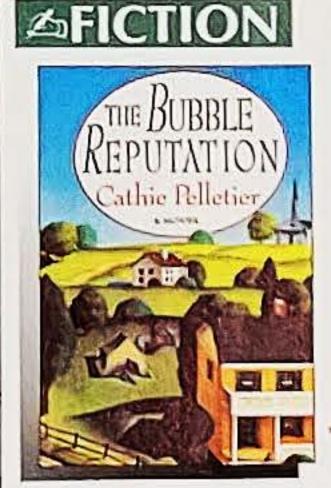
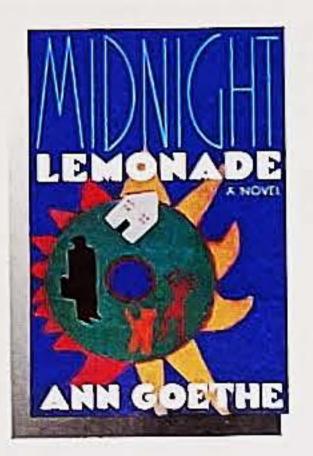
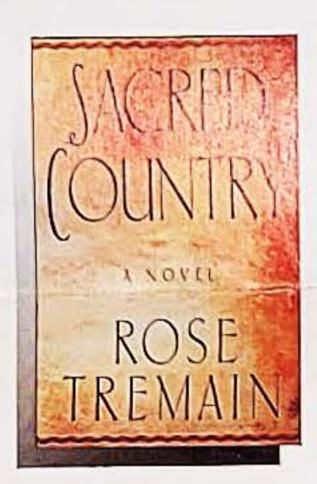
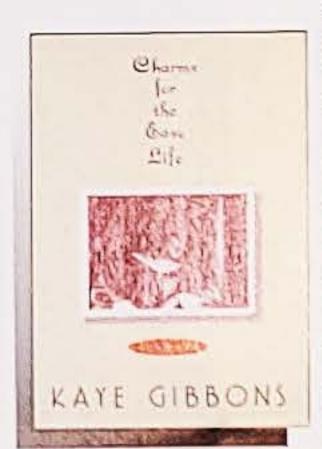
Cathie Pelletier, Author of The Bubble Reputation • THE READER • THE READER









The Bubble Reputation

Cathie Pelletier In the wake of her lover's suicide, Rosemary retreats into herself, then works her way back out into the world of Bixley, Maine. She is coaxed from her cocoon by her gay uncle Bishop, a 300-pound know-it-all; her sister Miriam, who wears only green; and Lizzie, an old college roommate. Their antics—and an unexpected catastrophe—enable Rosemary to find a new place in the world her lover left behind. See interview below. Also available from Cathie Pelletier: Once Upon a Time on the Banks. (Fiction) Crown \$21.00

> Dear James Ion Hassler

The wonderful characters of

Staggerford, Minnesota, return in a moving new novel that centers on

ISBN: 0-517-59311-4 **DEAR JAMES** 

1st Novel Midnight Lemonade Ann Goethe

Katherine Pierson, raised in an isolated Mississippi River town and educated in a convent school, careens into adulthood when she marries a man 12 years her senior. Unprepared for marriage, motherhood, and the death of her warm and spirited self, Katherine decides to abandon her existence to grasp for passions never known. Can she face the subsequent choices she must make? Ann Goethe debuts with a resonant voice that is evocative and original. (Fiction) Delacorte

ISBN: 0-385-30807-8

521.50

Sacred Country Rose Tremain

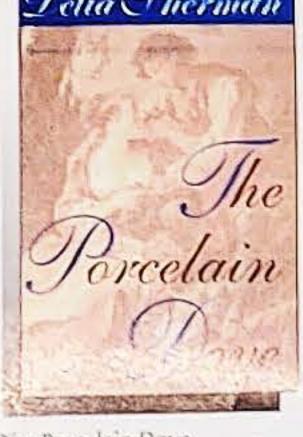
On a snowy day in England in 1952, six-year-old Mary Ward realizes with perfect clarity that she is really a boy and that her destiny is to be a man. Sacred Country is the story of Mary (who will become Martin) and her pursuit of this elusive identity, as well as the story of those around her; her mother, who periodically checks into the local asylum; her brother, who has his own vision; and a neighbor's son. who is enchanted by country singers. One of England's most exhilarating young writers brings us a novel of beauty, humor, and vision. (Fiction) Atheneum 521.00

ISBN: 0-689-12170-9

Charms for the Easy Life.

