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# A · L · Y · S · O · N

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## WOMEN'S BOOK CATALOG

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January–March 1994

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### MEMBERS

#### OF THE TRIBE

Caricatures of important  
lesbians and gay men

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### LESBIAN

#### QUOTATIONS

A collection of lesbian  
wit and wisdom

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### THE NEW

#### ALYSON

#### ALMANAC

More information  
than ever before

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### WORD GAYMES

Nonstop entertainment

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### ONE MILLION

#### STRONG

Celebrating the March on  
Washington in photographs

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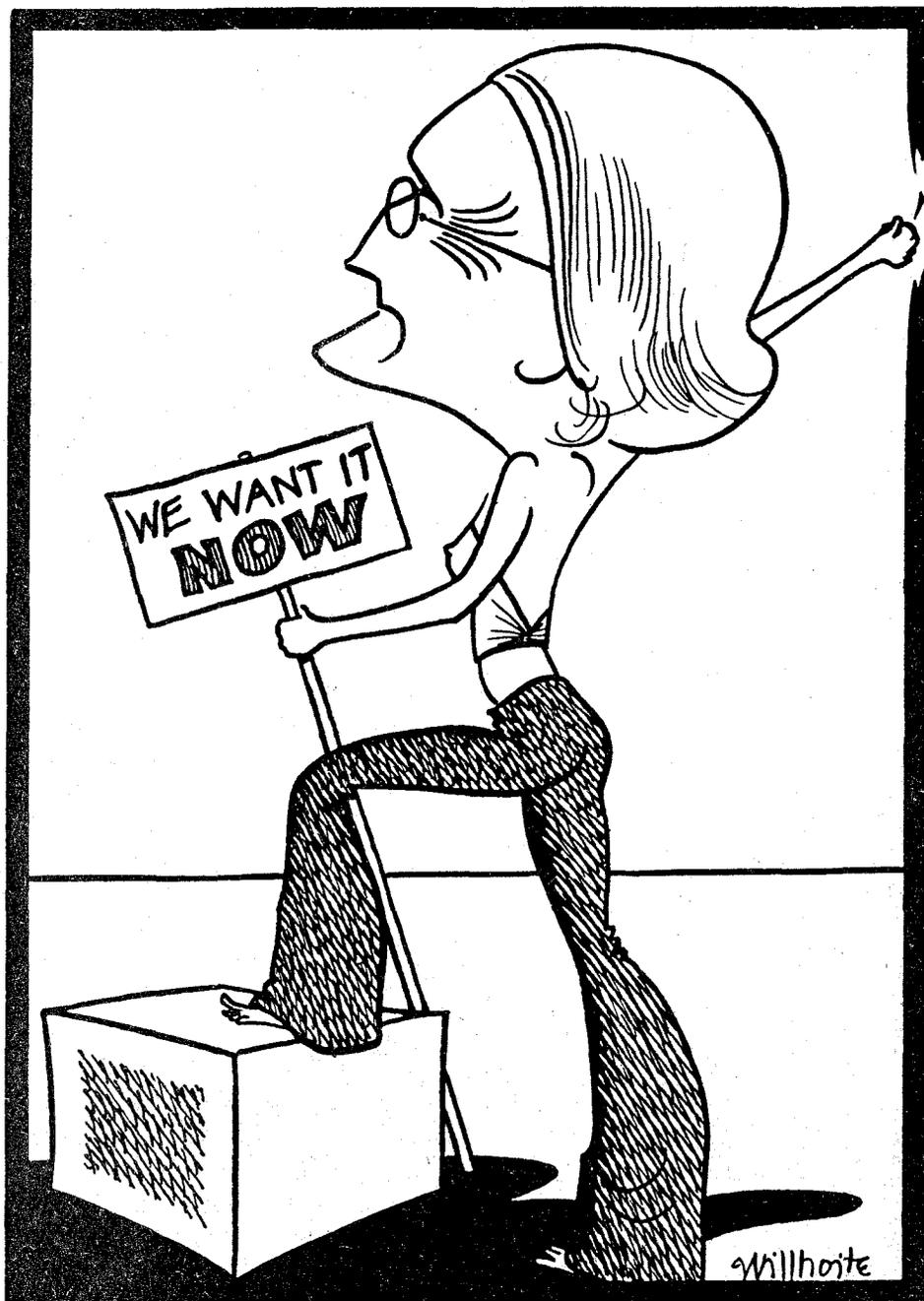
### TESTIMONIES

Inspirational lesbian  
coming-out stories

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### NEW FROM OTHER PUBLISHERS

*Hothead Paisan • Daughters of  
Darkness • Body of Love •  
and more*



# One of the family

MEMBERS OF THE TRIBE, by Michael Willhoite, cloth, \$25.00

Here are some names you should know. Michael Willhoite stages his own pride parade with caricatures of over one hundred more of our lesser-known sisters and brothers.

Each illustration is accompanied by a brief, entertaining background sketch of their personal and professional careers.

Here are a few of the personalities you will meet.



**P**owerful if inelegant prose: that was the judgment of early reviewers of the work of Djuna Barnes. That changed quickly. T.S. Eliot, no less, wrote in the introduction to her dark novel *Nightwood* of her "beauty of phrasing, the brilliance of wit and characterization, and a quality of horror and doom ... related to that of Elizabethan tragedy." Clearly, Barnes was not destined for the best-seller lists. By the time of her death, she was all but forgotten, but since then, her work has been reissued in a steady trickle. Particularly noteworthy is *The Ladies' Almanack*, a playful satire of Paris's expatriate lesbian community. From time to time, Barnes illustrated her own work, and in this *jeu d'esprit* it sparkles.

**L**et the bullets that rip through my brain smash through every closet door in the nation." Harvey Milk knew he would become a gay martyr. The San Francisco City Hall killings of Milk and Mayor George Moscone on November 27, 1978, resonated throughout the nation like one of the city's famous quakes. When City Supervisor Dan White was convicted of manslaughter, not murder, rioting by furious lesbians and gay men broke out. Like Stonewall, like the 1992 Republican National Convention, such outrages fuel the movement. So Harvey Milk was right. For his full story, read Randy Shilts's excellent *The Mayor of Castro Street*.



**F.** Scott Fitzgerald wrote: "There are no second acts in American lives." Wrong. Many blues aficionados think of Alberta Hunter as a dignified, silken old lady who suddenly broke onto the music scene in the 1980s. No, she was a sensation in the earlier decades, too, light, bright, one of the true queens of swing. Her upbeat rendition of "Miss Otis Regrets" is still the best one on records; she plays Cole Porter's satire right on the surface. But in the fifties she quit the music business and became a nurse. Later, when she was forcibly retired, back she came. And a star was reborn.



# In our own words

LESBIAN QUOTATIONS, by Rosemary E. Silva, \$10.00

**T**he Lesbian is one of the least known members of our culture. Less is known about her — and less accurately — than about the Newfoundland dog.

Sidney Abbott and Barbara Love,  
*Sappho Was a Right-on Woman*, 1972

which men have devoted countless treatises. Until rather recently, women in the United States did not have the right to vote, own houses or property, enroll in institutions of higher learning, enter male-dominated professions, earn fair wages, travel independently, go to war, or engage in politics. If, by some stroke of luck, women's voices have been heard above the uproar of men, rarely have our reflections been considered worthy of inclusion in the historical record. If, by another miraculous stroke of luck, women's reflections are preserved in the historical record, chances are they will not have made their way into a book of quotations, the highest honor that can be bestowed upon them. One need only try to summon to mind quotations by more than a handful of women to realize that most of women's words, women's reflections, are not on the tip of the collective tongue. A brief glance at popular books of quotations — *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, *The Penguin Dictionary of Quotations*, *The Dictionary of Quotable Definitions*, *Peter's Quotations*, and *The New Book of Unusual Quotations* — confirms this sobering realization.

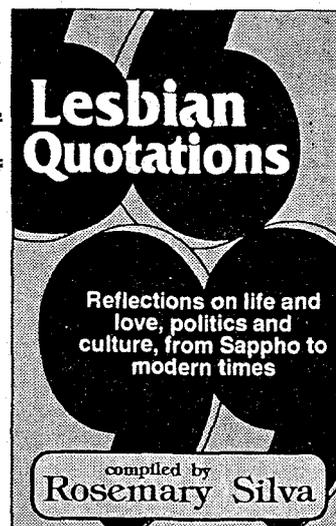
Women, despite their oppression, have been prolific writers, particularly in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Alas, only a handful of books of quotations, appearing late in this century, have been devoted exclusively to women, among them *Feminist Quotations* (1979),

Where are all the quotable lesbians? Author Rosemary Silva has collected the best of lesbian wit and wisdom in one volume. Arranged topically, *Lesbian Quotations* covers subjects ranging from Passion to Pets. A great reference, or just browse through this fascinating compendium for pure entertainment.

Rosemary Silva describes the challenge of compiling this collection in her introduction:

**W**ith little effort we can cite innumerable quotations of scholars, poets, writers, actors, statesmen, and politicians. But the vast majority of these quotations are attributable to men — white, heterosexual men. Throughout time, men have been celebrated and immortalized for their ideas, profound or baneful, on the human condition. Furthermore, their pronouncements have been collected and preserved in books of quotations, and many of these quotations have been repeated so often that they are inscribed on the individual and collective consciousness. As Benjamin Disraeli said, "The wisdom of the wise and the experience of the ages are perpetuated by quotations." If we remember only men's words, not women's, then we are merely perpetuating the wisdom of wise men and men's experiences of the ages, and our vision of life is tragically flawed. We are adhering to the denigrating myth that women have no history, no great triumphs of genius, no pearls of wisdom worthy of remembrance.

Where is the inheritance of wisdom that women, lesbians among them, have left us? Throughout the ages, women, no matter their sexual orientation, have been barred from the very experiences to



*The Quotable Woman 1800-1981* (1982), and *The Beacon Book of Quotations by Women* (1992). These books represent a great leap forward in women's scholarship. They constitute a reconceptualization of history: they place women on center stage and write us into the script called humanity. How audible are lesbian voices in these collections? Unfortunately, they contain only a few quotations by, for, and about lesbians.

Thus this text arose from my perception of the almost total absence of lesbians from the pages of books of quotations. This book is an attempt to inscribe in memory the precious few recorded ideas of those women-loving women who, in some thirteenth-century corner tower, seventeenth-century garden, or eighteenth-century sitting room, blessed with an independent spirit, heatedly discussed women's plight and the pall of patriarchy, or sat alone, jotting by candlelight a passionate letter to a beloved or a few lines of verse devoted to Sapphic love. This book is an attempt to eternalize the words of the nineteenth-century lesbian who, biting her tongue, practiced self-censorship or wrote in code, assumed a male pen name, or changed the gender of fictional characters.

In collecting these quotations, my desire was to create a sacred repository for the words of those lesbians in the mid-twentieth century who, against all odds, came out of the closet to decry homophobia and crusade for lesbian and gay rights, and galvanized as a potent political force. These women excavated the works of their forerunners and began to piece together the historical, cultural, and literary fragments of the lesbian past, as witnessed by the substantial amount of lesbian research published in



# Coming out

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TESTIMONIES: Lesbian coming-out stories, edited by Karen

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In *Testimonies*, more than twenty women of widely varying backgrounds and ages recount their journeys toward self-discovery. Their stories portray their efforts to develop a lesbian identity, explore their sexuality, and build a community with other lesbians. In Lynn Kanter's "Overlooking the Obvious," a late-night encounter sparks awareness.

When I was a young child in the 1950s, I thought women and men always wore formal attire when they went out on a date, and that the man routinely carried the woman in his arms. The image I had was quite clear: the woman in a swirly silver gown and matching high-heels, the man in a black tuxedo and white shirt, effortlessly lifting his date to spare her such mundane chores as walking from the car to the door.

I didn't understand that a "date" had anything to do with sex or romance. I didn't realize that a wide range of apparel was permissible. I only knew that I did not want to wear a swirly silver evening gown and be carried in some man's arms.

By the time I became a teenager and went out with boys myself, I had, of course, given up this strange concept of dating. But in that predawn of feminism there were conventions more difficult to buck. One was the expectation that girls were to instantly discard the plans we had made with each other if the slightest chance arose to spend time with a boy — any boy. I could never get over the fact that this behavior was not only considered acceptable, but strongly encouraged. My inclination was exactly the opposite.

