

Books to take to bed A Winter's Reading List

BY LEE LYNCH

The publishing industry is doing a monumental job of providing us with quality lesbian and gay reading. As I write this, in October, I fear that the 1988 election, plus the frightening new obscenity trafficking law, may snatch it all away. But right now it's feasting time in your local women's or gay bookstore! Happy New Year!

Bird-eyes by Madelyn Arnold, Seal Press, 1988, \$8.98. Latisha is an "incorrigible" minor, otherwise known as a hustling baby dyke, who is institutionalized for her rebellions. This is the story of her survival and of her friendship with Anna, a deaf older woman. Touching, infuriating, very well done.

The Obsidian Mirror by Louise M. Wischild, Seal Press, 1988, \$10.95. It took me a while to work up the courage to read this book by an incest survivor, but it is more than palatable, it is absorbing and honest.

Cows and Horses by Barbara Wilson, Seal Press, 1988, \$7.95. A slice of lesbian life, about an angry, messy breakup and the surge outward to find healing and understanding with friends. We've just about all been here.

Cows and Horses



A NOVEL BY
Barbara Wilson

Better Angel by Richard Meeker, Alyson, 1987, \$5.95. Much has been written about the lost author of this classic from 1933 — how he walked into a bookstore in San Francisco and found his book reissued. It's a wonderful rendering of a young man coming out and finding his place in life and love.

Street Lavender by Chris Hunt, Gay Male Press, 1986, \$9.95. I love tales of cross-dressing, especially in other times. This is set in Dickens's England. A cross between David Copperfield and Fanny Hill.

Splendor by Edward Swift, Meadowland Books, 1988, \$6.95. A comic Southern Gothic about a male transvestite who returns to her Texas roots in her new plumage and falls for the town minister.

Dead Heat by Willyce Kim, Alyson Publications, 1988, \$6.95. Another truly original book from Kim, this is the sequel to *Dancer Dawkins and the California Kid*. In brief, funny, tension-building flashes, Kim tells a story of dykes in gangster-land. The heroines are cool and strong and lustful. I found the erotic sequences tastefully but potently provocative.



Three Glasses of Wine Have Been Removed From This Story by Marian Michener, Silverleaf Press, 1988, \$7.95. A fine new writer has done an excellent job depicting the end of a love affair with alcohol.

Bulldozer Rising by Anna Livia, Onlywomen Press, 1988, \$6.95. Livia is a brilliant writer. In this book she's turned to science fiction, which feels all too threateningly real, as she depicts a society in which humanity is not valued, older women are no better than trash, and lesbians risk their lives for change.

The Wrong Apple by David Rees, Knights Press, 1987, \$8.50. A reflective love(s) story about a British man whose HIV diagnosis makes him feel that he's a "sexual outcast."

Ripening by Valerie Taylor, Banned Books, 1988, \$8.95. In this sequel to the Erika Frohmann series (Naiad reprints of classic 1960s lesbian lit), elder stateswoman Taylor has kept true to the style of her original books.

Concentration camp survivor Erika finds her closeted, middle-age disturbed as lesbian-feminism arrives in Tucson, Arizona.

Boys' Town by Art Bosch, Alyson, 1988, \$7.95. A light novel about what really goes on in notorious West Hollywood.

Mountain Climbing in Sheridan Square by Stan Leventhal, Banned Books, 1988, \$8.95. His first novel, Leventhal has written a quiet, introspective, and often funny story about gay survival in New York in the 1980s.

Look Under The Hawthorne by Ellen Frye, New Victoria, 1987, \$7.95. The adventure of a lesbian mother searching for the daughter she gave up in her teens — and finding a surprise. Thoughtful lesbian characters.

Sunday's Child by Joyce Bright, Naiad, 1988, \$8.95. Is this the first lesbian jock novel? It's about a runner's will to win more than marathons.

Crush by Jane Fatcher, Alyson, 1988, \$6.95. A reissue of the younger readers' classic novel — which most of my adult friends have loved.

Gay and Lesbian Poetry In Our Time, edited by Carl Morse and Joan Larkin, St. Martin's Press, 1988, \$29.95. An excellent gift. A thick representative treasure of variant verse.

The Cunt Coloring Book by Tee Corinne, Last Gasp Press, 1988, \$6.95. Reissued, under its original title, with additional drawings, an introduction and translations into French, German and Spanish. A work of art. Also practical for a rainy day seduction.

Journeys, artworks by Roberto Gonzalez Fernandez, Gay Male Press, 1988, \$30.

Introduction by John Russell Taylor, interview with the artist by Javier Mazorra. Spanish and English. Striking pencil and ink work of gay men. Taylor questions whether this work is super-realism or surrealism.

Gay Comix, 1528 15th St., San Francisco 94103, \$10/year. A subscription would make a great gift for anyone, including people who used to hate comics. I oughta know. Strips by Bechdel, Barela, Cruse.

Other Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel, Firebrand, 1988, \$7.95. Insightful and delightful.

Shitkickers And Other Texas Stories by Carolyn Weathers, Clothespin Fever Press, 1987, \$6.95. "All night long, life like a jukebox, just the kind she wanted." These are truly dyke tales.