Kaye Gibbons Kaye Gibbons presents the seart or neming tale of three waited Southern women: Margaret, whose coming of ago is complicated by the homelront demands of World War II. Charles have were from ever aring from teprosy to lovesickness with barks and whitein and Lophia, whose strength lies in controlling her world and landing the man of her choice. The result is a spellbinding novel from the writer Eudora Welty has praised as having "honesty of thought and eye and feeling and word." Also available from Kaye Gibbons: A Cure for Dreams, (Fiction) Putnam ISBN: 0-399-13791-2 \$19,95

Staggerford's moral conscience, Agatha McGee, last seen in A Green Journey. After discovering that her pen pal and soul mate James is a Catholic priest, Agatha breaks with him and turns to other relationships-then a trip to Italy-to sustain her. Humorous and life-affirming. Dear James follows the surprising arc of the couple's lives and relationship. (Fiction) Ballantine ISBN: 0-345-37707-9 \$21.00 Telia Therman



READER .

The Porcelain Dove Delia Sherman

Set in aristocratic 18th-century France, this heady novel is an exquisite blend of authentic memoir and adult fairy tale. Narrated by the irrepressible Berthe Duvet, chambermaid to a French duchess, The Porcelain Dove sweeps us into a world where a curse hurled centuries before must be redeemed by an epic quest. Introducing us to Marie Antoinette and the Marguis de Sade, who already are living in the shadow of the guillotine, Delia Sherman's novel is remarkably rich, readable, and funny. (Fiction) Dutter ISBN: 0-525-93608-4

522.60

EGASE SHT . SECONS SHT . SECONS SHT

As colorful and ebullient as the characters In her novels, in many ways Cathla Pelletier seems unlikely to have writen a book that explores the troubling aucrmath of suicide. But then The Bubble Reputation (see above) is as much a celebration of the rebirth of Rosemary, whose companion William took his life while on an art tour of Europe, as it is a search for the reasons behind the death.

Like Pelletier's previous novels. The Bubble Reputation is set in the author's native state of Maine. Though Pelletier now resides near Nashville, she's planning to return to her home state soon. Will songwriting, now a secondary interest for Pelletier, become foremost among her creative outlets in Maine? Pelletier laughs at the absurdity of the

propertion from chow it I mean ! came a statistic may be about Maine,

are the a serial materials.

No. I think I could write an urban-type book-I have always thought that I would bring some Mattagashers down here who wanted to make it big as country music stars. [Mattagash is one of Pelletler's fictional Maine towns.] It would be kind of a fun thing, and I know enough about it, having spent so much time on the road and in the studio with Jim [Glaser]-and just having spent time in the business.

I could do that, but I wouldn't even begin to set a novel of initiation or anything like (Continued on page 3)

## AT ISSUE:

THE WAR OF ART: Interview with John Frohnmayer, author of Leaving Town Alive: Confessions of an Arts Warrior

Brimming with optimism, John Frohnmayer journeyed to Washington, D. C. in 1989 to serve a cause he believed in: the arts in America. Appointed by President Bush as chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, Frohnmayer took office in the midst of the uproar over the sexually explicit Mapplethorpe exhibition, and was abruptly fired two and a half years later. Now, a year after his exit from the Endowment, Frohnmayer delivers Leaving Town Alive: Confessions of an Arts Warrior-an Insider account of his harrowing education on the front lines of America's culture wars (see description, page 3).

Leaving Town Alive, however, is more a telling chronological record than it is a "tellall." In a phone interview from his D. C. home, Frohnmayer, who admits that it was both painful and therapeutic to take a hard look at his 30-odd months at the Endowment, agrees. "Leaving Town Alive is not a 'now-I'm-going-to-get-you-guys' sort of book. It's just that there has been so much misinformation regarding all this that it was a luxury to be able to write it down the way it happened. That part of it was less cathartic than it was something I was really glad to have the opportunity to do."

Frohnmayer-who decided to remain in Washington to stay close to the eye of the arts storm, to speak on the topic, and to write-offers three reasons to read Leaving Town Alive. "The first is that the book is about the First Amendment and my confrontation with it. The First Amendment is not a comfortable concept for most people because basically it requires us to put aside our natural actions and say to someone who espouses an idea that we may abhor, 'I will protect your right to say that, even though I will argue until my last breath to persuade the rest of the world that you are wrong.' That kind of notion seems not to be widely appreciated in today's society. There's so much focus on the hearer—people don't want to be offended-instead of focus on the speaker. Secondly, a lot of people are reexamining government now, and this is a book that helps that examination because it's a very inside view of government. The third reason is that it's the first book out of the Bush administration."