In fact, my inclination was the opposite of the norm in any number of ways. All my silver-screen crushes were on actresses. I developed intense attachments to my female friends. On streets and buses, I noticed only the women. My favorite movie was *The Children's Hour*.

You might think all of these idiosyncracies would serve as clues to my true nature. But to think that would be to disregard my lifelong talent for overlooking the obvious.

Her name was Amy. She lived one floor above me in the dorm of a women's college in upstate New York. Amy had blue eyes, small hands, long blonde hair. She was twenty-one, an age that at

nineteen I considered alluringly mature. She had lived her entire life in one tiny town, an achievement to someone like me, who had spent my teens moving with my family from state to state. She was bright, observant, energetic. Best of all, she was a marvelous storyteller.

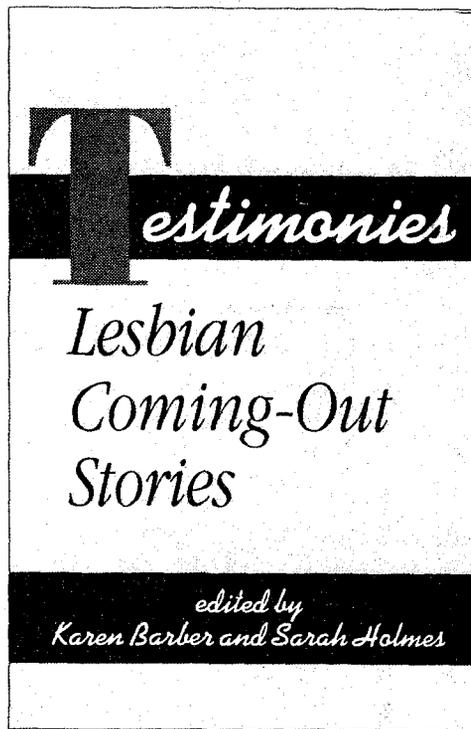
Amy's life was full of small adventures, and she recounted each one with such color, verve, and freshness that the story seemed to unfold right there in her overfurnished dorm room. She acted out all the parts, creating vivid characters with the tiniest of details — the hitch of a shoulder, the tilt of a head, the flawless replication of an accent.

I found Amy endlessly entertaining, and started spending most of my evenings with her. At about ten o'clock, after I had finished studying, I would bolt upstairs to be greeted with a cup of thick, sugary coffee that Amy had made on her forbidden hotplate. We would tell each other stories and share the day's experiences, joined occasionally by friends drawn in by our laughter. Eventually the friends would drift yawning away, but Amy and I would chatter on, stopping only when interrupted by the cacophony of morning birds. Entire nights vanished without a trace. This happened over and over again.

I described the mystery of the disappearing nights to my friend Charlotte, a woman with the sallow skin, jutting jaw, and darkened teeth of advanced anorexia. Sitting up weakly in her bed, surrounded by pillows that could not protect her from her own sharp bones, Charlotte smiled knowingly and said,

# strong

Barber and Sarah Holmes, \$8.00



"Looks like you're on to something new."

I did not ask her what she meant, just as I didn't ask her why she couldn't eat or how serious her illness was. Her eyes closed wearily. After a few moments, I turned out the light, closing her door softly behind me. Charlotte left school soon after that. I never saw her again.

Meanwhile, other mysteries were taking place in my life, mysteries I didn't share with my friends. I appeared to have lost both my ability and my need to sleep. Everything began to fascinate me: classes, cookware, a new book, a song I had heard hundreds of times before. My energy was inexhaustible, fueled by the nightly narrative marathons in Amy's room. And most baffling of all, my hormones appeared to be in an uproar. A sexual current was running through me all the time for no apparent reason.

Very late one night, I set my empty cup on Amy's cluttered dresser and looked around for my shoes. "I'd better go," I told her, "before those damned birds start singing again."

"Why don't you stay?" she asked. "It's too late for you to be walking downstairs to your room."

I hesitated. This seemed plausible, though the commute would have taken about thirty seconds.

"Come on." Amy patted a spot beside her on the bed. "I won't touch you."

Of course she won't touch me, I thought as I removed my jeans but primly retained my t-shirt and underwear. What made her think I was worried about that? Why would she even

say such a thing? Gingerly I lay down with my back toward her, teetering on the edge of her narrow dormitory cot.

Amy lied. She did touch me, and I touched her, all through what remained of the night. We didn't put a name to what we were doing; we didn't even acknowledge we were doing it. But we were making love, and it was the most thrilling experience I had ever known.

Seconds later, it seemed, the sun broke through the window blinds. Outside our door, rubber soles slapped down the hall toward the bathroom. Amy and I kissed good-bye, with barely enough time to shower and change for class.

I remember with perfect clarity the exultation that lifted me on that spring morning two decades ago, and the thought that sounded in my head as I floated down the stairs to my own room: Thank God I'm not normal.

What I meant was: Thank God I don't have to be ordinary. What I meant was: Thank God I'm safe from the staid suburban life for which I've been trained all these years. What I meant was: Thank God I finally know where I belong, and it's in a woman's arms.

I had almost — but not quite — come out to myself. In the easy, earnest ethos of the times, I believed that I was now free to love wherever my heart led me, whether that meant men or women. I did not yet think of myself as a lesbian.

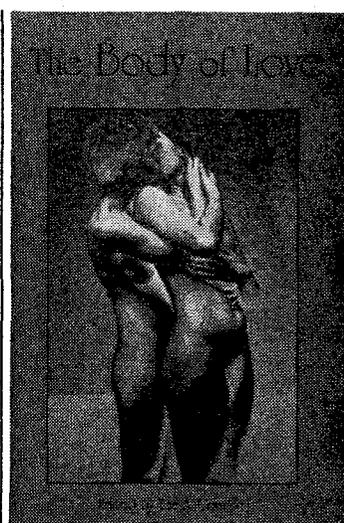
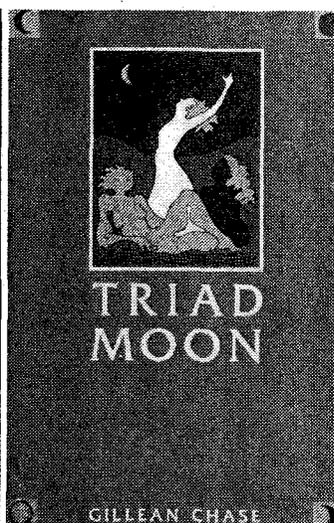
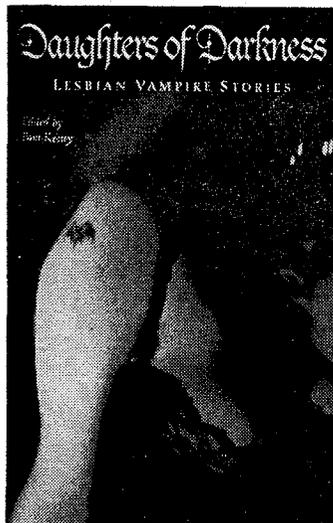
So not until I left college and reached the "real world" of Chicago, where feminism was blowing through the city like the raw, powerful wind off the lake, did

I realize that following my flighty heart was no longer enough. I had to face the fact that it was no coincidence that the people I fell in love with were women. I had to claim the name lesbian, with all the pride, power, and defiance that word implies. I had to choose sides. And when I did — swiftly, and with the gratitude of having found a home at last — that was my coming-out experience.

Then there are the times I've forgotten to come out. My aunt was recently shocked to learn that I had broken up with my partner of ten years — shocked because she hadn't realized that we were together. She had seen my partner at innumerable family events, she had been in our home with its two female occupants and its single bedroom. At what point should I have taken my aunt aside and said, "By the way, you do realize I'm a lesbian"? And yet, by mentioning my separation I was not coming out; I was merely behaving like a person who believes her life's events are worthy of inclusion in the family tapestry.

Even now, after these years of practice, coming out is not always easy. I surprise myself sometimes by stumbling over the words; occasionally I substitute the word *gay* for the more proud and precise *lesbian*. Still, I push myself to come out whenever it's appropriate and often when it's not: for my own sake and for the sake of women who have more to risk than I do.

My true coming-out story — like that of all lesbians — cannot be told in the past tense. We have yet to see how it ends. ▼



## NEW from OTHER PUBLISHERS

**DAUGHTERS OF DARKNESS**, edited by Pam Keesey, \$10.00. The lesbian vampire is a powerful female image. Sexual and seductive, begetting jealousy and violence, she is a creature of great appetites. The ultimate *bad* woman, she steps outside the realm of acceptable *feminine* behavior. Kesey reclaims the vampire as a sensual, homoerotic being, whose female essence has been falsely overwritten in the popular imagination. Contributors include Jewelle Gomez, Pat Califia, and Katherine V. Forrest. Published by Cleis Press.

**THE CASE OF THE NOT-SO-NICE NURSE**, by Mabel Maney, \$10.00. Nurse Cherry Aimless scours San Francisco for her friend Nancy Clue and some missing lesbian nuns in this delightful parody of both '50s mystery novels and lesbian romantic fiction. Maney's light mystery is a romp through the gosh-golly world of girl detective stories, but with a decidedly queer point of view. Published by Cleis Press.

• "San Francisco book artist Mabel Maney, who based her master's thesis on girl detectives, has irreverently reinvented Nancy

*Drew and Cherry Ames.*" — *Belles Lettres*

• "Cherry Ames moves unhampered through a world populated by lesbian nuns and adventuresses, even engaging in a one-nighter with Nancy Drew. Maney provides a powerful reminder of the exclusionary nature of the ruling culture." — *Artspace*

**TRIAD MOON**, by Gillean Chase, \$10.00. Lila isn't happy with her marriage. When her new tenant, Brook, becomes involved with her best friend, Helen, all three women re-examine their lives

and relationships with each other. The results are a tribute to the complexity of life and the unexpected in love. Published by Gynergy Books.

**THE BODY OF LOVE**, edited by Tee A. Corinne, \$10.00. A straight woman finds a lover at a gay rodeo; two Catholic schoolgirls go to the prom together, and meet up with a very angry nun; a pickup at a bar culminates in a steamy bathroom encounter. This sensual collection of erotic stories and poems explores the diversity of lesbian sexuality with playfulness, humor and surprising originality. With pieces by Lesléa Newman, Ayofemi Faloyan, Jyl Lynn Felman, and Toni Brown. Published by Banned Books.

• "Here is a book that engages one in the lushly sensual with such a variety of perceptions that the word erotic suddenly has many, many meanings." — Coleen Ernst, *Crazy Ladies Bookstore*

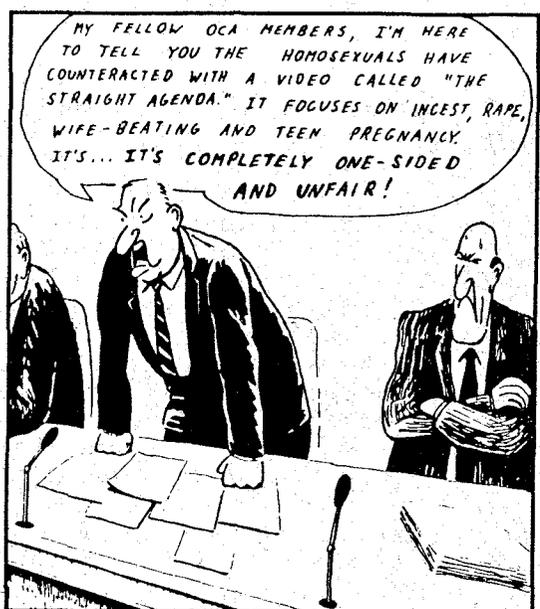
**OUT ON MAIN STREET**, by Shani Mootoo, \$13.00. An Indo-Trinidadian-Canadian writer, Mootoo's first collection of short fiction explores the complications of racial, religious, and sexual diversity. From love triangles to convent life, the strongly individual characters in these sto-

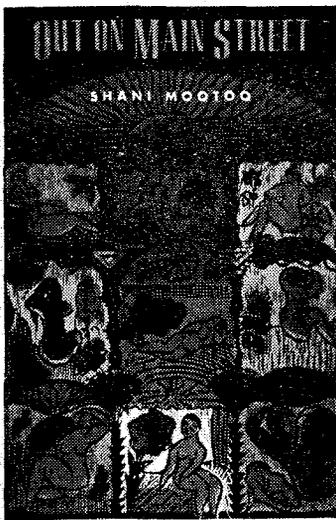
### Angst in her pants

**RUBYFRUIT MOUNTAIN**, by Andrea Natalie, \$10.00. From lesbians in the military (*Why, yes, Lieutenant, I am fond of tuna casserole...*) to gay film festivals we never want to see (*My Own Private Ross Perot*), two-time Lambda Literary Award finalist Andrea Natalie pokes fun at lesbian and gay life and culture in the '90s. Published by Cleis Press.

