.) In **Once in a House on Fire: A Memoir**, Andrea Ashworth writes of her coming-of-age in a household with one and then another violent stepfather. (\$13.95, 0-8050-5763-3.) Alison Lurie's **The Last Resort** is, as *Publishers Weekly* asserts, "a perfect summer novel." (\$13, 0-8050-6174-6, June.) Samantha

Gillison's **The Undiscovered Country** is a novel about a family that travels to Papua, New Guinea. There, the ties between husband and wife unravel as they explore the undiscovered in themselves. (\$13, 0-8050-6198-3, June.) **The Fibromyalgia Handbook: A 7-Step Program to Halt and Even Reverse Fibromyalgia, Second Edition** by Harris H. McIlvain, M.D., and Debra Bruce discusses current medications for this disease and proposes alternative therapies and complimentary herbal, homeopathic, and chiropractic therapies. (\$16.95, 0-8050-6115-0.) —TMR

Houghton Mifflin

My Russian by Deirdre McNamer. Protagonist Francesca Woodbridge is allegedly on a tour in Greece, but actually is living in disguise just a few blocks from her home, her husband, and her teenage son. As Francesca moves unnoticed through town, seeing it with her Russian lover through new eyes, she remembers a series of stories spanning the last four decades. As we listen to her stories we learn the

answers to many mysteries, including what, for a woman like Francesca, is a fully lived life. \$24 cl, 0-395-95637-4, June.

To Believe in Women: What Lesbians Have Done for America — A History by Lillian Faderman. Lambda award-winning author Faderman has given us another well-researched and readable history of the women's rights movement. This volume not only focuses on lesbians in the movement, but takes a step further to argue that their lesbianism actually may have facilitated these women's accomplishments. \$30 cl, 0-395-85010-X, June.

Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri. Lahiri is an important and powerful new voice whose stories show us love beyond the barriers of culture and generations. Her characters navigate between the Indian traditions they've inherited and the baffling new world they live in. \$12 pb, 0-395-92720-X, June, Mariner.

Now available in paperback: **Suits Me** by Diane Wood Middlebrook. Jazz pianist Billy Tipton was born Dorothy Tipton but lived as a man, fooling nearly everyone including his five successive wives, until he died in 1989. Tipton herself said, "Some people might think I'm a freak or a hermaphrodite. I'm not. I'm a normal person. This has been my choice." This rich jazz and depression-era biography reads like a detective story. \$14, 0-395-95789-3, June, Mariner.

—Harriet Clare

Now available in a reissued editions: **Women of the Four Winds: The Adventures of Four of America's First Women Explorers** by Elizabeth Fagg Olds chronicles the adventures of four forgotten but fascinating women explorers: Annie Smith Peck, Delia Akeley, Marguerite Harrison, and Louise Arner Boyd. (\$15 pb, 0-395-95784-2, Mariner.) **The Life of an Ordinary Woman** by Anne Ellis interweaves a history of the 19th-century American West with Ellis' own personal tale. (\$14 pb, 0-395-95783-4, Mariner.) —TMR

Hyperion

Name Me Nobody by Lois-Ann Yamanaka (*Wild Meat and the Bully Burgers*) is a young adult novel about 13-year-old Emi-Lou. Set in the rhythm of pidgin English, Emi-Lou's story is a poignant one: she's overweight, her mom lives in California and rarely calls, and she doesn't know who her father is. And then her best friend Von falls for an older girl on

the softball team. In her efforts to keep Von "normal" and to preserve their friendship just as it always was, Emi-Lou threatens to break their friendship apart forever. A touching novel about identity, sexuality, and adolescence. Ages 12 and up. \$14.99 pb, 0-7868-0452-1, June.

Me: Five Years from Now, The Life-Planning Book You Write Yourself by Sheree Bykofsky is a self-help book for do-it-yourselfers. It offers guidelines for analysis of different life areas — work, finance, family, and community — and offers advice for charting and assessing programs for change, but it is up to you, the reader/writer, to create your own program for change. Once again, I'm amazed at what the self-help genre produces. But I'm sure someone will buy it. \$12.95 pb, 0-7868-8391-X, June. —TMR



Little, Brown

Judy Garland: Beyond the Rainbow is a new biography of the famous actress by Sheridan Morley and Ruth Leon. Focusing not only on her tragic life of chemical abuse and tragic relationships, Morley and Leon emphasize her incredible gift for performance. Includes 120 photographs. \$29.95 cl, 1-55970-491-8, June, Arcade.

Now available in paperback: Anita Shreve's novel **The Pilot's Wife**, which explores the life of a pilot's widow as she tries to uncover the secret life of her husband. \$13, 0-316-78990-9, June, Back Bay.