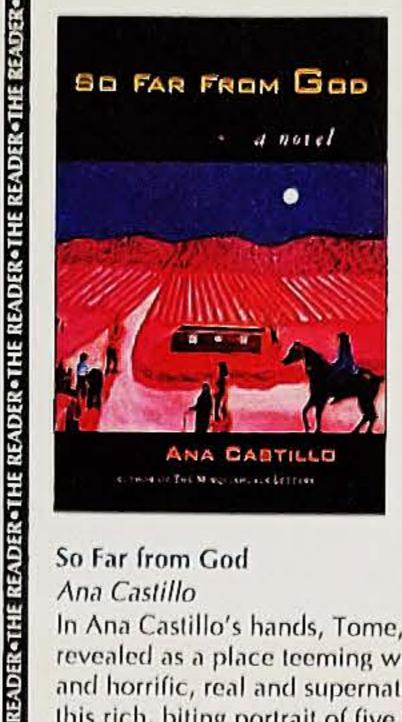
Frohnmayer hopes the Clinton administration-with its focus on the economy-will recognize the economic value of American creativity. "The arts are really part of the solution," says Frohnmayer. "The arts feed our most significant industry, which is the export of copyrighted materials-movies, books, recordings. We get a bigger positive balance of trade return on the export of copyrighted materials than any other thing besides jet planes."

Why are so many people afraid of the arts? Frohnmayer believes that one of the reasons is the proclivity of art to kick us out of the comfort zone. "Not all art is challenging, but some art is made to make us squirm, to force us to confront issues we otherwise may not want to confront. An example of that is the American play Death of a Salesman, which has had tremendous longevity because of its fundamental truth about our ability to deceive ourselves as human beings. That's not good news to a lot of people.

"The other reason is—and this appears throughout the book—there are a lot of people who have seen this as a gold-plated issue for other agendas, for raising money or promoting their own fundamentalist causes, whatever. And in that sense the arts are merely a playing field. That's not so bad if the arts get equal time. It is too bad if the arts merely remain the conduit."

Frohnmayer feels that people in the arts community need to do a better job reaching people who are intimidated by the arts-by getting more people into museums, by taking museums outside to people. He feels, too, that the ultimate key is early education, "so children aren't locked out of literacy in hearing and seeing and experiencing. It's every bit as cruel to deny them that kind of access is as it is to deny them access to reading."

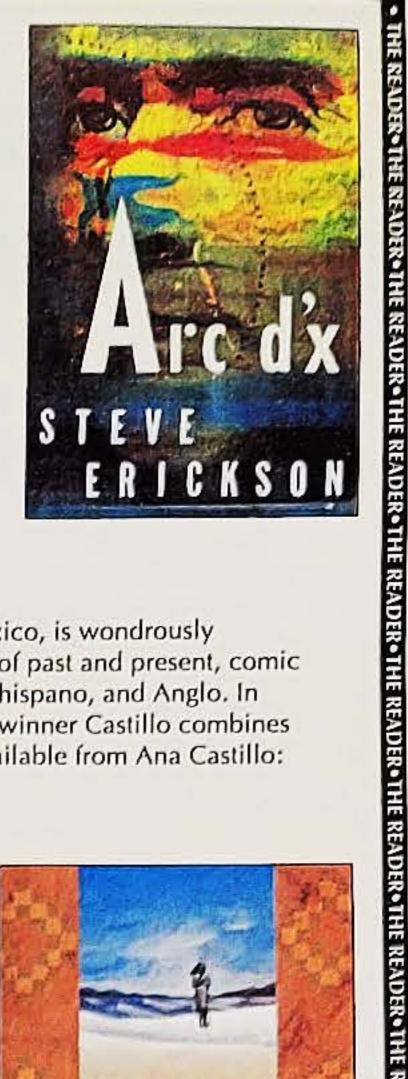
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Arc d'x Steve Erickson

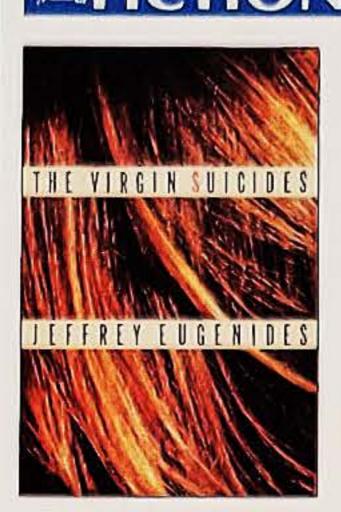
"Happiness is a dark thing to pursue . . . and the pursuit itself is a dark thing as well." These are the words of Steve Erickson's Thomas Jefferson, the guiding spirit of Arc d'x. Jefferson's love for slave Sally Hemmings embodies the emblematic dilemma that is America's destiny—the tension between denying dictates of the heart and secret pursuit of the heart's expression. An impassioned elegy for the American era, Arc d'x is an intriguing literary bridge to the next millennium, (Fiction) Poseidon ISBN: 0-671-74296-5

