

## Men in space, '30s, and two looks at the Deep South

**Chrome** by George Nader. Alyson Publications, 1987. \$7.95.

Two centuries into the future, we can all expect to fall magically in love with robots. At least George Nader would have us believe so. Although a fairly decent piece of science fiction, *Chrome* has some significant flaws — not the least of which is a sprawling and difficult plot. Nader seems to have stretched his imagination a bit too far in his quest for a new story that has, in fact, been told thousands of times — just without the moving parts.

## Books

**Better Angel** by Richard Meeker. Alyson Publications, 1987. \$5.95.

Originally published in 1933, this 1987 reprint is a delicate tale of a young Kurt Gray and his blossoming sexuality. From the cornfields of Michigan to the grandeur of the Swiss Alps, the hero searches for the meaning of "his kind of love." In its day, *Better Angel* was referred to as a novel about "love's coming of age," an effort to show male homosexuality in a positive light. This novel succeeds brilliantly. A sensitive and warm-hearted work, *Better Angel* seeks to find the "Better Angel... a man right fair."

**Narrow Room** by James Purdy. Gay Men's Press, distributed by Alyson Publications, 1987. \$7.50.

Purdy gives us a fascinating, if not twisted, insider's look at life in the American South. Three young men find their lives controlled and ultimately destroyed by another's fiendish ob-

session. Reading *Narrow Room* is like taking William Faulkner's hand and looking at a part of gay life that keeps its face in the dark alleys and old barns. This is a brilliant work with all the drama one could ask for.

## Cody



A novel by  
**KEITH HALE**

**Cody** by Keith Hale. Alyson Publications, 1987. \$6.95.

*Cody* is a triumphant portrait of adolescent love, a story of two schoolboys who find themselves drawn to each other, bound by a love of poetry and a quest for meaning. They endure harassment, conflict and bitter consequence as they explore their attraction in the angry South. The real gift of *Cody* is its warm humor and the author's ability to capture adolescent conversation and sentiment.

— Jeff Fritz

## Hidden, heaven and heady

**The Monarchs Are Flying** by Marion Foster. Firebrand Books, 1987. \$8.95 paper, \$18.95 cloth.

The opening pages are riveting. TV anchorwoman Leslie Taylor is charged with murder, and one piece of the damning evidence, at least in the eyes of the prosecutor, is that Leslie is a lesbian. Unfortunately, the riveting story quickly becomes thin and predictable.

But read this novel for the very important message that echoes our recent takeover of the Capitol: As lesbians and gay men we have nothing to hide. Come out, come out, whoever you are!

**Lesbian Psychologies: Explorations and Challenges** edited by The Boston Lesbian Psychologies Collective, 1987. \$12.95.

After reading a novel and a collection of short stories, this came across as real heady stuff — however, well worth reading in the right mind-set. Many ideas that I first discovered in books like *Shadows on a Tightrope*; *Writing by Women on Fat Oppression*; *Out from Under: Sober Dykes and Our Friends*; and *Dreaming the Dark: Magic, Sex and Politics* are further developed in these 360 pages.

Finally, lesbian psychologists write about lesbian psychologies. Sarah at A Woman's Place Bookstore informs me that "this book is hot," so get yours before they're all gone.

**Lovers' Choice** by Becky Birtha. Seal Press, 1987. \$8.95 paper.

I first discovered Becky Birtha amid the



stories in *Hear The Silence: Stories by Women of Myth, Magic and Renewal* (Crossing Press). She enchanted me then and surpasses that feeling in this collection of short stories. Her tales engaged my soul to dreaming and wanting more. Do not miss this black lesbian feminist's work.

— Meg Grace



**essential**

now open in  
**two locations**  
7 days a week

◇ 3638 SE Hawthorne Blvd.  
236-7976  
◇ 727 NW 21<sup>ST</sup> Ave.  
248-9748

"great gift ideas

... under \$10"

- ◆ over 100 fragrances
- ◆ soaps, bubble bath, moisturizer, lotions, skin care
- ◆ cards, gift bags, wrap, ... and more

## NEXT TIME YOU FEEL LIKE PLAYING A ROUND...



Try a round of Cards or maybe a round of Dominoes. Then again there's Pigmania for laughs,

Uno for fun... 221-B Baker Street when you're feeling keenly logical... or

Pente and Othello when you're strategically



inclined. Fall back on those favorites Backgammon and Chess or

charge ahead into Dungeons & Dragons.

Relax with a Jigsaw Puzzle or meet the challenge of a Cube Puzzle.



Maybe you just feel the urge, but don't know what to play... Come to the experts!

Whatever your game is, we've got it!



**Endgames**

Eugene Downtown  
110 W. Broadway 97401  
484-9846

Medford  
Rogue Valley Mall  
(503) 772-2116

Clackamas  
Town Center  
652-1434

Downtown Portland  
200 S.W. Salmon 97204  
224-6917

Open 7 Days a Week

**Budget**

Tapes and Records

Christmas Shopping  
Made Easy

Downtown  
631 S.W. Alder  
226-0624

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from



**MUSIC  
MILLENNIUM**

RECORDS & TAPES  
FROM THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW MUSIC

32nd & E. Burnside 801 N.W. 23rd  
231-8926 248-0163