Last September by Helen R. Hull, edited by Patricia Miller, Naiad, 1988, \$8.95. An important work of a distinguished lesbian writer on the 100th anniversary of her birth. Literate stories of women drawn to women in the olden days.

Alienated Affections — Being Gay in America by Seymour Kleinberg, St. Martin's Press, 1988, \$8.95. In these personal essays, Kleinberg discusses growing up gay, masculinity, friendship, sampling heterosexuality. I particularly enjoyed the picture he draws of the gay New York intellectual world.

The Mayor of Castro Street by Randy Shilts, St. Martin's Press, 1988, \$10.95. The life of Harvey Milk written in a way that made me love him. Also a lively portrait of the Castro and San Francisco in their gay heyday.

The God of Ecstasy by Arthur Evans, St. Martin's, 1988, \$8.95. An analysis of the influence the Greek god Dionysos had on Western civilization. Includes the play "The God of

Ecstasy" and performance photos with the magnificent Assunta Femia as Dionysos.

Sunday's Child by Edward Phillips, St. Martin's, 1988, \$7.95. Mystery set in Montreal and Toronto, the protagonist is a middle-aged lawyer with a wonderful sense of humor.

Beyond Hope by Eve Zaremba, Amanita, 1987. Also set in Canada, but with a lesbian sleuth who's all business.

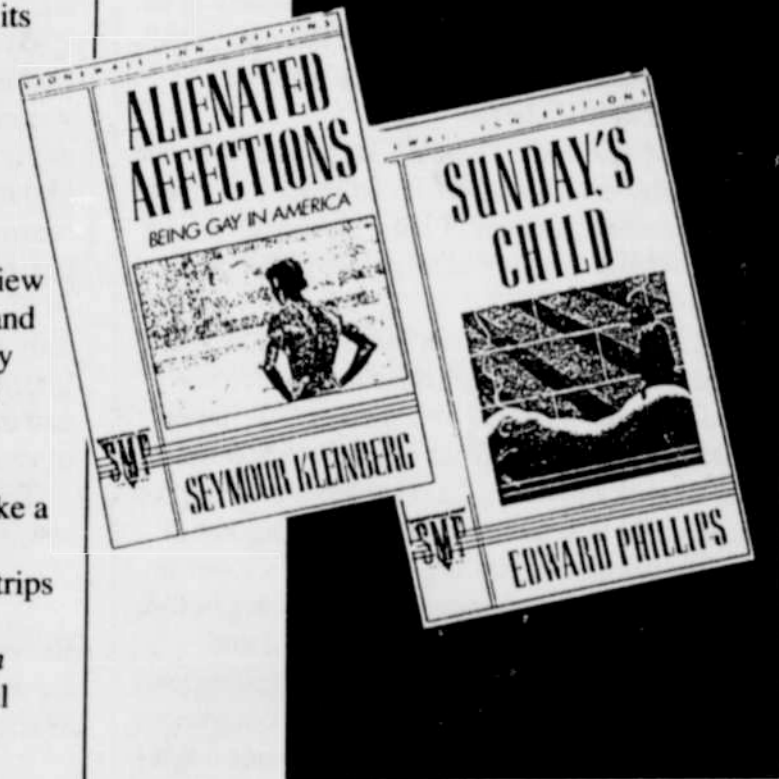
After Delores by Sarah Schulman, E.P. Dutton, 1988, \$16.95. In this mystery, Schulman's almost comic characters troop through the East village after solutions of all kinds.

Grey Magic by Sarah Dreher, New Victoria, 1987, \$8.95. The next Stoner McTavish mystery, all about Southwestern magic.

Lessons in Murder by Claire McNab, Naiad, 1988, \$8.95. An Australian schoolhouse murder and suspect-detective liaison.

Goldenboy by Michael Nava, Alyson, 1988, \$14.95. Gay Hispanic attorney Henry Rios is far from a hard-boiled detective. Human concern rather than humorous hijinks grace this book.

Stolen Moments by John Preston, Alyson, 1985, \$4.95, is an Alex Kane adventure story. Politically correct or not, I get a kick out of gays with near superpowers.



Before Stonewall by Andrea Weiss and Greta Schiller, Naiad, 1988, \$7.95. Subtitled "The Making of a Gay Community," this is an inspiring family album with visuals and words that evoke our history in the first half of the 20th century.

Living The Spirit, Gay American Indian Anthology, edited by Will Roscoe, St. Martin's, 1988, \$16.95. An exciting collection of art, history, stories, interviews, and poetry by lesbians and gay men from numerous tribes.

Gay Spirit, Myth and Meaning by Mark Thompson, St. Martin's, 1988, \$8.95. A collection of essays which examines gay male spirituality. More mind altering than any twenty 60s chemicals and just as intoxicating.

Unholy Alliances edited by Louise Rafkin, Cleis Press, 1988, \$9.95. The lesbian stories are very good and include little seen writers like Canyon Sam and Jennifer Krebs.

Lee Lynch's newest book is *The Amazon Trail*, a collection of her syndicated columns. (Naiad, 1988, \$8.95)