\$20.00



So Far from God Ana Castillo

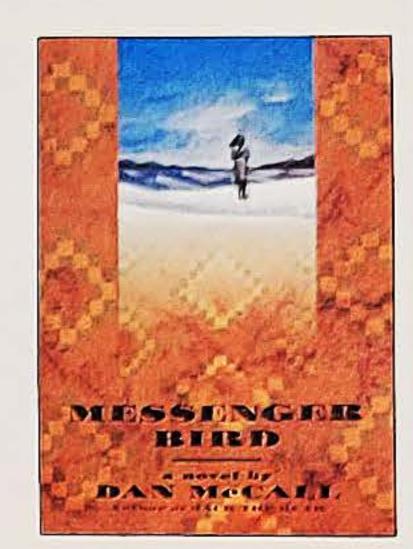
In Ana Castillo's hands, Tome, a small, outwardly sleepy hamlet in New Mexico, is wondrously revealed as a place teeming with life. It's also a place rife with the collisions of past and present, comic and horrific, real and supernatural, and the cultures of the Native American, hispano, and Anglo. In this rich, biting portrait of five Southwestern women, American Book Award winner Castillo combines the instincts of a magician with the spirit of an unrepentant feminist. Also available from Ana Castillo: The Mixquiahuala Letters. (Fiction) W. W. Norton ISBN: 0-393-03490-9 \$19.95



Messenger Bird

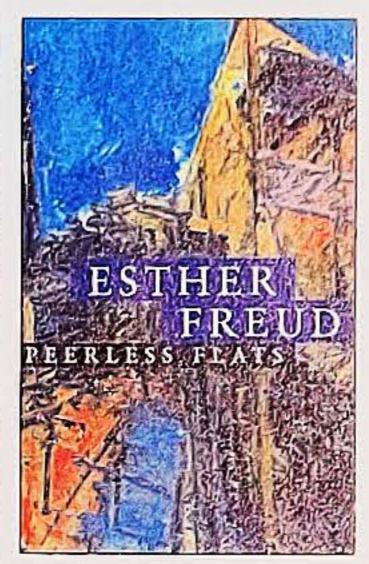
Dan McCall Jim, a young surgeon, is assigned by the Public Health Service to a 25bed hospital on a Native American reservation. Among courageous people burdened by a cruel history and beleaguered by poverty and alcoholism, Jim learns the healing power of compassion from a Sioux/ Lakota nurse, Annie Messenger Bird Lester Mendez. Dan McCall's cleareyed realism transforms the language of medicine into a poetic expression of the fragility and beauty of life. (Fiction) Harcourt Brace ISBN: 0-15-159284-5

\$19.95



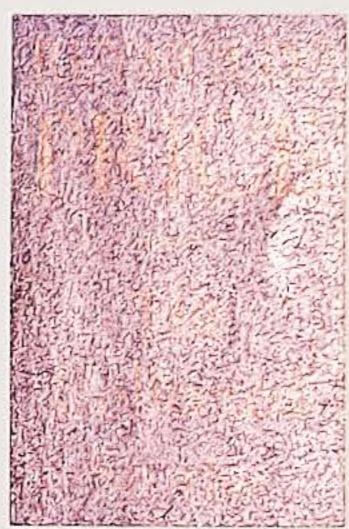
1st Novel The Virgin Suicides Jeffrey Eugenides

"On the morning when the last Lisbon daughter took her turn at suicide—it was Mary this time, and sleeping pills, like Therese—the two paramedics arrived at the house knowing exactly where the knife drawer was, and the gas oven, and the beam in the basement from which it was possible to tie a rope." So begins Jeffrey Eugenides' beautiful and sad first novel, a tale of love, terror, memory, imagination, sex, and suicide. (Fiction) Farrar, Straus, & Giroux ISBN: 0-374-28438-5 \$18.00

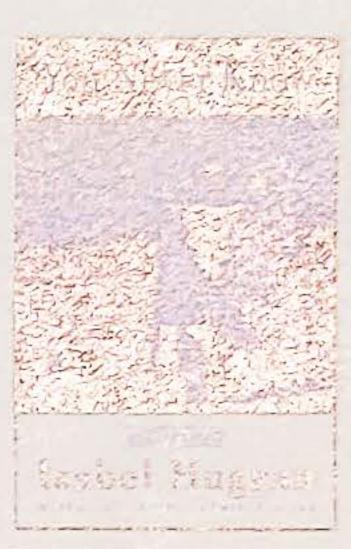


Peerless Flats Esther Freud

Sixteen-year-old Lisa, her mother, and her half brother are homeless and placed temporarily in Peerless Flats, along with others in similar straits. Her mother thinks Lisa's exstepfather was too hard on her, and gives her daughter carte blanche. Dutifully, Lisa tries coke and heroin, drinks, and sleeps with boys-until she unexpectedly discovers that her future lies in her own hands. The author of the acclaimed Hideous Kinky delivers an unconventional coming-of-age story that resonates with truth. (Fiction) Harcourt Brace ISBN: 0-15-171608-0 \$19.95