• "Andrea Natalie has angst in her pants." — Kate Clinton

• "These are more than cartoons! These are matriarchal neutron bombs! Andrea Natalie is like Gary Larson on estrogen." — Kris Kovick





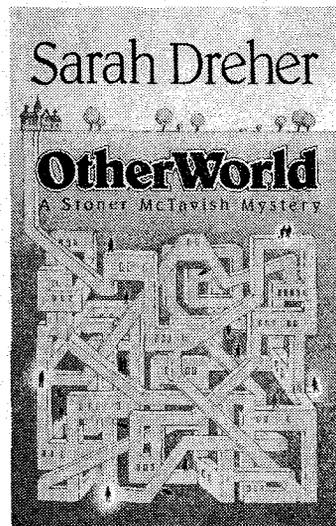
ries feel and struggle with their differences from those around them. Published by Press Gang.

• "Shani Mootoo explores racial and religious diversity, and ambiguities of gender, to pose fundamental questions about who each of us is ... A fine new talent to be welcomed and rejoiced in."

—Jane Rule

• "A very fine sense of irony and a glorious awareness of multiple perspectives. Thoroughly enjoyable reading for anyone whose identity is in the least bit tinged with alien identification — and whose isn't?" —Suniti Namjoshi

**OTHERWORLD**, by Sarah Dreher, \$11.00. When her business partner is kidnapped and held hostage underground, Stoner McTavish and friends journey from Disney World to the OtherWorld — where the lines between



fantasy and reality blur, and one of Stoner's old enemies plans her revenge. In this, the fifth Stoner McTavish mystery, Dreher has created yet another hilarious, page-turning thriller, with witty dialogue and fascinating insight. Published by New Victoria Publishers.

**LADY LOBO**, by Kristen Garrett, \$10.00. Casey Ellison, brash young jock, oozes self-confidence and audacity both on the court and in bed. Then a beautiful older tennis pro picks her up in the locker room and challenges her in ways she hadn't thought possible. Author of the best-selling *You Light the Fire*, Garrett captures the language of the locker room and the bedroom with her energetic writing style. Published by New Victoria Publishers.

• "Garrett gets right up in your



## Homicidal lesbian terrorists unite!

**HOTHEAD PAISAN**, by Diane DiMassa, \$13.00. Hothead Paisan is an over-caffeinated, media-crazed, sweetly psychotic lesbian — she's the avenging angel we've all been waiting for. A blend of humor, bewilderment, and reactionary rage, Hothead is a mouthpiece for lesbians everywhere, venting our rage and reminding us that we are *not* less worthy, less deserving, less *anything*. Large format, published by Cleis Press.

• "If you gave Thelma or Louise the consciousness of Andrea Dworkin, the firepower of Rambo, the build of Martina, and the charm of Pippi Longstocking, and then raised her in an Italian Catholic neighborhood, oh, let's say, next door to Madonna, and then you left her in the oven a tad too long, you might have the recipe for Hothead Paisan." —Deneuve

face and slaps you awake with real-life vernacular." —Lambda Book Report

**DOG TAGS**, by Alexis Jude, \$10.00. While stationed in Korea, Sergeant First Class Tory Barrett falls in love with Myra Sturdivan — but why is Myra so distant and defensive? As Tory uncovers the answer, she must confront the darker side of the military — sexual assaults, injustice toward the local residents, and witch-hunts for lesbians. Can Myra and Tory's love survive the military? Published by New Victoria Publishers.

**CAN'T KEEP A STRAIGHT FACE**, by Ellen Orleans, \$7.50. What's so funny about

being a lesbian? Find out in this collection of clever and humorous essays about love, work, and therapists. Nothing escapes the insightful gaze of humorist Ellen Orleans: lesbian relationships, coming out, co-dependency, scarf-tying classes, working in corporate America, and much more! With illustrations by cartoonist Noreen Stevens. Published by Laugh Lines Press.

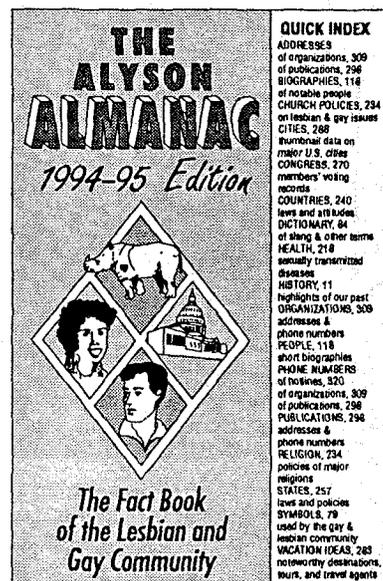
• "Whether it's a grin, a smirk, a chuckle, or full-fledged belly laugh, Orleans' essays are sure to evoke amusement." —Washington Blade

• "Recommend it to everyone who's desperately waiting for the next Dykes to Watch Out For." —Feminist Bookstore News

# Not just for farmers

THE ALYSON ALMANAC, by Alyson Publications, \$10.00

*The Alyson Almanac* is the most complete reference book available about the lesbian and gay community — and the most entertaining. Here are brief biographies of some 300 individuals from throughout history; a report card for every member of Congress; significant dates from our history; addresses and phone numbers for major organizations, periodicals, and hotlines; and much more. This new edition has been updated throughout. New sections include a rundown of laws and attitudes in every major country, and a summary of major studies (from the Kinsey reports on) of sexual orientation.



## Andrea Weiss's Ten Best Lesbian Movies

Andrea Weiss won an Emmy Award for her research for the television documentary *Before Stonewall*. With Greta Schiller, she produced and directed the films *International Sweethearts* and *Tiny and Ruby: Hell Divin' Women*. She is the author of *Vampires and Violets: Lesbians in Film* (Viking/Penguin, 1993).

**MÄDCHEN IN UNIFORM** (1931), directed by Leontine Sagan. West Germany. Distributed by Films, Inc. The recent emergence of lesbian independent cinema doesn't offer anything that can hold a candle to this classic story of a sensitive, defiant schoolgirl's passion for her teacher.

**ENTRE NOUS** (1984), directed by Diane Kurys. France. Although the jury is still out on whether this is a "lesbian film," the relationship between Madeleine (Miou-Miou) and Lena (Isabelle Huppert) is passionate, intellectual, dependable, and sensual, and provides the crucial tension which propels the film.

**DAMNED IF YOU DON'T** (1987), directed by Su Friedrich. United States. An experimental exploration of a nun's sexual desire which has been awakened by a beautiful stranger from outside of the convent.

**I'VE HEARD THE MERMAIDS SINGING** (1987), directed by Patricia Rozema. Canada. A funny, absurdist comedy about a "person Friday" in an art gallery who falls in love with her curator; weak on plot line but more than compensates by its resourcefulness and ingenuity.

**QUEEN CHRISTINA** (1933), directed by Rouben Mamoulian. Screenplay by Salka Viertel. United States. Never mind that Queen Christina falls in love with the Spanish ambassador in the snow. Greta Garbo as Queen Christina will always be remembered by lesbian viewers for her masculine attire, her refusal to marry, and her love for Countess Ebba.

**DESERT HEARTS** (1986), directed by Donna Deitch. United States. A great lesbian Western, this independently produced feature is conventional Hollywood in style but uncompromised in its representation of lesbians.



**THE VIRGIN MACHINE** (1988), directed by Monika Treut. West Germany. An ironic initiation of a young, naive West German researcher into the lesbian sexual underground of San Francisco, beautifully shot by cinematographer Elfi Mikesch.

**DAUGHTERS OF DARKNESS** (1970), directed by Harry Kumel. Belgium. Providing a feminist twist on the lesbian vampire genre, this film makes heterosexuality abnormal and violent, and offers a lesbian vampire (played by Delphine Seyrig) as its most sympathetic and likeable character. A "campy" lesbian classic.

**THE GROUP** (1966), directed by Sidney Lumet. United States. Based on the novel by Mary McCarthy. Perhaps the first Hollywood film to include an obviously lesbian character without exploitation and sensationalism. Candace Bergen plays the sophisticated, well-tailored Lakey who, when gay-baited, coolly and proudly proclaims her "Sapphism."

**FORBIDDEN LOVE** (1992), directed by Aerlyn Weissman and Lynn Fernie. Canada. A powerful piece of history, this documentary recalls the "twilight world" of lesbian romance and survival in the 1950s and '60s. The personal histories of nine women are set against the backdrop of colorful pulp novels and sensational tabloid headlines, suggesting an intricate relationship between truth and fiction, memory and fantasy, the individual and the collective imagination.

# THE MENDOLA REPORT

Mary Mendola, herself a lesbian, became interested in the experiences of lesbian and gay couples. She wrote a questionnaire for couples, and distributed 1500 copies through personal contacts, who in turn were asked to pass the questionnaire on to their friends, and so on. From the 27% that came back, she published *The Mendola Report: A New Look at Gay Couples*, in 1980. Among the results:

## Monogamy:

- 83% of lesbians and 37% of gay men had sex exclusively with their partners.
- 14% of lesbians and 49% of gay men had sex mostly with their partners, but occasionally had outside affairs.

- 1% of lesbians and 8% of gay men had sex both in their relationships and outside of their relationships on a regular basis.
- 2% of lesbians and 6% of gay men lived together but did not have sex, and were free to have sex outside the relationship.

## Financial arrangements:

- 59% jointly owned household furnishings.
- 26% jointly owned cars or motorcycles.
- 24% jointly owned their residence.
- 8% jointly owned businesses.
- 4% had joint savings accounts and other investments.

## Family relationships:

- 40% said their parents accepted their relationship, and included partners in family functions.
- 53% said their siblings accepted their relationship.
- 36% said their parents were not aware of their relationship.
- 29% said their siblings were not aware of their relationship.
- 21% said their parents treat their relationship as simply that of two friends living together, with no special commitment.
- 16% said their siblings treat their relationship as simply two friends living together.

# A DICTIONARY OF SLANG AND HISTORICAL TERMS

These words and phrases have been used in the gay and lesbian community of past or present. Most of the listings are slang, but some, as indicated, are considered standard usage, or represent efforts to coin scientific or technical terms relevant to gay people.

**AMY-JOHN.** A lesbian. Derived from amazon.

**BAMBI-SEXUALITY.** Physical interaction centered more about touching, kissing, and caressing than around genital sexuality. Not to be confused with bestiality, a very different concept.

**BILITIS.** From *Chansons de Bilitis*, a collection of lesbian love poems published in 1894 by Pierre Louys and supposedly based on those by Sappho. The word is best known as part of the name of the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB), a pioneering lesbian organization founded in 1955 by Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon.

**BOSTON MARRIAGE.** [Obsolete] A living-together relationship involving two women. This term was mainly used in nineteenth-century New England, and could refer both to actual lesbian relationships, and to situations where two women chose to live independently from men, often while they pursued their own careers.

**BUMPER TO BUMPER.** Vagina-to-vagina. Generally used in reference to two lesbians engaging in sex, or dancing, etc. Occasionally used in referring to gay

men or heterosexual couples.

**CRUSH HOUR.** The period late at night, just before a bar closes.

**DUTCHBOY.** A man who identifies with lesbians or is primarily attracted to lesbians. The term was coined in about 1990 by lesbian sex honcho Susie Bright.

**FUNCH.** A quick sexual encounter performed at lunchtime.

**GILLETTE BLADE.** A bisexual woman.

**GOLF, SOFTBALL, and BASKETBALL.** These terms are sometimes used by deaf lesbians and gay men as code words for sexual orientation. The first letters correspond to the first letter of the intended meaning: Gay, Straight, and Bisexual.

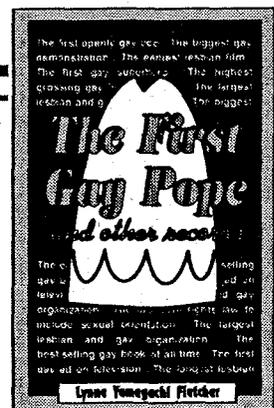
**HOLD A BOWLING BALL.** To sexually stimulate another woman by rubbing the thumb and forefinger, simultaneously, on her clitoris and anus.