—TMR

Penguin/Viking

The Geographies of Home: A Novel, Loida Maritza Pérez's debut, explores cultural dislocation, family ties, and misdirected love. Iliana returns to New York City from college after learning that one of her sisters, Marina, is suicidal and heading for a mental breakdown, and another sister, Rebecca, is suffering from her husband's abuse and from poverty. Rebecca decides to leave her husband, and Marina, spiraling into madness, sexually assaults Iliana. But despite these events, the family retains its dignity, humor, and compassion to navigate this strange new geography. Julia Alvarez said of Pérez, "[She] does not flinch when addressing the heart of

darkness at the center of the American dream." And Edwidge Danticat said that "**Geographies of Home** will leave you feeling both amazingly breathless and wonderfully redeemed." It's certainly a book to stock — and one I'd recommend for your personal reading lists. \$23.95 cl, 0-670-86889-2.

Chocolat by Joanne Harris is a sweet little fictional confection, and I'm truly sorry we didn't announce it in time for Valentine's Day (or, for that matter, Lent). Just after Carnival, Vianne Rocher opens a chocolate shop right across the square from the church. Needless to say, her little shop wreaks havoc on the townsfolk's Lenten vows. The town priest casts Vianne as the town Jezebel in a desperate attempt to keep his parishioner's souls. But Vianne dispenses more than boxes of chocolates to the townspeople: she is able to perceive their troubles, deepest desires, and discontents, and she offers bits of advice to cure them. Pretty soon, the parish isn't acting very parish-like. The town abandons itself to temptation, culminating in a confrontation between "Easter solemnity and the pagan gaiety of a chocolate festival." A lovely, lovely novel that asserts, in its own delicious way, that denial is a waste of time. I wish that the cover of this book was less bland — it truly deserves some luscious chocolate creations instead of the two-color depiction of a cobblestone square. Perhaps for the paperback release.... \$22.95 cl, 0-670-88179-1.

Overlook is calling Emma Ford, the author of **Fledgling Days: Memoir of a Falconer** a "falcon whisperer." (I kid you not.) Despite this extremely cheesy reference, Ford is the real thing. Historically, falconry is a sport of royalty; traditionally, it's a male-dominated pastime. Here we learn of Ford's childhood in Kent, her early fascination with falcons, and her lifelong love of birds of prey. Today, she is world famous and has even shared her techniques with Sheik Zaid of Abu Dabi, one of the world's greatest falconers. \$24.95 cl, 0-87951-947-9, June, Overlook.

Méira Cook's **The Blood Girls** chronicles, from a variety of viewpoints, a town's fictional brush with the miraculous. The supernatural first appears in Annex, Manitoba, when Donna Desjardins bleeds from her palms seven days before Easter and culminates in a brutal murder. The town doctor, a skeptical journalist, townspeople Molly Rhutabaga, lifetime

companion Regina (I think that "companion" really means just that here. No euphemized lesbian subtext...), and Father Ricci all respond to the story of the blood girl in journal entries, memory, interviews, newspaper articles, desires, imagination, correspondence, and invective. \$22.95 cl, 0-87951-945-2, June, Overlook.

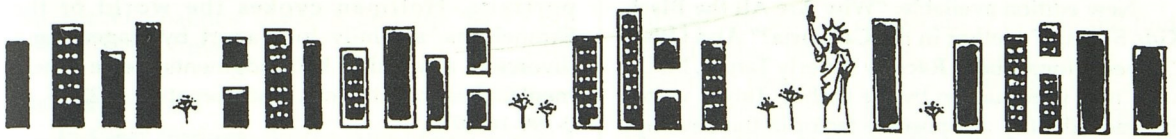
Rainey's Lament by Elizabeth Ridley is the story of a girl coming of age in a world of love and grief. Born to a teenage mother in a locker room after a basketball game, Rainey is abandoned and raised by her stern grandparents. Ambrose, her second cousin, fulfills her need for love and affection. He embodies wealth, style, and grace — all things missing from Rainey's bleak Midwestern landscape. Her bond with Ambrose will lead to devastating consequences, though, and Rainey will have to learn, through love, how to finally face her grief. \$24.95 cl, 0-87951-949-5, Overlook.



Joyce Tyldesley (*Hatchepsut: The Female Pharaoh*) profiles another female personality of ancient times in **Nefertiti: Egypt's Sun Queen**. However much cultural connotation exists about this woman, whose name meant literally "a beautiful woman has come," there is actually little known about Nefertiti's life after her disappearance from the royal family in the midst of her husband Akhenaten's rule. Tyldesley uses a combination of archaeological, textual, and artistic evidence to provide a detailed discussion of the life and times of Nefertiti. \$27.95 cl, 0-670-86998-8.

Ordinary Grace: An Examination of the Roots of Compassion, Altruism, and Empathy, and the Ordinary Individuals Who Help Others in Extraordinary Ways by Kathleen A. Brehony is the result of the author's dismay that "good news" so seldom finds its way into the media and social consciousness. So she sought out altruistic folks and profiled them here. As Brehony asserts, these are not superhuman people, they simply believe in the fact that they can make a difference and, often very quietly, they go about doing just that. \$24.95 cl, 1-57322-108-2, Riverhead.