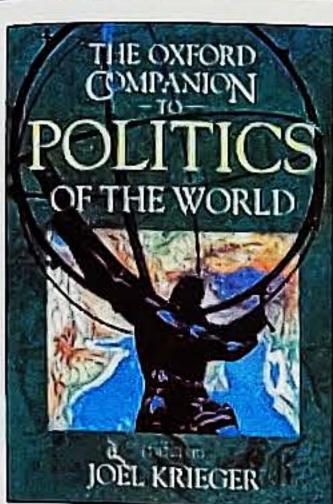


Reynolds Price: Collected Stories Reynolds Price Widely recognized for the strength of his novels, Reynolds Price shines through in this definitive collection as one of America's most distinguished writers of short stories. This volume presents the works of two earlier collections (The Names and Faces of Heroes and Permanent Errors), combined with many more stories that have never appeared in book form. Fifty in all, these collected stories are a deeply rewarding addition to the Reynolds Price canon. (Short Stories) Atheneum ISBN: 0-689-12147-4 \$25.00

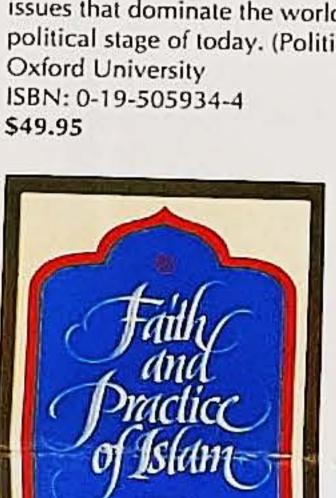


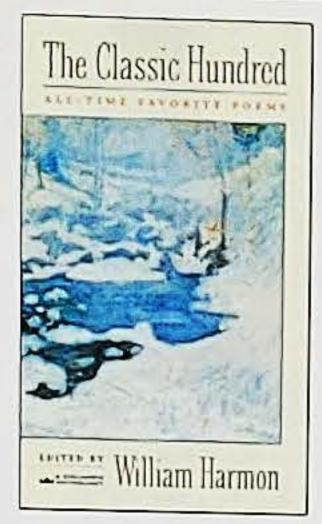
THE NORTH PROPERTY isabel riuggan Habel Hussan Winds with a recitant new collection of studies Stills with the same widely hailed warmth, insight, honesty, and humor she brought to The Elizabeth Stories, her exploration of the painful passage to adolescence. The women of You Never Know might very well be Elizabeth grown-up-women who rebel against their mother's plans only to discover they've fulfilled them, women experiencing the first crush of love, and women trapped in the complicated dance of fidelity and passion. Huggan's new book is sure to cement her literary reputation. (Short Stories) Viking ISBN: 0-670-83869-1 \$20.00

• THE READER •



The Oxford Companion to Politics of the World ed. Joel Krieger With the end of the Cold War, the world has turned into a political cauldron of unprecedented complexity—and endless fascination. Under the aegis of a team of eminent political scientists, The Oxford Companion to Politics of the World provides truly global coverage of our interconnected world. This authoritative, up-to-the-minute reference embraces all the people, nations, conflicts, institutions, and issues that dominate the world political stage of today. (Politics) Oxford University





The Classic Hundred: All-Time **Favorite Poems** ed. William Harmon Poetry lovers will enjoy this anthology's unique format: The Classic Hundred presents the "top 100" poems of all time in their order of popularity. Selected by consensus among the editors of approximately 400 erudite anthologies, the range of poets, subjects, and forms-from Shakespeare to Frost, from love and death to crime and punishment, from sonnet to ode-make this book an indispensable guide to the finest verse of the English language. (Poetry) Columbia University ISBN: 0-231-08239-8 \$14.95 paper

The Columbia Guide to STANDARD AMERICAN ENGLISH Kenneth G. Wilson

The Columbia Guide to Standard American English Kenneth G. Wilson From oratorical to intimate speech, formal to informal writing, here is the answer to all questions on American English usage-both spoken and written. The Columbia Guide to Standard American English defines acceptable usage depending upon the context of the audience and provides helpful hints on how to communicate with style and elegance. This authoritative compendium will quickly become a writer's trusted companion. (Reference) Columbia University ISBN: 0-231-06988-X \$24.95

Faith and Practice of Islam William C. Chittick

In this brilliantly executed book, William Chittick presents the complexities of Islam with a simplicity and elegance that will engross Western readers. Focusing on both the intellectual and spiritual aspects of Islam, Chittick, author of The Sufi Path of Love: The Spiritual Teachings of Rumi, introduces concepts from an "Islam-centered" view, while also offering comparisons to Christian and Judaic beliefs. "Though very scholary, this is a book from the heart."-Carl W. Ernst, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (Religion) State University of New York Press

ISBN: 0-7914-1368-3

\$19.95 paper

The Ghost in the Little House William Holtz

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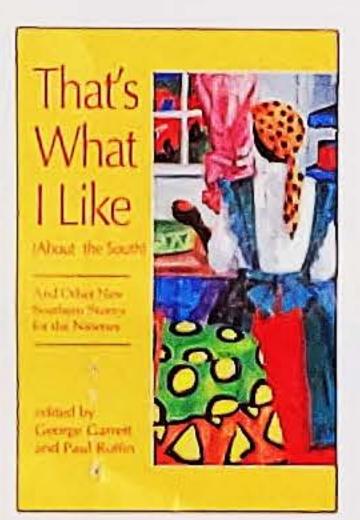
William C. Chittick