**JANEY.** Vagina.

**KIKI.** 1940s slang for a lesbian comfortable with either a passive or aggressive partner.

**LESBOCIOUS.** A woman with particularly appealing lesbian qualities — according to "Susie Sexpert" Bright.

**STIRRING THE BEAN CURD.** To engage in lesbian sex. Judy Grahn, in *Another Mother Tongue*, gives this as the rough translation of a Chinese term used to refer to the act of finger-fucking.



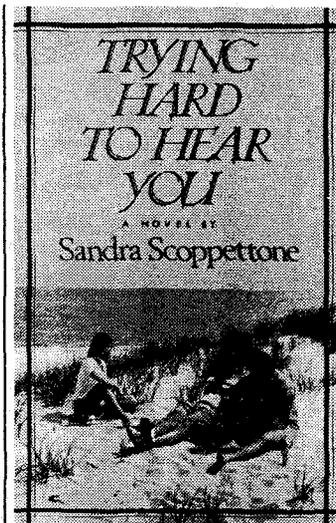
## Who's on firsts?

**THE FIRST GAY POPE**, by Lynne Yamaguchi Fletcher, \$8.00

Everyone from trivia buffs to news reporters will enjoy this new reference book, which records hundreds of achievements, records, and firsts for the lesbian and gay community. What was the earliest lesbian novel? Where was the first gay civil rights law passed? When was the biggest gay demonstration? For the first time, the answers are all in one entertaining, well-indexed volume.

• "Its 123 pages will keep trivia buffs riveted with obscure facts about everything." —*Washington Blade*

Save by ordering both *The Alyson Almanac* and *The First Gay Pope* for just \$16.00 total. Order as *Facts and Firsts Set* on back page.



## Recent best-sellers

Whatever your interests, we've got some great books that you'll enjoy. On these four pages you'll find some of our most popular titles.

**LOVE BITES**, by Della Grace, published at \$30.00, now just \$25.00. A pioneering and defiantly provocative collection of contemporary lesbian photography. *Love Bites* takes a challenging and previously uncharted odyssey through the underground communities on both sides of the Atlantic, of which the photographer is very much a part. (60 color and b&w plates)

• "Some of Grace's work nibbles at you, some of it gnaws — and some of it bites the very breath out of you." —*Bay Area Reporter*

**AFTERGLOW**, edited by Karen Barber, \$9.00. With the excitement of new love, the remembrances of past lovers, *Afterglow* offers more well-crafted, imaginative, sexy stories of lesbian desire in the best-selling tradition of *Bushfire*. New writers mingle with familiar names in this eclectic collection that joyously captures the diversity of the lesbian experience.

**WOMAN IN THE WINDOW**, edited by Pamela Pratt, \$12.00. In this diverse collection of short stories, very different writers come together to examine lesbian sexualities and sensibilities. Celebrating

the differences that mark lesbian lives, as well as our commonality, these stories explore attraction, fantasy, politics, and love. Authors include Donna Allegra, Sarah Schulman, Lesléa Newman, and Cody Yeager. Published by Starbooks Press.

**BUTCH**, by Jay Rayn, \$8.00. Michaeline "Mike" Landetti doesn't have a word for what she is, but from the beginning of memory she has played ball with the boys, and fallen in love with the girls. Jay Rayn has written a moving story about growing up butch and learning to make your way in a less-than-accepting world. Originally published by Free Women Press.

• "Many women will find parallels to their own lives in *Butch*, Jay Rayn's engaging coming-of-age novel." —*Lambda Book Report*

**DREAMS OF VENGEANCE**, by Artemis Oak-Grove, \$9.00. Leslie and Ryan's love is tested again by the goddess Anara, who manipulates their sex slaves, Sanji and Corelle. The two lovers test the bounds of power and desire in ritualized, passionate sex. But all

involved are powerless as their past lives and spirits take control and propel them to their destinies.

• "If you want to read about wealth, power, and all the associated accessories, accoutrements, and games; if you like satire and stereotypes, comedy and tragedy, tender sex, violent sex, then this is the book for you." —*Merril Mushroom*

**A FEMINIST TAROT**, by Sally Gearhart and Susan Rennie, \$9.00. Reading the Tarot can be a way of understanding the conscious and unconscious reality surrounding a particular question or circumstance. In *A Feminist Tarot*, Sally Gearhart and Susan Rennie reveal how the traditional Tarot, with all its richness and mystery, can be a woman's Tarot. From an altered angle of vision, they use the traditional Tarot as a tool for self-analysis — to explore women's inner regions, and to hear women's inner voices.

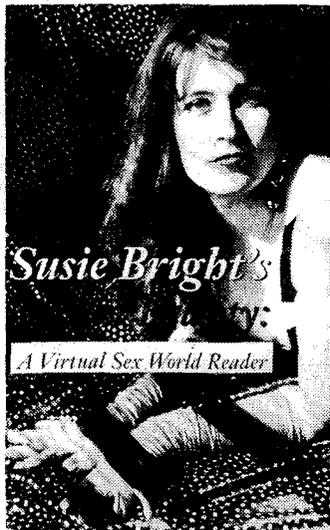
• "A *Feminist Tarot* gives us entry to a knowledge of ourselves that we must never lose." —*The Lesbian News*

**TRYING HARD TO HEAR YOU**, by Sandra Scoppettone,

\$8.00. Sixteen-year-old Camilla Crawford tells about a crucial summer in which her close-knit summer theater group discovers that two of its members are gay. By the end of summer, she writes, "two of us were going to suffer like we never had before, and none of us would ever be the same again."

• "This unblemished novel should serve as a model to those authors who serve up fakery and flimsiness under the label of realism. The narrator, sixteen-year-old Camilla, tells of a crucial summer in the lives of friends. The gang's discovery that two boys are homosexuals leads to heartbreak and terror, a time that reveals the group in all their weaknesses and strengths. But there is more, much more, to the story — a revelation of relationships between the black and white community, between Cam and her sister and others. There is also unforced humor. Here is a book which will be remembered." —*Publishers Weekly*

**SUSIE BRIGHT'S SEXUAL REALITY**, by Susie Bright, \$10.00. From computer-age erotic techniques to sex talk with Camille Paglia and life on the road for everyone's favorite "cheerleader" for de-



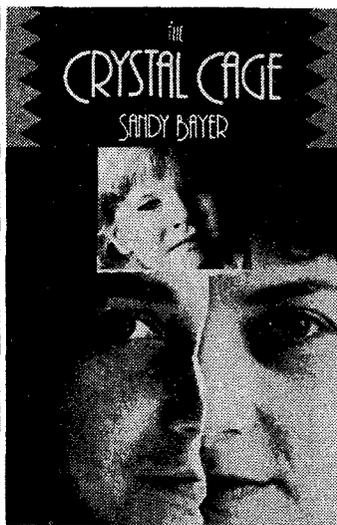
sire, *Sexual Reality* is the latest outrageous collection from Susie Bright, perhaps the first lesbian sex guru to grace the pages of *Rolling Stone*. Published by Cleis Press.

• "If Bright's agenda works out, we might all be so busy sighing with satisfaction that we'll forget about capitalism's consumption treadmill. It's time we stop underestimating the power of fun." —*San Francisco Weekly*

**THE LESBIAN SEX BOOK**, by Wendy Caster, \$15.00. Informative, entertaining, and attractively illustrated, this handbook is the lesbian sex guide for the nineties. Dealing with such sex practices as cunnilingus, masturbation, and penetration, as well as related topics such as intimacy, nonmonogamy, health, and political correctness, *The Lesbian Sex Book* offers the reader a potpourri of helpful advice. Never judgmental, this guide is perfect for the newly out and the eternally curious.

• "This handbook covers social and political as well as sexual issues and integrates the latest information on safer sex and lesbian health concerns." —*Library Journal*

**BI ANY OTHER NAME**, edited by Loraine Hutchins and Lani Kaahumanu, \$12.00. Hear the voices of over seventy women and men from all walks of life describe their lives as bisexuals. They tell their stories — personal, po-



litical, spiritual, historical — in prose, poetry, art, and essays. These are individuals who have fought prejudice from both the gay and straight communities and who have begun only recently to share their experiences. This ground-breaking anthology is an important step in the process of forming a new bisexual community.

• "Bi Any Other Name is one of the most comprehensive, well-edited anthologies I have ever read. At roughly 380 pages, it may be deemed the Bisexual Bible." —*Lambda Book Report*

**THE CRYSTAL CURTAIN**, by Sandy Bayer, \$8.00. Even as a child, Stephanie Nowland knew her psychic powers set her apart. Now an escaped murderer — a man she helped capture — is seeking revenge. Visions of her death and her lover's death fill his thoughts. Stephanie can see them, too. Will her powers, along with the support of the woman she loves, be enough to save them both?

• "A spellbinder. This story has a twist that catches the reader off balance. Good reading and wonderfully refreshing to read a woman-loving, woman-oriented story." —*Plain Brown Rapper*

**THE CRYSTAL CAGE**, by Sandy Bayer, \$9.00. Stephanie Nowland used her psychic powers to put an escaped murderer behind bars in Bayer's first book, *The Crystal Curtain*. But now, Nowland



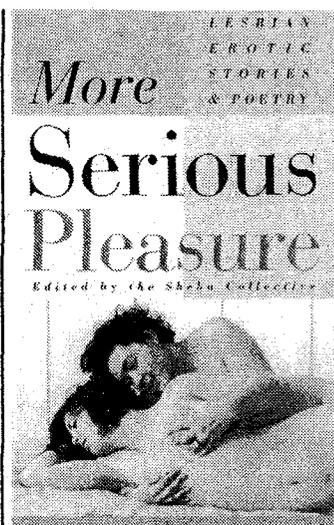
finds that her psychic powers and her conscience force her to take action not against a murderer, but against another lesbian.

• "A smoothly written thriller with plenty of romantic interludes." —*The Advocate*

**THE FIRST STROKE**, by Cappy Kotz, \$8.00. Some of the wildest women to grace a page are found in these thirteen short but hot stories. Meet K.C., the big, mean, leather butch; Flynn, rotund and armed, not-to-be-fucked-with; Van, the perfect buffed submissive; Ms. Laba, the aristocratic, cunt-teasing stripper-in-reverse; Whitsun, the tall but shy and courtly firefighter who forgets her chivalrous ways under certain kinds of provocation.

• "This is pure lesbian passion — intense, unkind, vital, on target, thrilling, and utterly necessary. *The First Stroke* is the perfect thing to read before you go out hunting — or when you come home chased-out, high, and alone." —*Pat Califia*

**THE HOUSE OF REAL LOVE**, by Carla Tomaso, \$9.00. A farcical look at a lesbian relationship kept alive by one partner's frequent infidelities, until the day a famous herstorian rattles the status quo. The couple try everything — from cross-dressing to a national talk-show appearance — to save their relationship, as Tomaso explores the ins and outs of



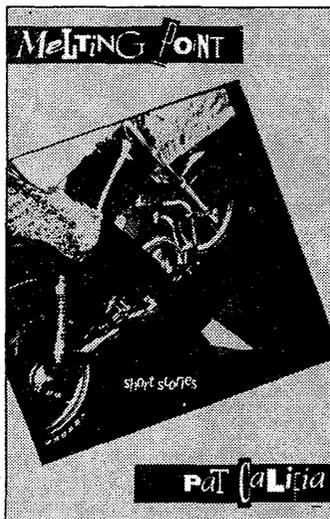
modern love with wit, originality, and hard truth.

• "Carla Tomaso takes an irreverent look at the attitudes and issues that affect lesbian relationships. A true lesbian farce, complete with costumes and mistaken identities and no shortage of ribald humor." —*Nisa Donnelly*

**SERIOUS PLEASURE**, edited by the Sheba Collective, \$10.00. Good girls, bad girls, in love or out, young or old, the editors of this collection put together a book they had always wanted to read: stories about lesbians making love, desiring other women, desiring themselves, making each other dizzy with lust, delighting each other beyond belief, taking each other to heaven and back, and sometimes disappointing each other. Published by Cleis Press.

• "In the mood for some good, sexy reading? Well then, *Serious Pleasure* is for you." —*Lambda Rising Book Report*

**MORE SERIOUS PLEASURE**, edited by the Sheba Collective, \$10.00. More exciting, witty, and outrageous lesbian erotica from the editors of *Serious Pleasure*, the best-selling collection of sexually and culturally diverse erotic literature by lesbians. This latest volume offers a generous helping of passionate prose, subtle stories, and sensuous poetry. Published by Cleis Press.