Molly Peacock's (poet emerita of the Poetry Society of America) **How to Read a Poem...and Start a**



Poetry Circle is a guide for loving and sharing poetry. Peacock makes poetry accessible and demonstrates, through discussion of 18 "talisman" poems, how poetry begs to be read aloud and discussed. \$21.95 cl, 1-57322-128-7, Riverhead.

In **Visions of the Goddess**, photographer Courtney Milne and Sherrill Miller take us to different regions of the world to explore goddess archetypes. Divided into sections titled, "Earth Mother," "The Fruit Bearer," "The Water Goddess," and "The Sky Dancer," this book is "a stunning photographic survey that will alter the way we think about Mother Earth." \$24.95 cl, 0-670-87439-6, Penguin Studio.

Now available on audio: **Falling Leaves: The Memoir of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter** by Adeline Yen Mah is one woman's search for love and acceptance in an oppressive family. (\$17.95 abridged, 2 cassettes, 3 hours, 0-14-180035-6.) **The Song of the Lark** is Willa Cather's third novel, which follows Thea Kronberg's life from her childhood in Nebraska to her career as an opera singer. (\$49.95 unabridged, 12 cassettes, 21 hours, 0-14-180014-3.) —TMR



Perseus Group

Tales of the Lavender Menace: A Memoir of Liberation is author Karla Jay's poignant, detailed, and hilarious memoir of the gay and feminist liberation movement and her own personal metamorphosis. Jay records her movement from feminist to radical to radical activist lesbian, and her chronicling of the movement, with its unforgettable cast of characters, remembers a group of people who came together to change things — and did. \$25 cl, 0-465-08364-1.

The concept behind **Flight Maps: Adventures with Nature in Modern America** by Jennifer Price piques my interest. **Flight Maps** is nature writing, but with an ethnographer's twist: here, Price

examines how people bring nature home with them through the "natural" objects they bring into their home space. From the significance of the pink flamingoes to analyses of passenger pigeons to the popularity of the Nature Company, this book demonstrates how America attempts to make nature meaningful. A fabulously original look at the intersection of the natural world and popular culture. \$23 cl, 0-465-02485-8.

In **Everyday Knowledge and Uncommon Truths: Women of the Academy** edited by Linda K. Christian-Smith and Kristine S. Kellor, contributors from the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, and Canada provide insight about women's lives outside the academy. They draw upon a range of critical approaches, including feminism, poststructuralism, postmodernism, critical education theory, discourse theory and analysis, narrative inquiry, and life histories. \$18 pb, 0-8133-3461-6, Westview.

Globalizing Care: Ethics, Feminist Theory, and International Relations by Fiona Robinson is a part of Westview's Feminist Theory and Politics series. Here Robinson brings important contributions from feminist moral and political theorists to bear on international relations, a field from which such considerations are conspicuously absent. Definitely a theory book; only for stores with an academic audience. (Especially because this really does *not* look like a \$25 paperback — I'd have guessed it was half that price.) \$25 pb, 0-8133-3357-1.

Forgotten Americans: Footnote Figures Who Changed American History by Williard Sterne Randall and Nancy Nahra brings to the fore profiles of people who have shaped American history but have heretofore been disregarded in popular historical accounts. These fifteen portraits chronicle the history-making of all sorts of "fringe" personalities, including feminists, abolitionists, religious reformers, Indians, and Indian-hunters. Together, these fragments point to the richness of the untold stories in American history. An important and ambitious book. \$15 pb, 0-7382-0150-2, June.

New edition available: **"Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?" And Other Conversations About Race** by Beverly Tatum, Ph.D., has a new introduction by the author. Tatum writes that race identity is a positive factor in the development in Black adolescents, and that even self-segregation is a vital and healthy thing for the development of strong identity. In addition, she writes about the importance of "straight talking" about Black and white issues to bring about social change. \$13 pb, 0-465-09129-6, June, Basic Books.

In **Lives on the Line: American Families and the Struggle to Make Ends Meet**, Martha Shirk, Neil G. Bennet, and J. Lawrence Aber have combined a demographic study with profiles of poor families across the country to present a picture of American poverty. Their findings belie stereotypes: most poor young children live in rural or suburban areas; one-third of poor children live in two-parent families; a parent's graduation from high school does not protect families from poverty. In addition, the young child poverty rate grew twice as fast in suburbs as in urban areas, and it grew twice as fast among whites as among Blacks. The authors propose strategies to reduce the incidence of young child poverty and improve the life chances of poor children under age six. The profiles of American poor families are taken from across the country. Readers follow the families' path to poverty, and, along the way, find "amazing resilience, resourcefulness, and strength of spirit... [and a demonstration that] poverty does not automatically lead to dysfunction." An important multifaceted look at poverty in the U.S. \$24 cl, 0-8133-6653-4, July. —TMR

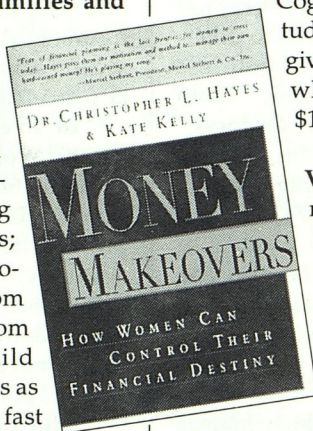
Putnam

Patricia Cornwell, Gold Dagger- and Edgar-winning author, is back! Her latest release is another Scarpetta novel, **Black Notice**. Cornwell's other books are international bestsellers, and this one is sure to become one as well. \$25.95 cl, 0-399-14508-7.

