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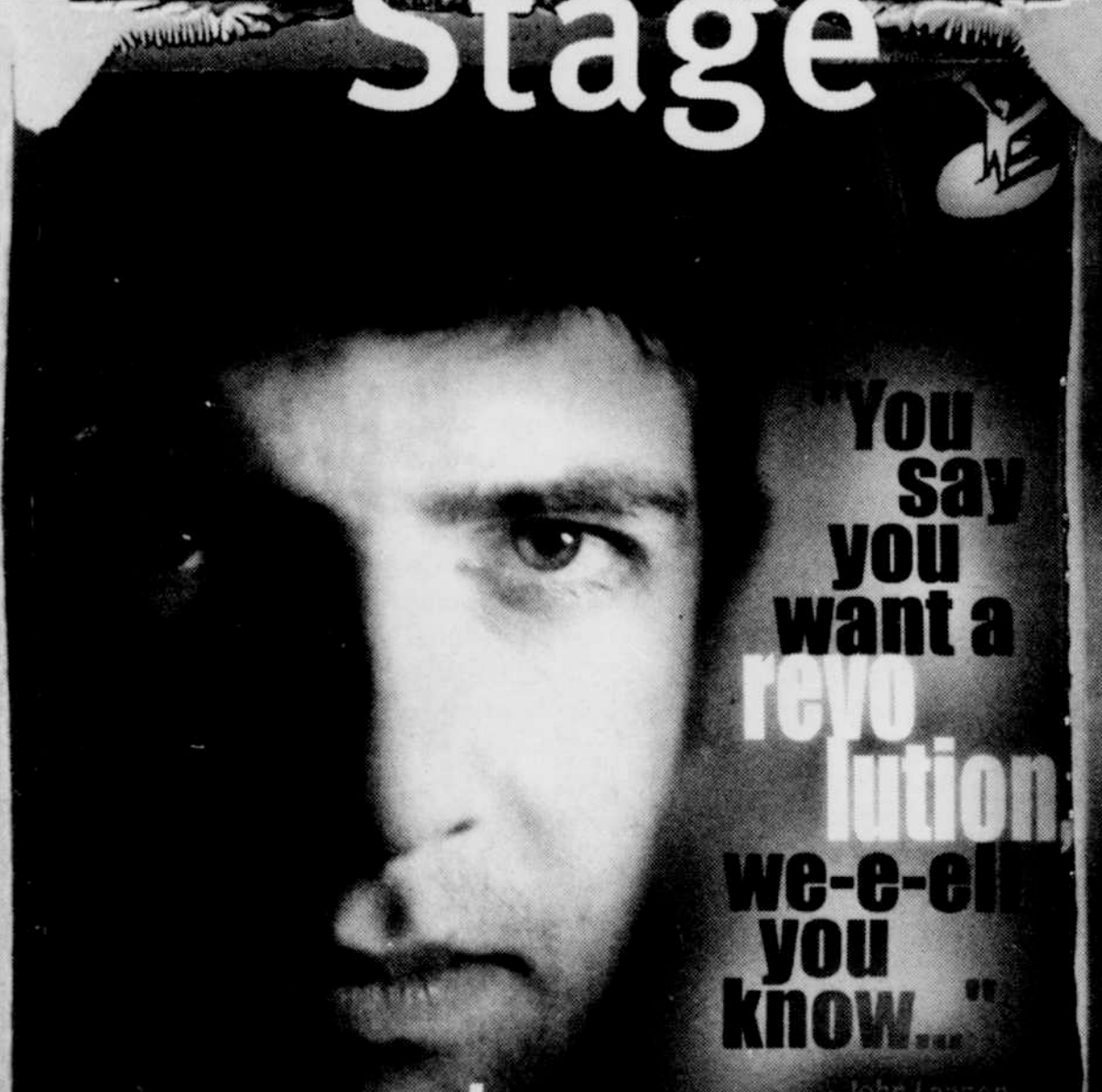


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# Center Stage



You say  
you want a  
revolution,  
we-e-el  
you know..."

—John Lennon

## the devils

<p><b>The Cripple of Inishmaan</b> by Martin McDonagh OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 26 *GALA Night November 7</p>	<p>by Elizabeth Egloff, based on the visionary novel by Dostoevsky <b>SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 22, 2000</b></p>
<p><b>A Christmas Carol</b> adapted by David McCann DECEMBER 3 - DECEMBER 24 *GALA Night December 5</p>	<p><b>Antigone</b> adapted by Nancy Keystone FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 18 *GALA Night February 27</p>
<p><b>Closer</b> by Patrick Marber JANUARY 16 - FEBRUARY 11 *GALA Night January 23</p>	<p><b>A New Brain</b> music &amp; lyrics by William Finn MARCH 27 - APRIL 22 *GALA Night March 3</p>

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\*GALA is the Gay & Lesbian Audience Series

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BOOKS

## Heaven, health, history, hung

Learn cruising etiquette; meet a modern-day town crier; come of age; avoid shallow bisexuals

**THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO GAY MEN'S SEXUAL, PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING**  
by Daniel Wolfe. Ballantine Books, 2000; \$24.95 softcover.

Although gay men's health for the past 15 years largely has been defined by HIV and AIDS, a new book details the vast complexity of the subject. The Complete Guide to Gay Men's Sexual, Physical and Emotional Well-Being empowers men to take charge of their body, mind and soul.

I liked reading this book. It's smart and informative and provides just enough useful information without becoming cumbersome. This guide will be especially helpful for guys who just are coming out or want more detailed information on health issues specific to gay men.

Author Daniel Wolfe covers so much information—from anal pleasure to skin care basics. One area that jumped out at me reveals how to have male multiple orgasms. (I always have been jealous of my female friends who are pros at this.)