**MELTING POINT**, by Pat Califia, \$10.00. No other writer can match Pat Califia's ability to break through the walls that would limit lesbian sexuality. With her crisp and skillful prose, Califia uses these erotic stories to flirt with taboos, bend genders till they're almost unrecognizable, and to create images that will linger in the imagination long after the book is finished.

**DOC AND FLUFF**, by Pat Califia, \$9.00. The author of the popular *Macho Sluts* has written a futuristic lesbian S/M novel set in a California wracked by class, race, and drug wars. Doc is an "old Yankee peddler" who travels the deteriorating highways on her big bike. When she leaves a wild biker party with Fluff (a cute and kinky young girl) in tow, she doesn't know that Fluff is the property of the bike club's president. *Doc and Fluff* is a sexy adventure story but it also confronts serious issues like sobriety, addiction, and domestic violence.

• "Not for the faint of heart. *Doc and Fluff* is a wild ride on the edge of the future and should come with asbestos gloves as standard safety equipment. Pat Califia is at her hot, wet, trashy best." —*Lambda Book Report*

**LEAVE A LIGHT ON FOR ME**, by Jean Swallow, \$10.00. Morgan is a computer instructor who doesn't understand what exactly has hap-

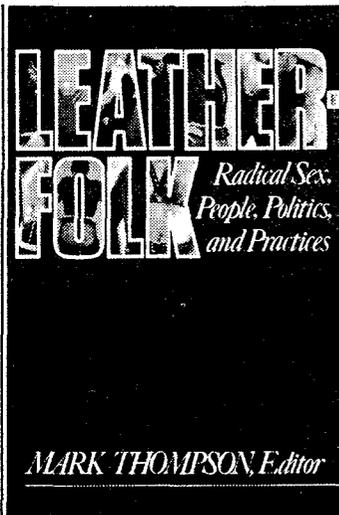


pened to her long-term relationship with Georgia, nor what exactly is happening to the rest of her when she stands near Elizabeth. Georgia, forced into exile from the South she loves and from the alcoholic family she both loves and hates, doesn't understand why, after six years of recovery, she still hasn't found her way home. And Elizabeth, the rich and beautiful doctor, doesn't understand why she can't keep a girlfriend. But Bernice, who watches and waits, understands a lot by just being herself. Together, they move from a difficult past into a passionate and hopeful future.

• "One of the most satisfying lesbian novels I have ever read. Ambitious and well-written. A marvelous job." —*Women's Review of Books*

**THE LESBIAN S/M SAFETY MANUAL**, edited by Pat Califia, \$8.00. This handy guide is an essential item for leather dykes who want to learn how to play safe and stay healthy. Edited by best-selling writer Pat Califia, *The Lesbian S/M Safety Manual* deals with issues such as sexually transmitted diseases, emotional and physical safety, and the importance of communication in S/M relationships. There is more information in this slim volume than you can shake a whip at.

• "The straightforward approach and wealth of information con-

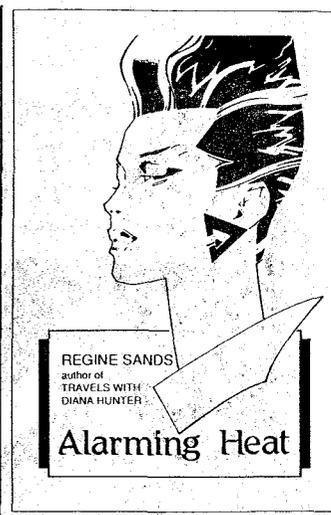


tained within these pages make this probably the best collection of information on SM to appear in print." —*Bay Windows*

**LEATHERFOLK**, edited by Mark Thompson, \$13.00. There's a new leather community in America today. It's politically aware and socially active. This ground-breaking anthology is the first nonfiction, co-gender work to focus on this large and often controversial subculture. The diverse contributors look at the history of the leather and S/M movement, how radical sex practice relates to their spirituality, and what S/M means to them personally.

• "Leatherfolk issues a bracing challenge to all of us — to begin to see where the carnal meets the soul. From so many fine writers one might have expected the exuberance and the wit gathered here, voices fresh and vital for being so uncompromised. But the rarer achievement is the tribal longing they evoke, full of fire and the power of transformation. Fasten your seatbelts and prepare for a shock to the system." —*Paul Monette*

**ALARMING HEAT**, by Regine Sands, \$8.00. The author of the popular *Travels with Diana Hunter* is back with more tales of lesbian erotic adventure: sex under the stars in a very public planetarium; a wrong number that turns into an adventure; fun behind the driver's seat; and a peek at the lustful world of leather.



*Alarming Heat* has something for every lesbian who's ready to look behind the curtain of propriety.

• "Alarming Heat is an orgasm pill in book form." —*Bay Area Reporter*

**TRAVELS WITH DIANA HUNTER**, by Regine Sands, \$8.00. When 18-year-old Diana Hunter runs away from her hometown of Lubbock, Texas, she begins an unparalleled odyssey of love, lust, and humor that spans almost twenty years. Diana makes the most of her journey on her own — but she is rarely alone. The array of women drawn to Diana's wit and body is only overshadowed by Diana's own versatile capacity for meeting their amorous needs.

• "The author obviously knows her way around a woman. The erotic scenes are vivid, passionate, and charged with tension ... The fourteen-page orgasmic finale is worth the cover cost alone." —*On Our Backs*.

**RAPTURE AND THE SECOND COMING**, by Wendy Borgstrom, \$8.00. Erotic lesbian fiction that singses the page. Gwen is a nurse running from a failed but passionate first romance with an alcoholic. She lands in New York City, where she buries her anger by acting out all her sexual fantasies: a ménage à trois in a log cabin in Maine; a bubble-bath for two; playing "top" to a petite woman tied to a four-poster; an encounter



on a subway train; a weekend in a tent on a Cape Cod beach.

- "Very stimulating lesbian erotica. My advice would be to find that special someone, run a hot bubble bath, get in and read it to each other. Make it a long and enjoyable reading." —*Lavender Morning*

**THE PERSISTENT DESIRE**, edited by Joan Nestle, \$15.00. A generation ago, butch-femme identities were taken for granted in the lesbian community. Today women who think of themselves as butch or femme often face prejudice from both the lesbian community and the straight world. Here, for the first time, dozens of femme and butch lesbians tell their stories of love, survival, and triumph.

- "The selections themselves bubble with passion and pain. Some dive beneath the surface to explore the varied meanings of gender roles. In collecting these accounts into one volume, Nestle has made sure that the integrity and diversity of butch-femme relationships will not be lost." —*Library Journal*

**DYKESCAPES**, edited by Tina Portillo, \$9.00. This anthology of lesbian short stories includes works by both new and established writers. Seventeen storytellers explore such diverse themes as racism, death, lesbian parenting, prison relationships, and interracial love and sex. They don't flinch from controversy:



their stories also deal with role-playing, fat-positivity, and intergenerational affairs.

- "Dykescapes is a collection that celebrates diversity of theme and style and content and voice, while maintaining a coherence that comes from consistent excellence. The writing is so fine — with an attention to character detail that is a delight." —*Bay Area Reporter*

**K.D. LANG**, by William Robertson, \$10.00. k.d. Lang is one of the few entertainers who has captured the imagination of both the straight and gay worlds. This first biography of one of the most popular lesbian singers of all time covers — among other things — k.d.'s childhood, the making of her first five albums, and her coming out. Published by ECW Press.

**MURDER IS MURDER IS MURDER**, by Samuel M. Steward, \$7.00. An unusual mystery starring Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, as they try to solve the mysterious disappearance of the father of their handsome deaf-mute gardener. Samuel Steward is well known under his pen name of Phil Andros; his real-life friendship with Stein and Toklas gives this book much of its realism.

- "If *Murder is Murder is Murder* is any indication it will should be the first in a series of detective novels rivaling those of Agatha Christie." —*Au Courant*



**ODD GIRLS AND TWILIGHT LOVERS**, by Lillian Faderman, \$12.00. The definitive, decade-by-decade look at the evolution of lesbian identities and ideologies, from the turn of the century to today's diverse lifestyles and communities. Faderman has collected a surprising amount of information — from new items, interviews, novels, songs, and journals — and created a compelling and remarkable account of the lesbian subcultures and their profound effect on mainstream America. (33 b&w photographs)

- "The point of reference from which all subsequent studies of twentieth-century lesbian life in the United States will begin." —*San Francisco Examiner and Chronicle*

**WOMEN ON WOMEN**, edited by Joan Nestle and Naomi Holoch, \$10.00. This contemporary collection gathers twenty-eight powerful stories by both popular established writers and startling new voices. From the universal themes of love and family, to the unique problems of racism within the gay community, these stories offer stirring, passionate insight into today's lesbian community. Authors include Willa Cather, Willyce Kim, Dorothy Allison, Jewelle Gomez, Sapphire, and many more.

- Winner of a Lambda Literary Award for Best Lesbian Anthology



**WOMEN ON WOMEN 2**, edited by Naomi Holoch and Joan Nestle, \$12.00. Daring, complex, and surprisingly intimate, this eagerly awaited successor to *Women on Women* once again mixes stories from such authors as Nona Caspers and Cherríe Moraga as they reflect on love, sex, abuse, AIDS, and the Bible. The voices here come from a wide range of racial backgrounds, ages, and opinions, offering an exciting look at the craft and imagination of today's best lesbian writers.

- "Women on Women 2 is proof that we are into that next generation of lesbian writers, women who combine craft with passion and in the process are making a whole new literature." —*Dorothy Allison*

**ONLY LAWYERS DANCING**, by Jan McKemmish, \$10.00. This unusual detective story tells the tale of two women friends and their obsessive relationship to crime: Anne Stevens, a cop's daughter who abandons her career as a psychoanalyst to become a criminal attorney, and Frances Smith, a lesbian, photographer, and daughter of a crime boss. An intricately woven novel that subverts the mystery genre while paying homage to it. Published by Cleis Press.

- "A superbly written, thoroughly captivating novel that is light years beyond the usual one-dimensional crime caper." —*Sydney Morning Herald*

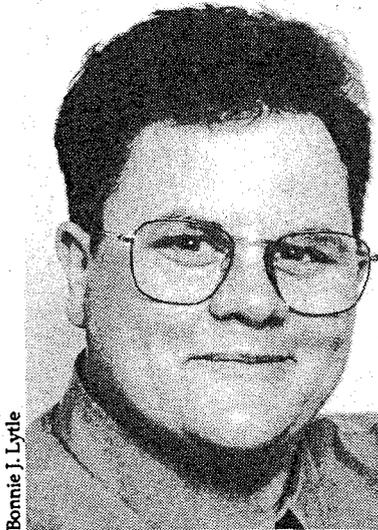
# Pure entertainment

WORD GAYMES, by Kathleen DeBold, \$9.00

Do you know your gay celebrities?

Can you match the pseudonyms of famous gay authors with their real names?