Alice Hoffman's **Local Girls** is a collection of stories about a Long Island neighborhood filled with dreamers and dreams. In a dazzling series of family

portraits, Hoffman evokes the world of the Samuelsons, a family torn apart by tragedy and divorce in a world of bad judgments, fierce attachments, disappointments, and devotion. \$22.95 cl, 0-399-14507-9.

Stores with spiritual gay/lesbian clientele will be interested in **Coming Out Spiritually: The Next Step** by Christian de la Huerta. In **Coming Out Spiritually**, de la Huerta, founder of Q-Spirit, looks at Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Taoism, Sufism, New Thought, New Age, and Earth-based religions. Cogently investigating these traditions' attitudes toward homosexuality, de la Huerta gives the queer reader a foundation from which to begin looking at spirituality. \$13.95 pb, 0-87477-966-9, Tarcher.



Sara Walters' novel **Tipping the Velvet** is an erotic lesbian historical novel set in late Victorian England. Nan King begins as an oyster girl, but before long she's fallen in love with a cross-dressing music-hall singer named Miss Kitty Butler. In time Nan assume the guise of butch roué to commence her own thrilling sexual education — finally finding friendship and true love in the most unexpected places. \$25.95 cl, 1-57322-136-8.

At the age of 22, Jamie Zeppa, raised in a small Canadian town, engaged to be married and never having left the American continent, decided to embark on one great adventure before settling down to a happy, if conventional, life. She decided on a two-year stint as a teacher in Bhutan, a tiny Buddhist kingdom closed to the West for centuries. After two years in Bhutan, Zeppa was not only in love with the country but also with a young Bhutanese man. **Beyond the Earth and Sky** is the story of her unforgettable experience. \$24.95 cl, 1-57322-118-X, Riverhead. —Jessie Mabry

Lioness Books/Sacramento

In **Goal Power: A Real-Life Girl's Soccer Story**, Mandy Cross writes about "the world's most unlikely soccer team" as they win, lose, struggle, and laugh their way toward victory in the championship game. Soccer is the biggest participation sport for girls 8–14, so this book should have an audience. Also includes tons of soccer tips and strategies from

top soccer coaches. Ages 8 and up. \$4.95 pb, 1-90261-846-7, June. —TMR

Random House

In **Clear Springs**, Bobbie Ann Mason writes a memoir of growing up in rural Kentucky during the 40s and 50s, interwoven with the stories of three generations of Mason women. Mason's development as a woman and a writer occurred as she moved back and forth between her Kentucky home and New York City's 1960s counterculture. She reveals the changes that have befallen both the heartland and herself. \$25 cl, 0-679-44925-6, June.

Elizabeth Lesser's **The New American Spiritual-ity: A Seekers Guide** purports to be a primary sourcebook for the crowded list of books that deal with spiritual matters. Lesser uses her own experiences and her critiques of American spiritual history to guide readers in creating their own spiritual practices. Topics covered are how to handle stress, find what we really love, cope with fears of change and death, and develop a deep, joyful faith. The RH copywriter seems to like it; the catalog says, "This is a user's manual, inspiring and empowering, that does for spiritual health what *Our Bodies, Ourselves* did for physical health. It will become a crossdisciplinary staple of the genre." \$25 cl, 0-375-50010-3, June.

Elinor Lipman has returned with another novel, **The Ladies' Man**, in which she presents a dark comedy about three spinster sisters and the man that almost married one of them thirty years ago. For three decades, the memory of Harvey Nash has poisoned the sisters against potential suitors, and has created in the women what the catalog calls a "collective bad attitude." When he suddenly turns up on their doorstep, charming and single as ever, the women set out to show him just what kind of hostesses scorned women make. "Somewhere in the literary heaven, Jane Austen must be smiling down on Elinor Lipman." —Wally Lamb. \$23.95 cl, 0-679-45694-5, June.

The cover of Lisa Zeidner's **Layover** is, well, unfortunate (foreground: phone off the hook; background: pensive, naked, well-endowed white chick) but this first mainstream-published novel is from a smart author, and it looks interesting — once you get past the cover. Claire Newbold is trying to "soldier on" after losing a young child and having to deal with her husband's unfaithfulness and fertility problems.

But one day, she just checks out of her life and finds herself doing things illicit, illegal, and, she fears, downright insane. She sneaks into hotel rooms; she seduces a teenage boy at a hotel swimming pool. And then she begins to believe that she is clairvoyant. As Claire eventually moves through her grief, she is able to bring to her old life a new awareness. \$24 cl, 0-375-50286-6, June.