A fun section covers cruising and communication. It gives both bad and good examples of how to respond while hooking up with a person you met online.

Bad No. 1: You walk in, decline to sit down and say: "Swimmer's body? I don't think so."  
Bad No. 2: You walk by the coffee shop, see your man waiting, as agreed, and keep on walking.

Good: Spend a minute in conversation. If it's not happening, explain politely that you're sorry it's not going to work, and excuse yourself.

If you're going to meet in person, the truth—or something very close—is vital. Describing yourself unrealistically, or leaving out a major detail of your physical appearance, is a setup for both of you.

This book is a wonderful contribution to the growing body of knowledge and insights in the field of gay men's health. —Dean Sidwell

**ANATOMIES: A NOVELLA AND STORIES**  
by Anndee Hochman. Picador, 2000; \$18 hardcover.

Anatomies, Anndee Hochman's sparkling fiction debut, is divided into four sections: Flesh, Blood, Heart and Nerve.

After finishing each story, the reader feels her own flesh, blood, heart and nerve stirred by the author's beautifully constructed language and vivid imagination. Hochman proves herself as promising a fiction writer as she did a nonfiction writer with her first book, *Everyday Acts & Small Subversions: Women Reinventing Family, Community and Home*.

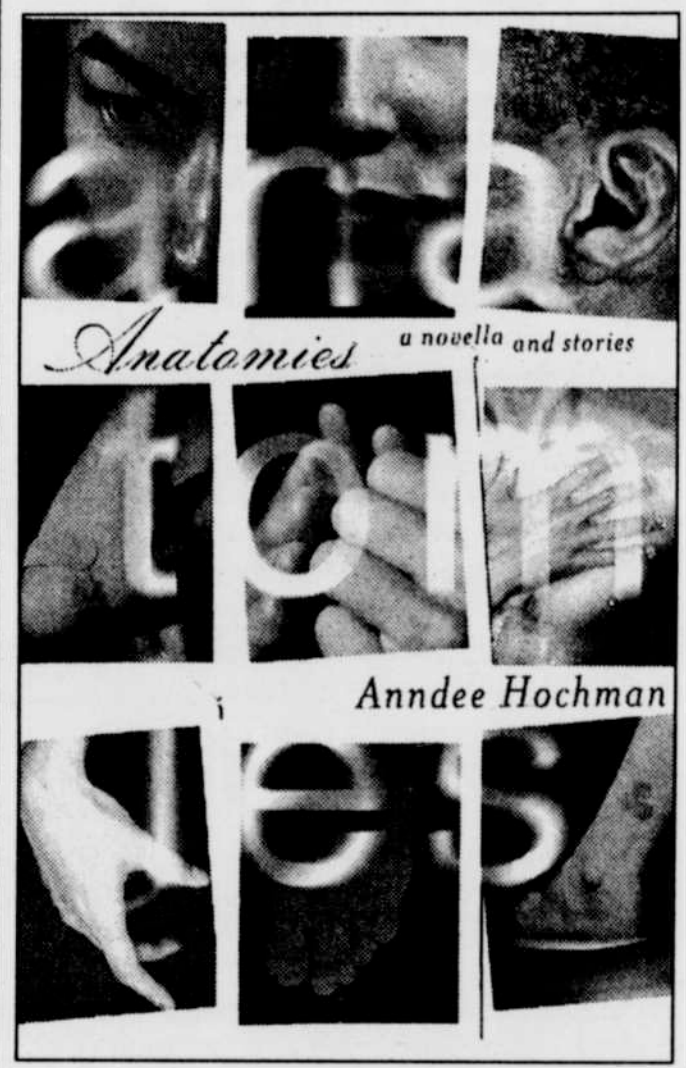
In most of the stories, the central characters are girls and women (lesbian, bisexual and straight) negotiating the complex terrain of adolescence or womanhood. Although "Liability" is not the strongest story in the collection, readers will enjoy the novella for its local content and universal theme of the search for love, family and community.

But more satisfying are the short stories, which display Hochman's often haltingly beautiful language and occasional borderline magical realist style. In "Aggiornamento," she deploys this style—and her wonderful imagination—in

the story of a girl who can't stop crying. So pronounced and constant is Claudia Miceli's weeping, she is hired as a professional crier by a funeral home. Claudia's crying works as a metaphor for centuries of women's grief and sacrifice, particularly within the Catholic Church. A wonderful twist at the end of the story builds cleverly on Hochman's metaphor and offers a message of women's resistance and hope.

If any critique is to be made of this collection, it's that some of her stories suffer from too much hope. It's as if Hochman is uncomfortable with the dark side of her imagination when she too quickly rescues her characters from their islands of pain and loss.

But therein lies her strength, too. She paints her characters in their rich complexity, showing their large capacities for experiencing devastating loss, redemptive hope and the will



to simply carry on. Only days after In Other Words Women's Books and Resources opened its doors Oct. 29, 1993, Hochman read from her first book. More than 100 people packed the store, eager to hear from a writer who had touched their lives, imaginations and hearts.

With *Anatomies*, Hochman treats old fans to her growing talent and inevitably will cultivate many, many new fans across the country. This old fan wishes her continued success. —Catherine Sameh

**VILLAGE ELDERS**  
by Penny Coleman. University of Illinois Press, 2000; \$24.95 hardcover.

You've got to love the 85-year-old man who calls himself a "broken-down bitch" or the 92-year-old lesbian whose first encounter with a gay person was the 20-year-old James Baldwin and who remarks that "the only difference between me now and me 30 years ago is I ain't getting laid. Go find me another 92-year-old lesbian who wants to go to bed with me!"

These tales about regular people open a peephole into the larger gay history of the 20th century and resound with displays of resistance