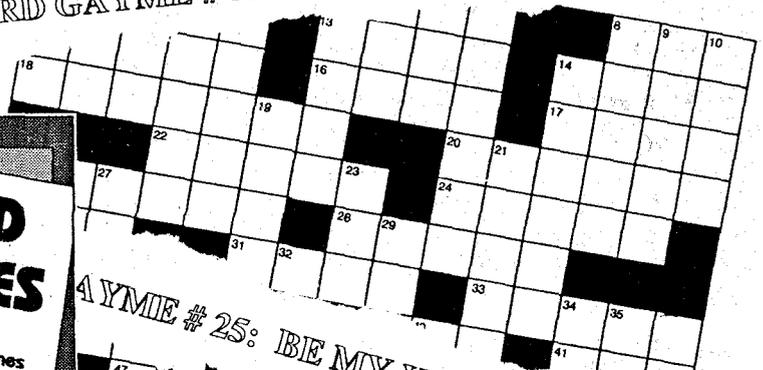
*Word Gaymes* is the perfect puzzle book for the gay trivia buff, or for those who want to learn as they go along. Kathleen DeBold has collected her best crossword puzzles and "gaycrossics" from the pages of the *Washington Blade* and *Lambda Book Report*, plus created a few new brainteasers — 101 puzzles in all. Try this sample puzzle to test your knowledge of gay life. ▶▶▶▶



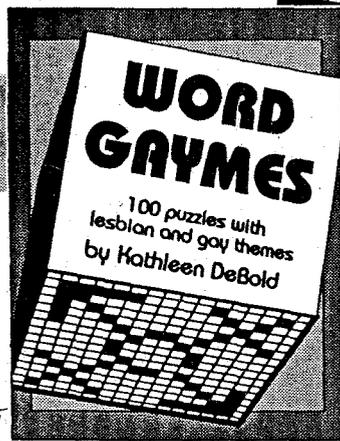
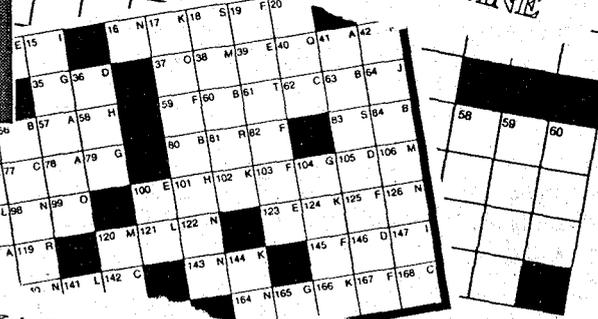
Bonnie J. Lytle

Kathleen DeBold is a cartoonist, writer, and activist. She is the political services coordinator at the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund and lives in Beltsville, Maryland.

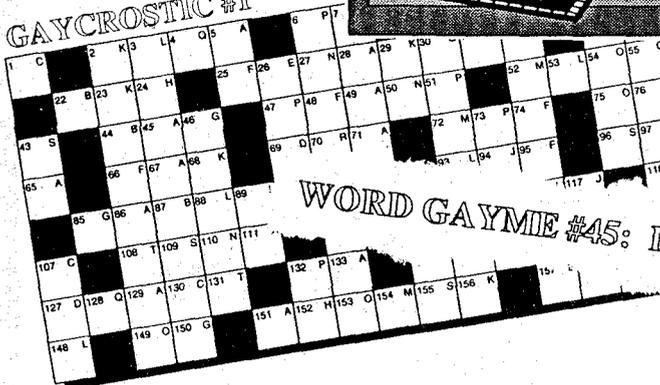
WORD GAYME # 55: LEZ WATCH MOVIES



WORD GAYME # 25: BE MY VALENTINE

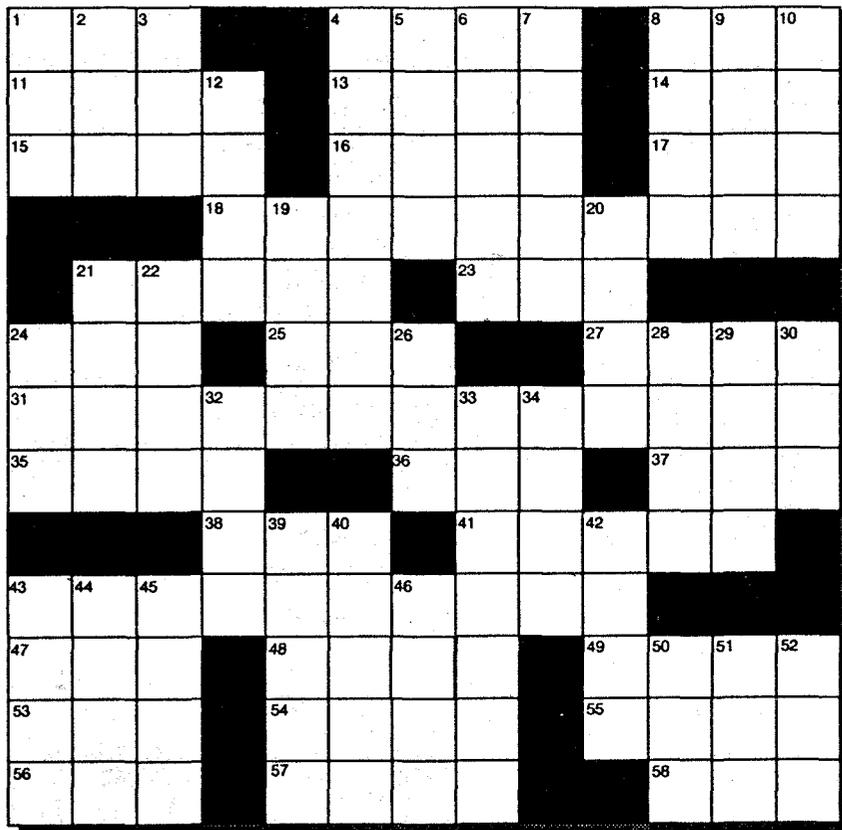


GAYCROSTIC #1



WORD GAYME #45: KATHERINE V. FORREST (KVF)

# WORD GAYME # 8: LESBIAN SING-ALONG



## DOWN

1. Likely
2. Castleberry and Dupree, e.g.
3. Fast flyer
4. Epidemic disease
5. Olympic gold medalist Lewis
6. Whistling chanteuse, \_\_\_\_\_ Blue Tremblay
7. *Casablanca* character, and namesakes
8. Wading bird
9. Roman emperor
10. Author Levanthal
12. Allen Ginsberg classic, \_\_\_\_\_
19. Holly Near collaborators, \_\_\_\_\_-Illimani
20. Prefix meaning "middle"
21. George Stambolian work, \_\_\_\_\_ *Fantasies/Gay Realities*
22. Footnote abbreviation
24. "Gay Name Game" singer Wilson
26. Field for Mapplethorpe and Harung
28. "Terminal Hold" singer Fure
29. Lemon drinks
30. Opium® initials
32. Calf meat
33. Spring holidays
34. Designer Chanel
39. Lesbian songstress Tillery
40. Negatively charged particle
42. Biblical seed spiller
43. "No Hiding Place" singer Watkins
44. Brainchild
45. Absence
46. Oversupply
50. "Face the Music" singer Christian
51. Egg
52. "Mooncircles" musician Gardner

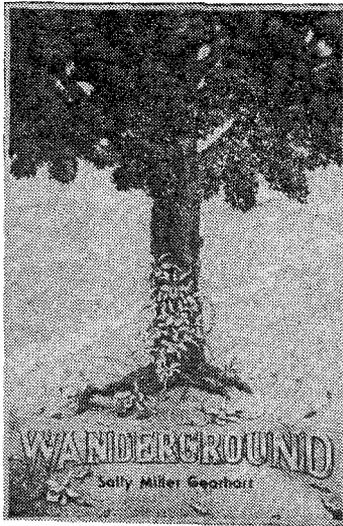
© 1992 Kathleen DeBoid

## ACROSS

1. Personals and classifieds
4. Roman 251
8. "\_\_\_\_ and outs"
11. It comes to shove
13. Carry
14. Wager
15. Oz dog
16. Killer whales
17. Personal tax shelter
18. "The Changer and the Changed" singer, Cris \_\_\_\_\_
21. Pooh's creator
23. Opposite WNW
24. Typewriter key
25. La la lead-in
27. Remain
31. Pioneering women's music company

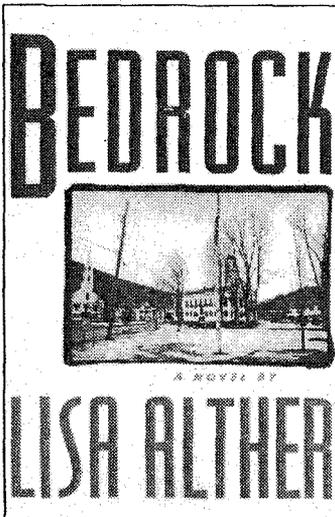
## ACROSS (Cont'd)

35. Ancient Persian
36. "The Way" (Chinese)
37. Snake-like fish
38. In the fashion of
41. Aberdeen residents
43. "Heartsong" singer, June \_\_\_\_\_
47. Dentist's organization
48. Cleo's river
49. Out of control
53. \_\_\_\_\_ room
54. Gloomy
55. Russian river
56. Long-haired bovine
57. Social insects
58. Leigh Rutledge work, *The \_\_\_\_\_ Decades*



**THE WANDERGROUND**, by Sally Miller Gearhart, \$9.00. These absorbing, imaginative stories tell of a future women's culture, created in harmony with the natural world. The women depicted combine the control of mind and matter with a sensuous adherence to their own realities and history.

"Sally Gearhart's *Wanderground* moved me to tears. To laugh and longing. To anger and bitterness and compassion. And perhaps most important, it moved me beyond polemics. The *Wanderground* is so good it's dangerous, and it deserves as wide a readership as it can find."  
—M.A. Karr, in *The Advocate*



**BEDROCK**, by Lisa Alther, cloth, \$20.00. A successful New York photographer falls in love with, and impulsively moves to, a small town in Vermont, where she plans to spend the latter years of her

## Get any 3 of these books for just \$15

Values to \$44!

Choose the books you want to read from these two pages — historical, contemporary, and utopian fiction; erotica; nonfiction; and real-life stories of lesbians and gay men in all walks of life — and get great savings. This is an excellent way to build up your personal library with just the right books. (If you prefer, you can order one or two of these books at the regular prices as indicated.)

This offer expires March 31, 1994.

Your order must be received before that date.

life in peace. As she settles into her new surroundings, however, she discovers a hilarious wealth of small-town drama, and comes face-to-face with the very issues of family, marriage, and friendship she thought she had left behind.



**A MISTRESS MODERATELY FAIR**, by Katherine Sturtevant, \$9.00. Restoration England provides the setting for this vivid story of two women — one a playwright, the other an actress — who fall in love. Margaret Featherstone and Amy Dudley romp through a London peopled by nameless thousands and the titled few in a historical romance that is the most entertaining and best researched

that you'll ever read.

• "Delightful, compelling, well-crafted tale which, when the reader is finished, makes her wish that the story never ends. Sturtevant's research of life and theatre in seventeenth-century London is thorough ... Sturtevant blends history with adventure, erotica, and charm to create a lesbian romance that both entertains and sparks the imagination." —Bay Area Reporter



**ANNIE ON MY MIND**, by Nancy Garden, cloth, \$16.00. Liza isn't telling her mother the truth. There is much more between her and Annie, so much more that she is afraid to tell her parents. Every time they see each other that winter, they struggle not to touch or say too much, until they are

certain of what they feel. But even though they finally accept their love for each other, they still cannot be open about it: what if someone finds out?

### DAUGHTERS OF KHATON



by Merrill Mushroom

**DAUGHTERS OF KHATON**, by Merrill Mushroom, \$8.00. A team of space explorers searches the galaxy for unpopulated planets suitable for human colonization. Their ship accidentally lands on Khaton, a beautiful land of perfectly balanced light, color, fragrance, and flowers that is populated only by lesbians. • "Mushroom works her plot well." —Uranian Worlds

THE THRONE TRILOGY  
The RAGING PEACE  
Artemis Oakgrove



**THE RAGING PEACE**, by Artemis Oakgrove, \$9.00. Love, anger, and desire bring together Leslie, a lawyer with a full practice but an empty life, and Ryan, a skilled pilot who is filled with rage and grief since the death of her father. Though they find love,

their ultimate challenge comes from the deadly, powerful Anara, an ancient goddess who seeks revenge for a centuries-old betrayal.

• "The Raging Peace has everything—a millionaire butch with a private jet, her gorgeous femme attorney, bar fights, dykes on bikes, sleazy sex, public sex, leather sex, romance, intrigue—all set against the cosmic backdrop of a powerful goddess's thirst for revenge. So who needs James Bond?" —Pat Califia

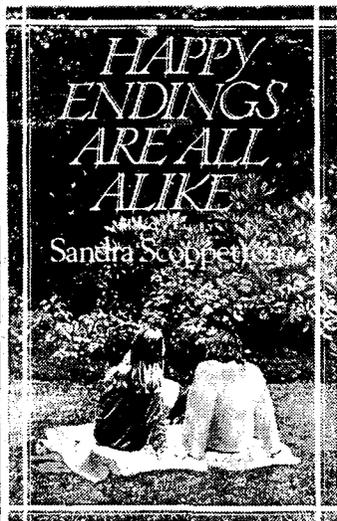
**IRIS**, by Janine Veto, \$7.00. When Iris and Dee meet in Hawaii, all they want is to live together in this island paradise. But circumstances force Iris to flee to the Greek islands; when she and Dee are reunited, they find that their love must face a formidable foe if it is to survive.