The Opportunity Reader edited by Sondra K. Wilson is a part of Random House's Harlem Renaissance series. The journal *Opportunity*, the motto of which was "Not alms, but opportunity," experienced its heyday in the 1920s, and much of the writing included in its pages has not been seen since then. Includes pieces by Zora Neale Hurston, Dorothy West, Nella Larsen, Langston Hughes, and Countee Cullen. \$14.95 pb, 0-375-75379-6, June.

Now available in paperback: Julia Scully's **Outside Passage: A Memoir of an Alaskan Childhood** chronicles the author's coming-of-age in Alaska and her coming-to-terms with her father's suicide, her mother's secrets, and her own sexuality. \$12.95, 0-375-75240-4, June. —TMR



Random House Audiobooks

Set to coincide with the publication of the Vintage paperback edition (\$11, 0-375-70488-4) Random House Audiobooks is releasing an abridged version of Ruth Rendell's **Murder Being Once Done**. In this new Inspector Wexford mystery, the inspector is in London taking sick leave of alcohol, rich food, and — above all — police work. But when a girl is murdered and the police can't even figure out who the victim was, Wexford can't help but take a look. \$18, 2 cassettes, 3 hours, 0-375-40710-3, June.

While I Was Gone by Sue Miller (*The Good Mother*) is a novel of love and betrayal exploring what it means to be a good wife. Jo briefly escaped her marriage and the life that her parents wanted for her when she moved into a group house in 1968. When a housemate was murdered, she returned to her husband and built a good life for herself: one consisting of a veterinary practice, three children, and a devoted husband. But when a former housemate moves to her town, her careful existence is threatened by the allure

of that other romantic and dark time. \$24, 3 cassettes, 5 hours, 0-375-40563-1. —TMR

RH-Knopf

Beloved Sisters and Loving Friends is a riveting collection of letters that chronicles the lives of two spirited African American women: Rebecca Primus, the daughter of a prominent Black Connecticut family and one of the many women who traveled South after the Civil War to teach the newly freed slaves, and her best friend and romantic companion, Addie Brown. Editor Farah Jasmine Griffin shows us a rare glimpse into the life of a 19th-century New England Black woman as she confronts Southern prejudice, struggles to educate the freedman, and navigates the everyday events of life in Royal Oak, Maryland. Addie's letters reveal her struggle to make a living, her pursuit of self-education, her growing political consciousness, and her love for a woman complicated by the courtship of men, whom Addie felt compelled to consider for reasons of economic security. \$26 cl, 0-679-45128-5, June.

Who's Irish? is a new collection of stories by Gish Jen, the author of *Typical American* and *Mona in the Promised Land*. In this funny and poignant collection, Jen looks at Chinese-Americans — old and young, parents and children, husbands and wives — making their way in American society. In one story, a grandmother attempts to discipline her Chinese-Irish-American granddaughter and comes up against her daughter's modern views. In another, a family takes its first step toward joining a country club. In another, a grown man seeks to escape his disapproving mother, "who called every day, lest he forget she was not speaking to him." \$22.50 cl, 0-375-40621-2.

—Sandi Torkildson

A Room of One's Own/Madison WI



RH-Pantheon

The Physics of Sunset by Jane Vandenburg is a novel about two California families and the doomed love affair that unwittingly connects them. A poet in the final stages of an exhausting divorce meets a celebrated Berkeley architect married to a woman whom he still loves but who is drawn away from home by

her increasing ambition. Their unexpected affair awakens in each of them a sense of being deeply physically alive. This novel is an exploration of the complex erotics and politics of married life. \$24 cl, 0-679-42483-0, June. —Sandi Torkildson

RH-Three Rivers

Art and Healing: Using Expressive Art to Heal Your Body, Mind, and Spirit by Barbara Ganim outlines a method for healing called "expressive art," based on the idea that if emotions are held in the mind as images rather than words, art is a more direct way to get in touch with and deal with those emotions. \$17 pb, 0-609-80316-6, June.

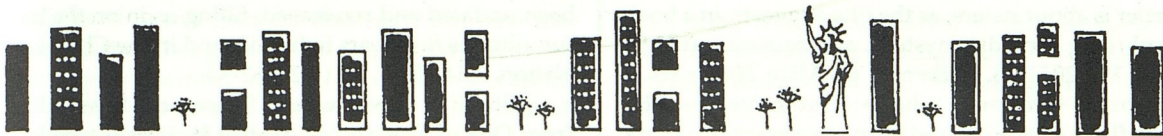
The Book of Gay and Lesbian Quotations, compiled and edited by Patricia Juliana Smith, collects 3000 memorable quotes from writers, thinkers, artists, and personalities both gay and straight from ancient times to the present. Includes quotes from Plato, Dorothy Allison, Virginia Woolf, Willa Cather, Vita Sackville-West, and more on topics including youth and aging, love and loss, and literature and stage. \$20 pb, 0-609-80262-3, June.