Millions adore Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little House books, but many readers may be surprised by William Holtz's claim that these works were shaped at the hands of a gifted ghostwriter: Wilder's daughter, Rose Wilder Lane. Holtz's book chronicles Lane's adventure-filled life as a writer, a daughter, and a political theorist-revealing the passion of a gifted woman struggling to find a center of meaning in her life. (Biography)

University of Missouri ISBN: 0-8262-0887-8

\$29.95



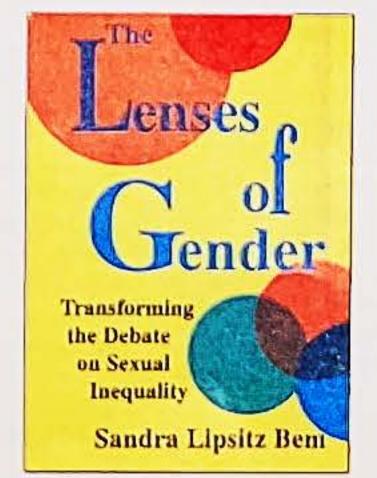


That's What I Like (About the South) ed. George Garrett & Paul Ruffin

"Southern fiction is alive and kicking and going off in all kinds of directions as this old century staggers to an end." To prove their audacious pronouncement, George Garrett and Paul Ruffin have assembled 31 stories representing the best of recent Southern fiction. These stories weave together themes that underscore what being Southern is all about: the retelling of the past, the uncertainty of the future, the haunting presence of racial guilt, and the inescapable influence of family-for better or worse. (Short Stories) University of South Camilina ISBN: 0-87249-864-6 \$14.95 paper

The Lenses of Gender Sandra Lipsitz Bem

Written by a groundbreaking theorist on sex and gender, The Lenses of Gender reframes the debate on sexual inequality. Sandra Lipsitz Bem argues that hidden assumptions about gender propriety are embedded within our culture and perpetuate male power while oppressing women and sexual minorities. Coherent, humane, and broad in scope and vision, Bem's work redefines male-centered discourses and institutions, thereby transforming male-female difference into hopeful human equality—rather than female disadvantage. (Women's Studies) Yale University ISBN: 0-300-05676-1 \$28.50



(Continued from page 4)

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and it's just proliferating. [pause] You know, we just had our little terrorist week here in New York, and all I think of was thank God it wasn't nuclear. I mean it would be very easy for it to be nuclear. You don't need much material-about a shoebox full of plutonium-to erase New York forever.

Will the desert ever come back to a natural state?

It will, in 250,000 years. Plutonium is finally not toxic after 250,000 years. It's beyond human comprehension exactly how badly we've damaged ourselves. That's part of what's in the book. The reason to read the book is to get angry enough to do something, to say, "Oh, please would you stop the bull and get on with the nuclear waste problem and stop nuclear testing." It's a book to make people angry and active.

The book states that there were animals and humans in cages on the nuclear testing sites. Who were these people-were they criminals?

It's thought that they were criminals. If you look through the interviews for the one with a man named Robert Carter-he was an atomic veteran-it goes into that a little bit. But there are a number of atomic veterans who say they saw people attached to chain link aluminum fences by handcuffs just wearing overalls or jeans. One assumes they were prisoners because they were doing a lot of nuclear experimentation at that time with prisoners, especially black prisoners, of course—you know black people are always expendable in this culture. And it was not just at the test site. They were doing it in hospitals. They were injecting people with plutonium and radium, just as an experiment.

Also, at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, they were injecting dogs with plutonium-the Beagle Project. So there was a lot of experimentation going on and this book is about, as Keith Schneider lof the New York Times writes in the foreword, "the most prodigiously reckless program of scientific experimentation in United States history "

Why are we doing this to ourselves?

Money, It has nothing to do with us, it has to do with major corporations. It's what Eisenhower, who was a military man, called the military/industrial complex. GE is part of it, you know, "We bring good things to life"? Well, they bring nuclear power plants to life. So does Westinghouse, Major insurance companies are part of the nuclear complex. They are incredibly wealthy, Banks have something to do with it. They have wealth and power to do what they will. Also, we are fighting the government, which is our own money.