• "The book works on many levels. It is, first and at its best, a fast-moving adventure novel [with] a compelling lesbian romance..." —Gay Life (Chicago)



**ONE TEENAGER IN TEN**, edited by Ann Heron, \$5.00. One teenager in ten is gay. Here, 26 young people from around the country discuss their experiences: coming out to themselves, to parents, and friends; trying to pass as straight; running away; incest; trouble with the law; making initial contacts with the gay community; religious concerns; and more. Their words will provide encouragement for other teenagers facing similar experiences.

• "Through it all, these young people fight to find a sense of their own self-worth. Their stories should be heartening to the one teenager in ten who is homosexual, and enlightening to those who are not." —Wilson Library Bulletin



**HAPPY ENDINGS ARE ALL ALIKE**, by Sandra Scoppetone, \$7.00. It was their last summer before college, and Jaret and Peggy were in love. But as Jaret said, "It always seems as if when something great happens, then something lousy happens soon after." Soon her worst fears turned into brute reality.

• "A touching love story with interesting characters and some suspense." —Wilson Library Journal

• "Ms. Scoppetone's tensely plotted thriller shows we've come a long way from the days when homosexuality could be discussed only as someone else's problem." —New York Times

**IT'S TIME**, by Jana Bluejay, \$8.00. In this lyrical and delightful feminist utopian fantasy Constance and Meriwyn struggle to defend their ecological sanctuary against a repressive city. Forced by an approaching menace to leave their wilderness refuge, their escape route parallels that of three women fleeing the increasingly corrupt and dangerous city. The issues are genuine, and the women are strong and imaginative. If you are concerned about planetary ecology and peace,

or if you simply enjoy reading good fantasy, don't miss this book.

• "With a light touch and rippling sense of humor... It's Time moves like water, eddying here, fast flowing there. This is a fine addition to feminist utopian literature, and a good book to read aloud." —The Women's Review of Books



**BETWEEN FRIENDS**, by Gillian E. Hanscombe, \$8.00. The four women in this book represent radically different political outlooks and sexualities, yet they are tied together by the bonds of friendship. Through their experiences, recorded in a series of letters, Hanscombe deftly portrays the close relationship between political beliefs and everyday lives.

• "A love story set in a battlefield mined with ideals... Risks and revolutions in friendships which are microcosms of the larger struggles of women." —Off Our Backs

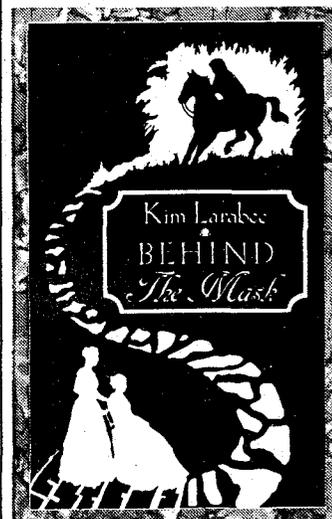
• "Between Friends is most certainly recommended reading for any person (male, female—gay or straight) who not only wants to understand lesbians but also the complexities of the feminist movement." —Gay Chicago

**IN SEARCH OF GAY AMERICA**, by Neil Miller, cloth, \$19.00. Neil Miller traveled through small towns, rural areas, midsize cities, suburbs, and large urban centers in search of what it means to be gay in America. In Search of Gay America treats its subject

thematically, weaving together such topics as minority communities, religion, and law and politics. Along the way, this award-winning book presents a fresh perspective on urban gay life, discussing everything from gay marriages to lesbian motherhood.

• "Readers will enjoy this gifted writer's evocation of small-town life and colorfully apt personality sketches." —Publishers Weekly

• "Illustrates in rich detail the startling ordinariness of gay and lesbian lives in the United States." —Newsday



**BEHIND THE MASK**, by Kim Larabee, \$7.00. Maddie Elverton is a fashionable member of English society in the early nineteenth century—a society which limits her aspirations to the confines of the bedroom and the drawing room. But Maddie leads a double life, a life of high adventure as a highway robber. Maddie's carefully balanced world becomes threatened when she falls in love with Allie Sifton, and must compete for the affection of her beloved with the hot-blooded law officer who pursues them both.

• "If you have a romantic bent, and if you have a yen for vicarious adventure, low-key intrigue, and some nicely done erotica, Behind the Mask is just the sort of spirited romp you're looking for. It's wonderful exercise for the imagination." —Lee Lynch, author and syndicated columnist

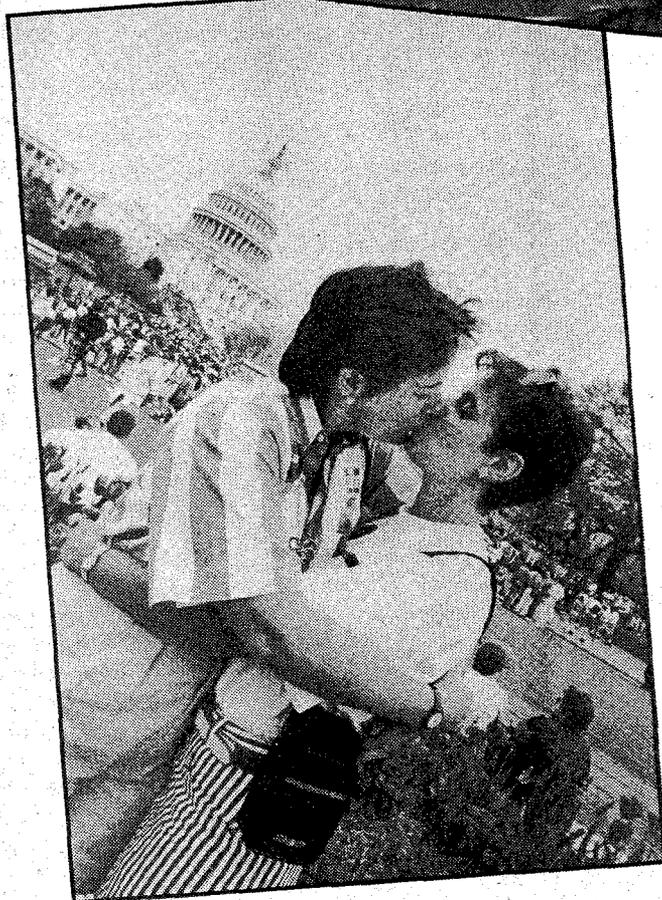
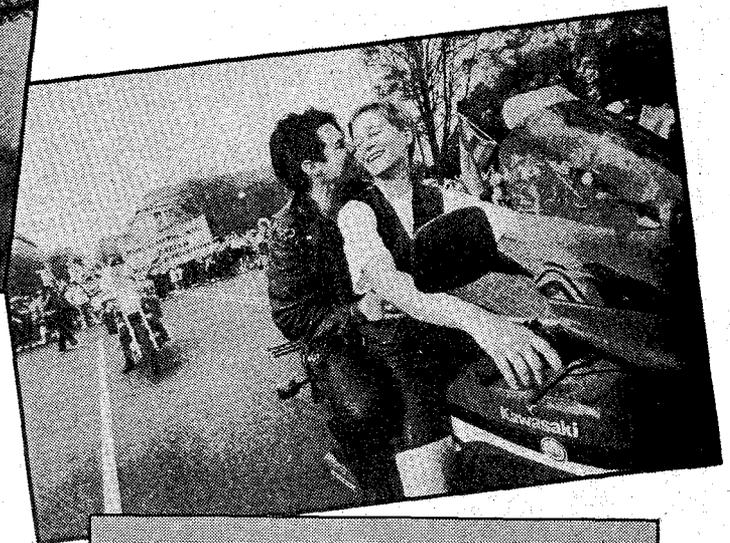
# On parade

**ONE MILLION STRONG**, by Cece Cox, Lisa Means, and Lisa Pope, \$18.00

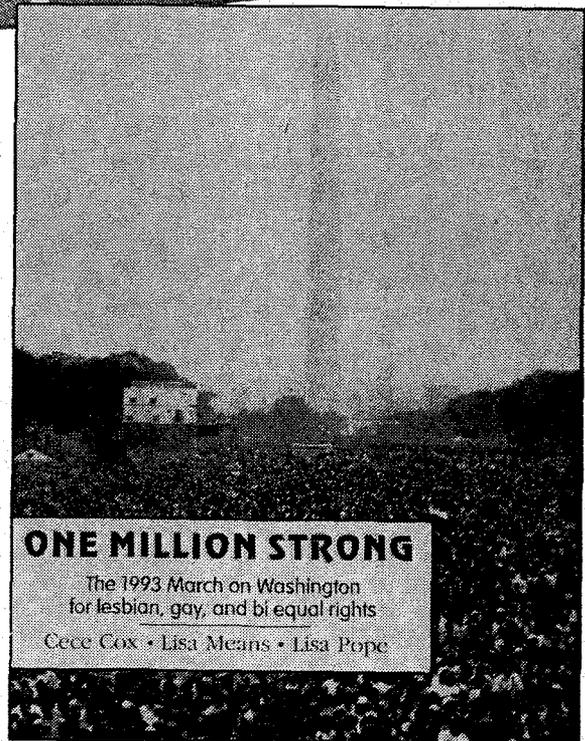
A photographic remembrance, with text, of one of the largest demonstrations in history for gay and lesbian equality — the 1993 March on Washington. This is the perfect souvenir of the march, or a chance for those who weren't able to attend to experience it for themselves.



*Left: Cheers went up when Melissa Etheridge took the main stage in front of the Capitol and serenaded weary marchers with her popular tune "Keep It Precious."  
Below: Dykes on bikes revved engines in front of the marchers from Northampton, Mass., which they declared to be a "Lesbian Occupied Territory."*



*Above: San Franciscans Rebecca McReynolds and Laura Castellanos share a kiss after the Hands around the Capitol rally.*



## **ONE MILLION STRONG**

The 1993 March on Washington  
for lesbian, gay, and bi equal rights

Cece Cox • Lisa Means • Lisa Pope

# Such sweet sorrow

SITA, by Kate Millett, cloth, \$10.00

AN AUTOGRAPHED FIRST EDITION



A lesbian classic, *Sita* is a vivid and intimate account of the slow decline and end of a love affair between the author and Sita, a flamboyant, temperamental woman some ten years older. The fading of love, with all its agony and false-dawn respites, is recorded here in ecstatic and painful detail, moment by moment, obsessively.

"She planned to leave you last fall, came over and told me you were wiped out, over." "Odd she never told me." "Really?" Sherman looks in her wineglass, a large glass cup, mottled, venous, beautiful. "You mean she never mentioned any of this to you?" "Not at all. When we said goodbye after Europe and I stayed on in New York while she came back out here, the plan was for me to finish the first big work on the loft and come out around the end of the year. Then she said she'd come to New York for Christmas. She was on and off with that, but finally she came. She'd become very distant by November, it was hard to get her on the phone, I had started to worry about how things were. But at Christmas we patched it up, so I came out in January. To see how it would go. But I'd no idea she had ditched the whole thing when she got back last fall." "Well, she came over expressly to tell me that it was all over between the two of you. That's why I was so surprised to see you the other day. That you were out here again. And to see the two of you together. Great, I thought, they're back together." I laugh, a discouraged, mortified laugh intended to be cynical.

The light falls in Sherman's living room. Marguerite is still at work. The chicken is defrosting, only enough for two people, but I have accepted the invitation to dinner anyway, desperate beyond good manners. "She loves you a great deal. She said that last September." I am accustomed to Sita's protestations

of love, protestations made to my friends, often with tears; she adores me, I am the great love of her life, but impossible. Just before Christmas my friend Barbara was out in California and had lunch with Sita. Barbara was the first to bring me the news Sita was not planning to come. They had lunch in San Francisco. Sita wept. "She's so much in love with you, she loves you so much," Barbara reported. I smiled, pleased, self-conscious. "She's coming for Christmas." "I don't think she will be," Barbara said, her voice suddenly uncertain, embarrassed. "Sure she is, we've been planning it for months." "She told me she was planning to stay out there with her family." But I ignored Barbara, what would she know? Then Hattie, too, saying that Sita had told her that having Christmas with all her children about her was the most precious thing in the world. And indeed she had had it, flying East to them only the day after Christmas, but she'd said it was her job that prevented her coming sooner, they made her work on the day of Christmas Eve. And then it was her job that made the visit so short, a mere four days, they had demanded that she be back right away. In coming she risked being fired. And I

believed, just as I believe the reports of her passion, the tears, all of it. In her drama she loves me grievously, weeps for herself in renouncing me, believes in her grief as she renounces, is passionately convinced by her passion as she recites it. Then she goes off, works, administers, flourishes, takes on new lovers, shops for men. But on meeting someone who knows me, on reflecting, she will weep and declare her love. And whether she announces its end, or gives intimations of its survival, the listener is profoundly impressed by her tenderness, her intoxication, her nostalgia, her grief. Nearly three years I have been the captive of this performance, real and unreal, persuasive, compelling. My stomach melts at the sound of that voice speaking its love, I am moved past speaking or reason. Is it her love for me that I love, this melancholy and infinitely tender emotion figured forth, expressed with such perfect inflection and tone, fullness of eye? This extravagant love for me. That someone, a beautiful woman even, had loved me so plangently. This love for me now withdrawn, now bitterly withheld, hidden and eclipsed.