Now available in a reprinted, paperback edition: **Slaying the Mermaid: Women and the Culture of Sacrifice** by Stephanie Golden uncovers mythic, archetypal roots of women's need to sacrifice their personal potential for the good of others. \$13, 0-609-80435-9, June. —TMR

RH-Times

Now in paperback: **A Girl Needs Cash: How to Take Charge of Your Financial Life** by Joan Perry with Delores A. Barclay helps women to manage their money successfully. She addresses women of all ages, thoroughly covers all types of investing and budgeting, and covers all budget sizes. Most importantly, she relates personal finance to the realities in women's lives, from love and family to career. \$13, 0-8129-3135-1, June.

Expecting Adam: A True Story of Birth, Rebirth, and Everyday Magic by Martha Beck is the story of a couple, both Harvard Ph.D. candidates, whose lives and values change dramatically when they decide to keep their unborn child, diagnosed in utero with Down's syndrome. An exploration of spirituality, hope, and life's challenges, this is an engaging and touching read. \$23.95 cl, 0-8129-2980-2. —TMR



RH-Vintage

The Vintage Book of International Lesbian Fiction edited by Naomi Holoch and Joan Nestle is an anthology of lesbian stories from 27 countries. This collection reveals the diverse political, cultural, emotional, and sexual landscapes of the writers' lives. Included are Dionne Brand (Trinidad), Emma Donoghue (Ireland), Anchee Min (China), Sylvia Molloy (Argentina), and Achy Obejas (Cuba). \$15 pb, 0-679-75952-2, June.

—Sandi Torkildson

Vintage Crime has published Ruth Rendell's latest Inspector Wexford mystery, **Some Lie, Some Die**. A badly disfigured body is found at the rock festival, and Inspector Wexford wonders how an event "devoted to peace and idealism" could become the setting for murder. The victim is a local girl who had a connection to the festival's charismatic star. Rendell delivers again with flawless construction and addictive storyline. \$11 pb, 0-375-70490-6. —TMR

Routledge

Bisexuality: A Critical Reader edited by Merl Storr. Unlike other bisexuality anthologies available, which mostly contain first-person narratives, this collection takes a historical look at the concept of bisexuality and the ways in which its meanings have changed since the 1890s. It also includes important international research from the 1970s to the 1990s and recent arguments that bisexuality is a revolutionary concept. Finally, it looks at bisexuality in cyberspace. If you have a sexuality section, I'd recommend this. \$25 pb, 0-415-16660-8; \$75 cl, -16659-4.

Performing the Body/Performing the Text edited by Amelia Jones and Andrew Stephenson. If you understand the title, you know whether or not you need this. Here's what the catalog says: "...explores the new performativity in art theory and practice, examining ways of rethinking interpretive processes in visual culture." \$24.99 pb, 0-415-19060-6; \$85 cl, -19059-2.

The Queer Sixties edited by Patricia Juliana

Smith. A collection of new "readings" of the 60s — exploring the queer in that decade's cultural icons. Sounds like an interesting look at the decade that preceded the Stonewall Riots. Good for any solid lesbian section. \$19.99 pb, 0-415-92169-4; \$70 cl, -92168-6, June.

Religion and Culture by Michael Foucault selected and edited by Jeremy Carrette. If you have an academic crowd that buys Foucault, pick up one or two. \$20 pb, 0-415-92362-X; \$75 cl, -92361-1, June.

Woman, Body, Desire in Post-Colonial India: Narratives of Gender and Sexuality by Jyoti Puri uses post-colonial and feminist theory to explore how women in current-day India conceptualize their gender and sexuality. Again, if you have an academic crowd, buy accordingly. \$17.99 pb, 0-415-92128-7; \$65 cl, -92127-9, June.

Cultural Studies Reader, Second Edition edited by Simon During. The first edition of this has been adopted in many courses. Be aware that there is a second edition with a wider selection of essays. \$25 pb, 0-415-13754-3; \$85 cl, -13753-5, June.

—Mary Ellen Kavanaugh

My Sisters' Words/Syracuse NY

Now available in paperback: **The Concept of the Goddess** edited by Sandra Billington and Miranda Green explores the place of the goddess in past and present belief systems through a study of Celtic, Roman, Norse, Caucasian, and Japanese traditions. \$22.99, 0-415-19789-9. —TMR



St. Martin's

There's a lot of fiction about families this issue! A bestseller in her native Jerusalem, Shifra Horn's **Four Mothers** is now available in English, translated by Dalya Bilu. It is the story of five generations of women in one family, and over 100 years in Jerusalem. (\$23.95 cl, 0-312-20547-3. Reading group guides are available, 0-312-20871-5.) **Sis Boom Bah** by Jane

Heller is about sisters, as the title suggests, in a book combining comedy, mystery, and romance. (\$23.95 cl, 0-312-20312-8.) Likened to Alice Hoffman is Deborah Gregory, whose first novel is **The Cornflake House**. Raised in an unconventional family with a mother who has "second sight" and six multiracial siblings with different fathers, this is the story of Eve, now in prison, and the plans her mother set in motion years ago to get her out. (\$21.95 cl, 0-312-20290-3.) **And Both Shall Row: A Novella and Stories** by Beth Lordan is now in paperback, a humorous book about small town life and family secrets. (\$13.35, 0-312-20633-X.)

