

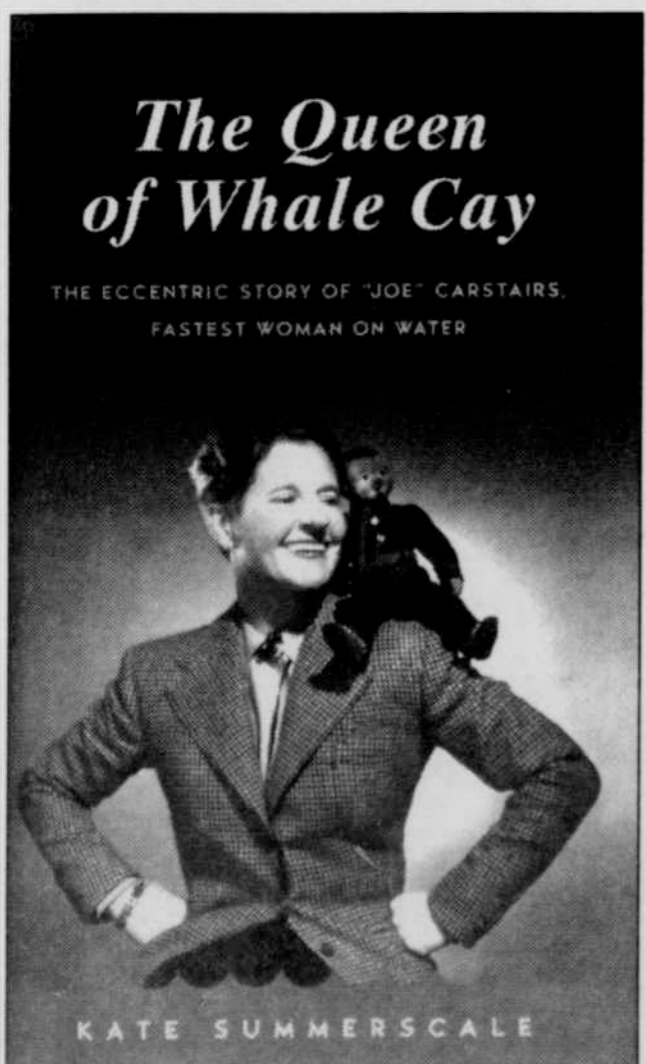


imaginings.

When she can find time for a little indulgence, she reads aloud from Miles Moreland's *MILES TO GO: A WALK ACROSS FRANCE* (Random House Trade, 1993) with her girlfriend. Quietly, she's reading Alison Bechdel's *THE INDELIBLE BECHDEL: CONFESSIONS, COMIX AND MISCELLANEOUS DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR* (Firebrand, 1998), confessing: "I love gay comics."

Andy Mangels, on the other hand, loves *GAY COMICS*, which he's edited since 1991. The Portland author of *STAR WARS: THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO CHARACTERS* (Ballantine, 1995) and *BEYOND MOULDER AND SCULLY: THE MYSTERIOUS CHARACTERS OF THE X-FILES* (Citadel, 1998) definitely has an eye for the visual, adding that he's currently reading *THE MALE NUDE* (Taschen, 1998) by David Leddick. Mostly photos, Leddick's book does offer a peek into the history of the evolution of male nudity as it's expressed in art, Mangels insists.

Mangels' eye also leads him to recommend *WHO'S A PRETTY BOY, THEN?* (Serpent's Tail, 1997) by James Gardiner, offering text and photos



tracing gay life from 1851 to the present. It's a book Mangels calls "tremendously fascinating."

A blanket suggestion from Mangels is simply that he'd "like people to take a chance at reading comics more often. ... So many people who consid-