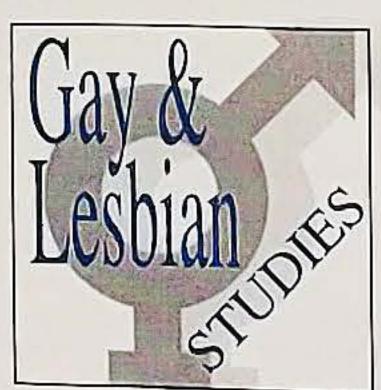
So it's a big war to fight. I think it might get better; I think there has been enormously increased consciousness during the ten years that I was working on this. Nuclear testing has to be stopped. They've been trying to negotiate a comprehensive test ban. The United States and Great Britain are the only countries in the U.N. who say no to it. We test Great Britain's nuclear bombs at our test site. They want to continue testing, and they give the most spurious reasons for datable to

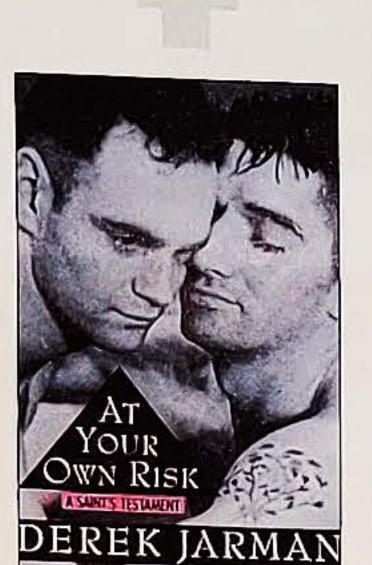
Sut his an enormous powerful, hungry animal that you have to protect yourself from. You have to think of it as something that's going to eat your children alive, because the nuclear waste problem at this point is probably the most serious thing we face.

Is there a place for nuclear technology?

I think that there is a place for it in medicine. I think the way they use radiation to reduce or cure brain tumors at this point is approaching something miraculous. I think there is a place for it-I'm not totally anti-nuclear-but I do have extreme reservations about nuclear power, because of the human factor, I mean, once you put the human factor in, nuclear becomes dangerous. Because we're fallible. We're also greedy. And we're lazy. And we lie,

 Carole Gallagher was interviewed by freelance writer Suzanne Schwalb.

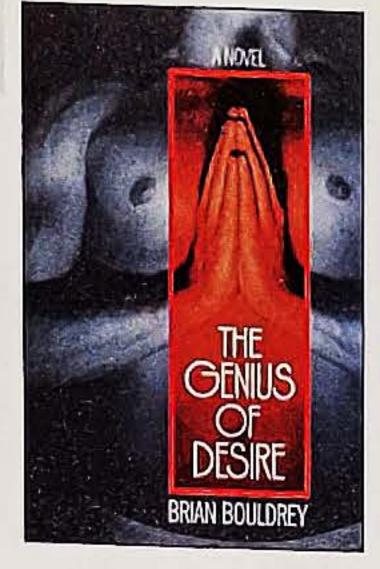




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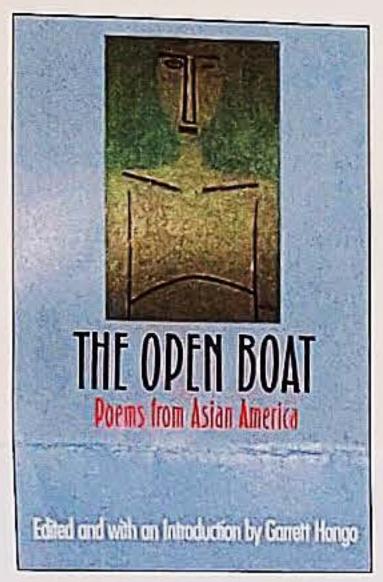
1st Novel The Genius of Desire
Brian Bouldrey

Growing up gay in a Catholic family, young Michael Bellman spends summers with his wise and eccentric family: a great aunt who bowdlerizes Cinderella, a great uncle who speaks to his dead wife, and a cousin who can't wait to "kick butt in Nam." Michael, who behaves somewhat eccentrically himself, begins to understand his own double life, realizing that coming out is the first step, coming to terms is the next. Brian Bouldrey's novel announces the arrival of a striking new voice in contemporary literature. Available in May. (Fiction) Ballantine ISBN: 0-345-38334-6 \$17.00

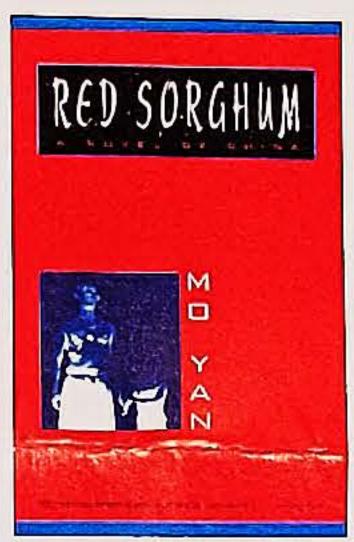
At Your Own Risk: A Saint's Testament Derek Jarman