Two out-of-print books by Pat Barker (*Regeneration*, et al.) are being reprinted in one volume, **Union Street and Blow Your House Down**. (\$16.35 pb, 0-312-24089-9.) **Typical Girls: New Stories by Smart Women** edited by Susan Corrigan is a collection of "girl power" stories by authors such as Poppy Z. Brite, Guinevere Turner (*Go Fish*), and singer Kristin Hersh. (\$11.95 pb, 0-312-20679-8, June.)

This one's worth mentioning again, since there's going to be a TV miniseries (on ABC) based on this book in May: **The Memoirs of Cleopatra** by Margaret George is nearly 1000 pages of riveting historical fiction. \$15.95 pb, 0-312-18745-9.

Turning to nonfiction, Laurie Morrow's **The Woman Angler: An Introductory Handbook for Women Who Want to Fish** is just in time for spring. (\$12.95 pb, 0-312-20444-2.) And speaking of spring (which leads some to think of cleaning) — after last year's *Other People's Dirt* by Louise Rafkin, here is another look at household chores, **Biting the Dust: The Joys of Housework** by Margaret Horsfield, which was recently released in paperback. This book looks at cleaning from social, historical, literary, and psychological angles, all in a witty way. (\$14.35, 0-312-22083-9.)

Hillary Johnson, the author of *Osler's Web*, has a new book about the time she spent caring for her dying mother and how her views of her mother's life changed during that time. **My Mother Dying** also features art by Ruth Jones, Johnson's mother. (\$24.95 cl, 0-312-19930-9.) In another memoir, Wilma Mankiller's **Mankiller: A Chief and Her People** has

been updated and rereleased, filling us in on the last tumultuous five years in her life and in the Cherokee Nation. (\$14.95 pb, 0-312-20662-3.)

Bite-Size Jane Austen: Sense and Sensibility from One of England's Greatest Writers is a collection of quotations, taken from Austen's work, arranged in sections such as society, business, arts and writing, and the human condition. \$13.95 cl, 0-312-20501-5.

Winning the award for the longest title this time around is **Okay, So I Don't Have a Headache: What I Learned (and What All Women Need to Know) About Hormones, PMS, Stress, Diet, Menopause — and Sex** by Cristina Ferrare. (\$19.95 cl, 1-58238-029-5.) In a similar vein, is **Still Sexy: Who's Having the Best Sex at Midlife...and How They're Doing It** by Susan Crain Bakos. The catalog is unclear about how inclusive this book is of differing sexual orientations. (\$23.95 cl, 0-312-20591-0, June.)

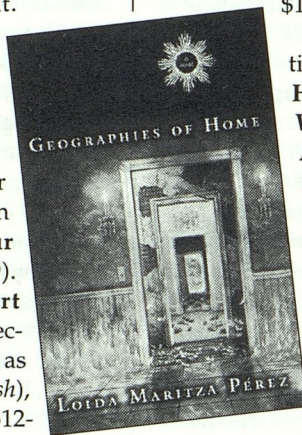
And finally, **Mama Drama: Making Peace with the One Woman Who Can Push Your Buttons, Make You Cry, and Drive You Crazy** by Denise McGregor, is now in paper. \$12.95, 0-312-20421-3.

—Suzanne Corson

Simon & Schuster

Lydia Y. Minatoya (*Talking to High Monks in the Snow*) has written her first novel, **The Strangeness of Beauty**. When Etsuko's sister dies in childbirth leaving her infant daughter to Etsuko's care, Etsuko decides to return to her homeland, to the samurai household of her own estranged mother, Chie. Etsuko finds herself an outsider in many ways: she is an emigrant in the land she left so long ago, she's a childless mother and a motherless child, and she's a common woman returning to a house of wealth. As Japan prepares for World War II, Etsuko and her mother make peace and learn to find beauty amidst the chaos of wartime. \$23 cl, 0-684-85362-0, June.

Lynda Barry has captured one girl's painful coming-of-age in word and image in her graphic novel, **Cruddy**. Roberta Rohbeson is navigating her way through the eighth grade. Having lived with "a psycho mom and a sociopath dad" all her life,



childhood hasn't been all that easy. But now that she and the other girls are turning into women (and the boys are turning into idiots) the world is all the more confusing, and life is all the more painful. Roberta tries on new personalities, looking for the right fit. She's running with the wrong crowd, a bunch of rich kids headed for trouble. But she emerges from all these tribulations as a survivor, finding small triumphs in her own way. \$22 cl, 0-684-82974-6, June.

I guess the whole sister book trend isn't over yet. The latest, **Forever Sisters: Famous Writers Celebrate the Power of Sisterhood with Short Stories, Essays, and Memoirs** edited by Claudia O'Keefe even points out that extra selling point, the "famous" status of its contributors, in its subtitle. There are 18 pieces, both original and reprinted work, by such literary powerhouses as Alice Walker, Marilyn French, Rita Dove, Fay Weldon, Whitney Otto, and more — and again, these names are conveniently listed on the cover. Their stories define sisterhood in different ways, from biological siblings to women linked by circumstance, and explore sisterhood in many different cultures. This should not be difficult to sell. \$23 cl, 0-671-00792-0, Pocket.