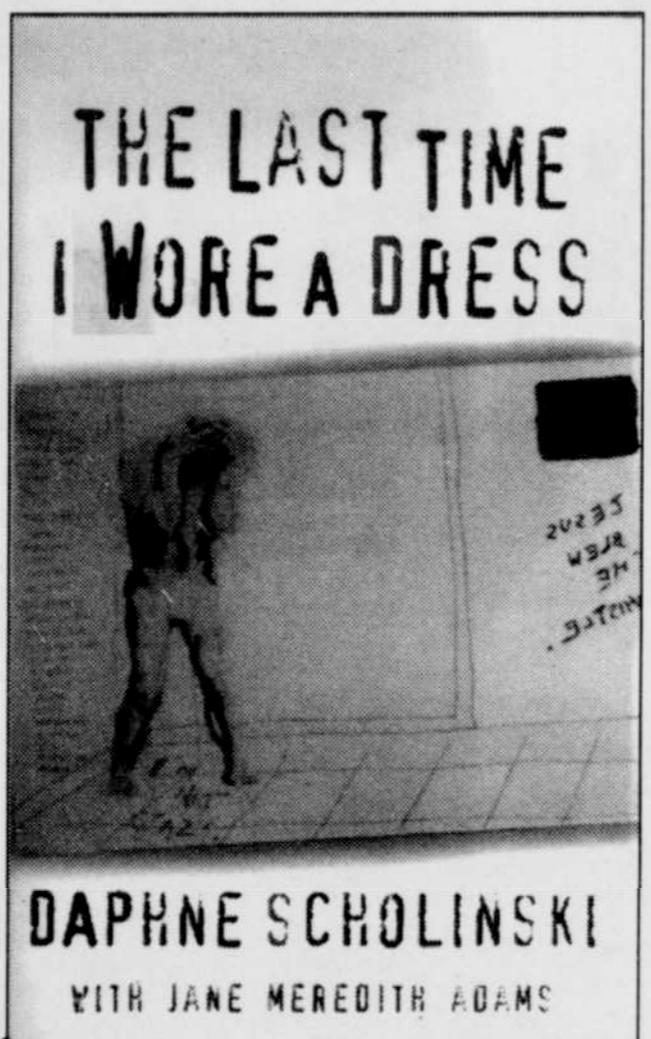
er themselves well-read refuse to read comics because they think they're for kids."

Some of the most well-informed opinions as to what's available and worthwhile for summer reading come from people in the book-selling business.

Catherine Sameh manages the feminist, non-profit bookstore In Other Words on Portland's Southeast Hawthorne Boulevard, and describes her taste as something that leans toward stories of women negotiating both race and sexuality.

"I prefer fiction and non-fiction that talks about sort of what it means to be queer and a woman of color," explains Sameh. At present, she's reading *CEREUS BLOOMS AT NIGHT* (Press Gang, 1996) by Shani Mootoo, a native of Trinidad. Sameh describes the story of a gay male nurse caring for an eccentric older lesbian as a story of relationships, race and gender.

Like DeMotier, she recommends *SUITS ME* for anyone looking for a good summer book to dive into; as well as *HOOD* (HarperCollins, 1995) by Emma Donoghue, a novel about contemporary



Irish lesbians; and *LAST RESORT* (Henry Holt, 1998), a novel draped with postmodern angst in a dyke context, by Alison Lurie.

Based on her experiences at In Other Words, Sameh says demand for mysteries rises in the summer. A popular seller she likes is *BLANCHE CLEANS UP* (Viking, 1998), a new mystery by Barbara Neely, whose hero, Blanche, is an African-American housecleaner. Says Sameh, "She muses as the protagonist on race and class. ... It's well written."

Rick Spencer, who owns Gai-Pied, a largely gay male-oriented bookstore on Northeast Broadway in Portland doesn't offer that his clients are more likely to choose a specific genre in the summer, but he does say that where mainstream booksellers often regard summer as a slow season, his business stays pretty steady.

His preferred genre, year round, says Spencer, is non-fiction. In that vein, he suggests Dan Woog's *JOCKS* (Alyson, 1998), not only for summer reading but also for young people in the coming-out process. Woog, Spencer explains, "interviewed several dozen guys" who outed themselves to coaches and teammates. "Most of the stories are positive ones," Spencer says. "It would be a great read for young people who have concerns about coming out."

Robert Bade heads the gay and lesbian section at Powell's City of Books on West Burnside in Portland and readily names titles for queer audiences to check out this summer. His list starts with lesbian comic Kate Clinton's *DON'T GET ME STARTED* (Random House, 1998)—"It's light



reading; very funny." The list includes Kate Summerscale's *THE QUEEN OF WHALE CAY* (Viking, 1997), the biography of Marion "Joe" Carstairs, a rich, cross-dressing, speed-boat racer whose adventures spanned the century. *GONNA TAKE A HOMICIDAL JOURNEY* (Little Brown, 1998), a mystery from Sandra Scoppettone, rounds

veiled—if at all."

And what better season to read trashy gossip than summer?

■ Bibliographic information was supplied, in large part, by Powell's website, [www.powells.com](http://www.powells.com), and In Other Words.