Blunt and uncompromising, At Your Own Risk is an act of defiance—a defiant statement against a society that vacillates between indifference and moral censure on the issues of AIDS and same-sex lovemaking. In this distillation of his philosophy of life and gay sexuality, iconoclastic filmmaker Derek Jarman argues that if one is HIV positive, one can remain frightened only for so long, and then there comes a point where fear gives way to acceptance—a point after which one has to start living again. (Autobiography) Overlook

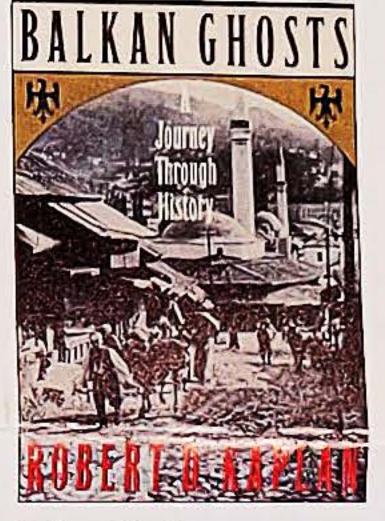
ISBN: 0-87951-473-6 \$19.95



The Open Boat: Poems from Asian America ed. Garrett Hongo Probing, provocative, and insightful, this stellar collection presents the finest of contemporary Asian-American poetry. Editor Garrett Hongo has assembled a coherent yet variegated group of poems that give evidence to the rich contribution of the Asian-American spirit to contemporary culture. "The poems in The Open Boat reaffirm that despite our racial, ethnic, religious, and cultural differences, we Americans share common hopes and aspirations."-Quincy Troupe (Poetry) Anchor ISBN: 0-385-42338-1 \$12.00 paper

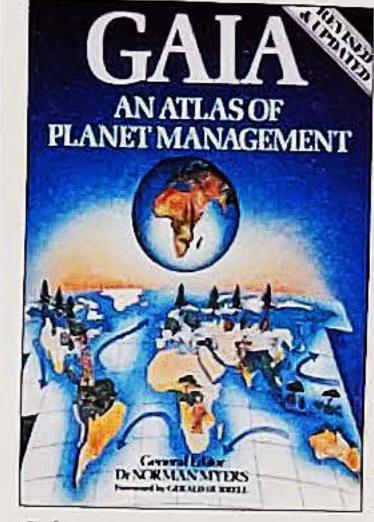


Red Sorghum Mo Yan One of the most sensual and visceral works to emerge from the new China is Mo Yan's novel of family, myth, and memory, set during the fratricidal barbarity of the 1930s, when the Chinese battled both Japanese invaders and each other. Comprising stories within stories, events of staggering horror, and a landscape of gemlike beauty, Red Sorghum's earthy trueness-wherein fable and history collide to produce fiction-is spell-binding, epic, and masterfully electrifying. (Fiction) Viking ISBN: 0-670-84402-0 \$23.00



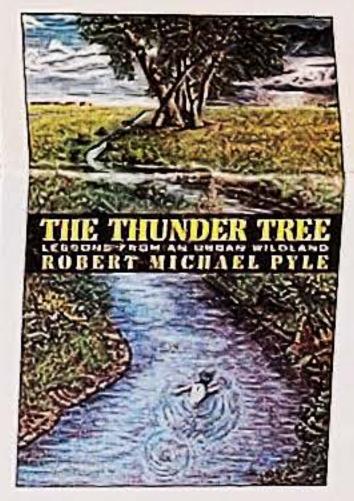
**Balkan Ghosts** Robert D. Kaplan The history of the 20th century begins in the Balkan Peninsula with the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo—and as the century draws to a close, this longforgotten region once again takes center stage. In the tradition of Rebecca West and Paul Theroux, veteran reporter Robert Kaplan offers a stunningly vivid portrait of a part of our world ruled by ethnic violence and political oppression, and of a people struggling to create their own future. (History/Travel) St. Martin's ISBN: 0-312-02701-2 522.95





Gaia

Dr. Norman Myers Spurred by an increasing awareness of the deterioration of the environment, a resolute populace is rising to counter the explosion of the world's population, the increased burning of the world's forests, and the greenhouse effect. With a wealth of data, vivid graphics, and authoritative text by leading thinkers on these crucial issues, this environmental handbook incorporates events, issues, and statistics to give us a sobering assessment of where we are, where we're heading, and where we should be going to heal our world. (Environmental Studies) Anchor ISBN: 0-385-42626-7 \$23.00 paper



The Thunder Tree Robert Michael Pyle When people connect with nature, it often happens in a specific place. For Bob Pyle, that place is the Highline Canal in Colorado—the place where he watched the boundaries between himself and other creatures dissolve. By showing how the course of a life can be changed by a piece of land, Pyle argues eloquently that if we fail to preserve our opportunities to explore nature, we may lose our collective passion for the poignant beauty of our natural world. (Nature) Houghton Mifflin ISBN: 0-395-46631-8 \$19.95

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