And of course it's been gone a long time, far longer than I knew. Sherman knew, other friends knew. But I didn't. The dusk coming into the room, sad as the end of day, the paintings in their places. We are left always with things like paintings, the cold objects with which we console ourselves. It comes down to that. I walk around Sherman's studio, the little room next door; brushes, tubes of paint, pens, paper, stretches, rolls of canvas, the messiness of a palette. If I went home ... suddenly wanting home, the loft, wanting to draw again, to work, to live on my own. Enough of this hanging around. Dependent sick shit. Having raved to Sherman, I already know I will stay, keep trying, hang on a little longer. ▼

# Chills and thrills

EMBRACING THE DARK, edited by Eric Garber, \$9.00

Eleven chilling horror stories — most previously unpublished — shatter the old clichés and invert the old metaphors. These talented writers have created their own worlds of lesbian vampires and gay werewolves, and sexual fantasies that take on lives of their own. Contributors include Jewelle Gomez, Jeffrey N. McMahan, and Jess Wells.

In this excerpt from Kij Johnson's "Ferata," Eleanor Stanfield meets a vampire on a vendetta.



I am fumbling with the keys when the red Corvette with the plates that say FERATA angles growling across two lanes of traffic and slides into the parking lot immediately behind me, closing me in. The driver's door opens and cold air brushes my bare legs.

She unfolds out of the driver's seat to stand beside me. It's the same red leather dress, the same black glasses utterly concealing her eyes, the same whiteness to skin and hair. I stand still, afraid to move.

"You're leaving."

I had forgotten the richness of her voice, like powder across my ears, like desert dust. I am afraid to speak, to reveal the thin scratchiness of my own voice, afraid to look at her. Instead, I look back at the diner's bright windows. Tony pours coffee for a thick man with a cigarette in a holder. The two policemen still listen to the chef, who gestures absently with a paring knife as he speaks. No one is looking out the windows at the pale woman beside me, or the Corvette pulled across the driveway's entrance.

She slouches against the hood of her car. Her neck curves away from me, half-hidden in the sheet of white hair. My eyes trace the sharp arc of her spine, softened by the furred suede that wraps it. Abruptly, she turns her head to me before I can look away. Eyes hidden by the glasses, the white face looks alien, impassive. The black lenses reflect the streetlights and the green and chrome of the diner and the dark shape that is me, distorted against the brightness.

"I'm sorry." I feel hot and awkward, caught like a child staring at someone in a wheelchair.

The red lips curl a bit, and a tiny crease shows blue by the corner of her mouth. "I understand."

"The man you met last night is dead."

"Is he." Her voice is neutral.

"Why are you back?"

"To find you."

"What if someone sees you?"

She gestures with one bare arm, and I am lost in the glow of her skin under the lights. "They won't." Her voice drifts around me, deadening the street noises in my ears. I look at the red Corvette, at its gold-and-blue license plates. Still running, it growls ferally to itself.

"Is that your name — Ferata?"

"It's a nickname. Tell me your name."

"Eleanor. People call me Ell." I wait for that lush voice to say something, but the silence stretches. "You're from California?"

"L.A., yes. I have contacts there."

"I know people there."

"Not my people." She smiles.

I digest this in silence, watching the people inside the diner. Still no one is looking, and I think about shouting or screaming, just to get someone, the policemen, to look up and see her. Her voice startles me, and I turn to her guiltily.

"I wanted to talk to you again. You're afraid and unhappy."

"I'm fine."

"Was it the rape?"

"I'm fine," I say again, but my voice is uncontrolled and rises too much.

"Someone once forced his will on me, though it wasn't rape. I can't forget, either."

"Will you leave me alone?" I ask half-hysterically.

"You don't have to be afraid of me."

"How can you know this stuff?"

"You were hurt, and now you're afraid of everything — other men, the world, me. But you don't have to be afraid of any of us. I've been through something like this."

"Nothing is like this."

"There are things that are worse, Eleanor."

My scars ache with the tension in my back, and I suddenly want to scream it all out at her, the whole sordid fight and the feel of his big hands throwing me over the burner. I feel my hands shaking.

She steps closer to me. I hold my ground, though I have to tilt my face back to watch stray pieces of her hair lift and drop in the slight breeze.

"You are beautiful tonight," she says.

"You should always wear red."

I look down at my plain sundress and the greasy hair that falls across my face. "Bullshit."

"You are beautiful, or you will be again."

"There's nothing beautiful in me."

"Tell me what happened."

I turn away. "I can't."

Cold hands hold my shoulders. "Then cry."

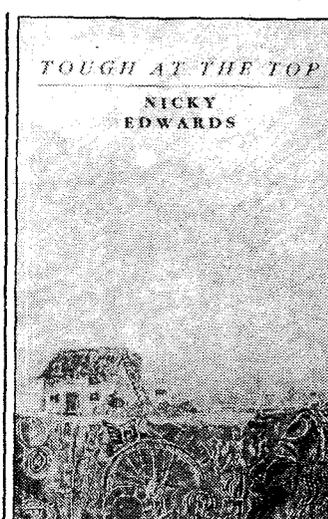
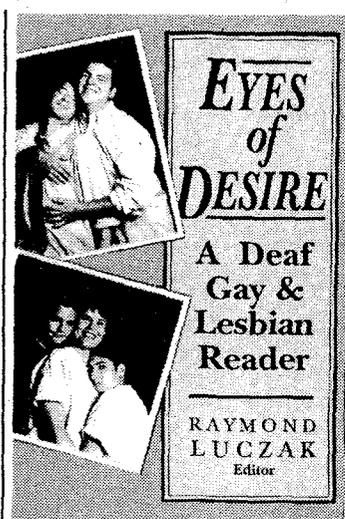
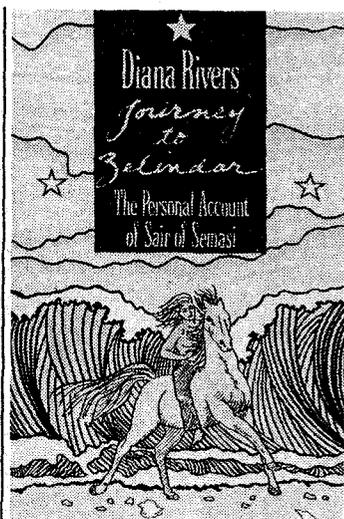
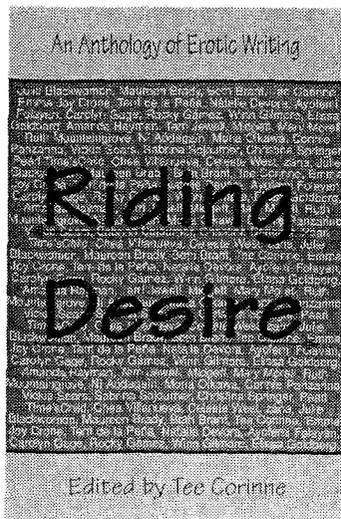
I snatch myself away. "Don't touch me." Her thick voice runs around me like water, murmuring nothings. Even through the salt of my tears I smell the sweet cool scent of her. There are cold hands on my hair, but this time I don't pull away. They stroke my head and neck. I haven't been touched like that since Mike and I started fighting about our jobs. It is a touch like the night's breeze in the desert.

I lift my head. She is looking at me, the black blaze of the lens reflecting my pale face. I can't pull away.

"Don't be afraid. You've paid enough for something that wasn't your fault. You don't have to pay any more."

I nod, mesmerized by her whispering lips and her cold hands on my shoulders.

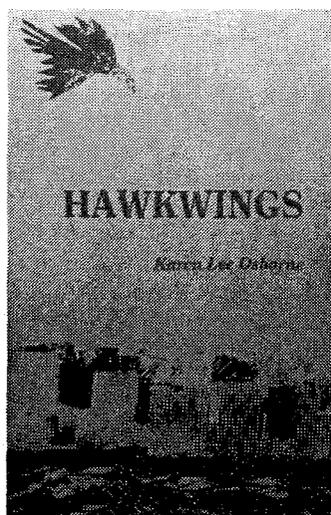
"I won't hurt you, Ell. I promise." ▼



# A reader's potpourri

**RIDING DESIRE**, edited by Tee Corine, \$10.00. Twenty-seven women, including Chea Villanueva, Celeste West, Tee Corinne, and Julie Blackwomon, contribute to this diverse collection of lesbian erotic fiction. Published by Banned Books.

**HAWKWINGS**, by Karen Lee Osborne, \$10.00. Emily Hawk scours Chicago to locate her dying friend's ex-lover. In the process she discovers parts of the city — and of herself — that she never knew existed. Published by Third Side Press.



**JOURNEY TO ZELINDAR**, by Diana Rivers, \$10.00. A lovely young woman from the mythical town of Eezore flees the tyranny of her husband and learns the goodness of life from a mystical band of lesbian warriors.

**FOR SYLVIA**, by Valentine Ackland, cloth, published at \$14.00, our price just \$5.00. This book-length love letter from the author to novelist Sylvia Townsend Warner gives a compelling picture of a lesbian romance in early-twentieth-century England.

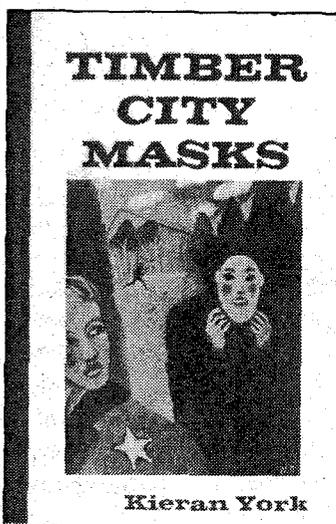
**ANGEL DANCE**, by M.F. Beal, published at \$5.00, our price just \$3.00. Romance, politics, and suspense combine in this thriller about a Chicana detective. Kat can fight her way through anything — except her passion for writer Angel Stone.

**LEGENDE**, by Jeannine Al-lard, \$6.00. In the nineteenth century, two women living in France loved each other. They had no models for such a relationship, so they created their own.

**EYES OF DESIRE**, edited by Raymond Luczak, \$10.00. For the first time, lesbians and gay men from the deaf community tell their stories.

**LONG TIME PASSING**, edited by Marcy Adelman, \$8.00. Older lesbians tell of their lives, loves, and of the building of a sense of community.

**THE LAW OF RETURN**, by Alice Bloch, \$9.00. A young American woman goes to Israel in search of her identity as a Jew. Gradually, she comes to terms with both her Jewishness and her lesbianism.



**TOUGH AT THE TOP**, by Nicky Edwards, \$11.00. A derelict Norfolk cottage is the site of some audacious optimism on the part of Felicity, a newly unemployed urban lesbian feminist. Published by Onlywomen Press.

**JUST HOLD ME**, by Linda Parks, \$8.00. When Constance Brooks's handicapped lover, Barbara, dies from an overdose of sleeping pills, the wheels of America's criminal justice system snare Constance for a murder she did not commit.

**SMOKESCREEN**, by Lynette Prucha, \$11.00. Mercedes Martini is lured into L.A.'s erotic lesbian underground when her actress friend, Mona Lisa, disappears. Has Mona been kidnapped — or killed? Published by Clothespin Fever Press.

**TIMBER CITY MASKS**, by Kieran York, \$10.00. When her lover's best friend is murdered, Deputy Royce Madison must sort through sexual and racial prejudice, family loyalties, and small-town fear in her quest to unmask the killer. Published by Third Side Press.

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