Warrior Lessons: An Asian American Woman's Journey into Power by Phoebe Eng, social activist, lawyer, and publisher, weaves interview, analysis, and confession to demonstrate her own coming to power. Eng challenges the firm traditions of ancient Asian cultures and encourages Asian American women to break free from confining family expectations, myths, and stereotypes. She presents twelve lessons that address a range of issues that Asian American women face. \$24 cl, 0-671-00957-5.

The Complete Book of Running for Women: Everything You Need to Know About Training, Nutrition, Injury Prevention, Motivation, Racing, and Much Much More by Claire Kowalchik, former managing editor of *Runner's World* magazine, is a good book for any women thinking of taking up running. It's got information on everything from injuries to running during pregnancy and after menopause to preparing for marathons. Certainly the world could use more female-oriented running guides. (I daresay that *Runner's World's* efforts to be inclusive of folks who aren't 50-year-old white men still high on their discovery of running in the 70s are a bit half-hearted.)

This book is comprehensive, simple, sensible — though it is definitely a mainstream book; there's a whole section about how great running is for weight loss. \$14 pb, 0-671-01703-9.

Now available in paperback: **My Mama's Waltz: A Book for Daughters of Alcoholic Mothers** by Eleanor Agnew and Sharon Robideaux is the first book to focus on this fractured mother-daughter relationship. Includes the stories of over a hundred women. \$14, 0-671-01386-6, Pocket. —TMR ○

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New Titles for Spring...

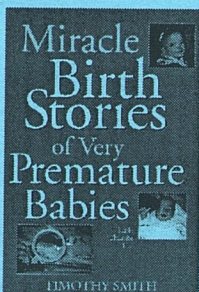
Miracle Birth Stories of Very Premature Babies

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Foreword by
George A. Little, M.D.

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Elaine Sayers, Chairperson
The Alexis Foundation for Premature
Infants and Children

Bergin & Garvey Trade. 1999. 224 pages.
0-89789-635-1. \$15.95

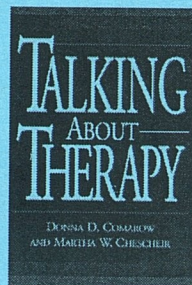


Talking About Therapy

By Donna D. Comarow and
Martha W. Chescheir
Foreword by Rita J. Simon

"A wide range of patients talk about a wide range of therapeutic treatments in this rich, fascinating, and wonderfully lucid book about experiences with psychotherapy and psychoanalysis. Anyone with an interest in the subject... will find this compelling reading." Judith Viorst
Author of *The Necessary Losses*

Bergin & Garvey Trade. 1999. 240 pages.
0-89789-537-1. \$26.95



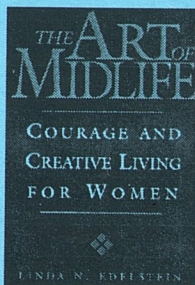
The Art of Midlife Courage and Creative Living for Women

By Linda N. Edelstein

"Edelstein debunks the myths that have plagued women, and offers in their place solid data and real-world, useable solutions for embracing mid-life with joy and creativity."

Laura S. Brown, PhD, ABPP
Past President
Division of Psychology of Women, APA

Bergin & Garvey Trade. 1999. 288 pages.
0-89789-580-0. \$24.95



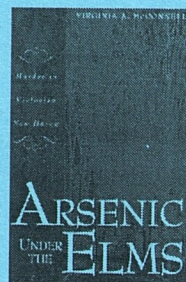
Arsenic Under the Elms

Murder in Victorian
New Haven

By
Virginia A. McConnell

Available November
This fascinating examination of the sensational, unsolved murders of two women presents New Haven as a microcosm of Victorian society, providing new insight into 19th century attitudes about women and their place in society.

Praeger Trade. 1999. 288 pages. 0-275-96297-0. \$26.95



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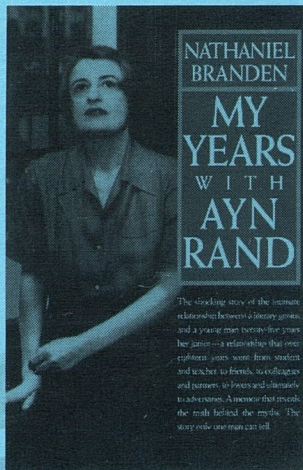
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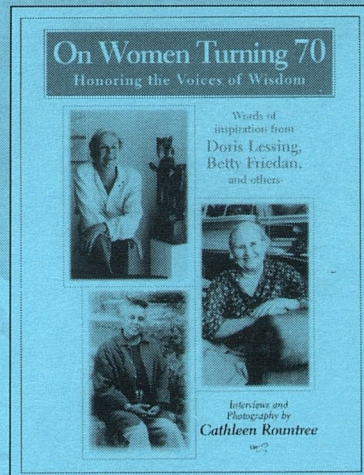
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