

Holiday Gift Guide

EXCEPT FOR ONE LITTLE PROBLEM: MEMOIR OF A LIFE IN HIDING
by Joan Denson.
Barricade Books, 2001; \$14.95 softcover.

Author Joan Denson, 62, chronicles the years she spent cloaking her sexual orientation—first from herself and her family, later from her husband and son, then from neighbors and straight friends. Although she eventually found her way out of the closet, the majority of her life was spent there.

Surprisingly candid for someone still in practice as a therapist, she details her failed relationships as well as the ups and downs of her long-term partnership. She isn't afraid to reveal things that might deter potential clients, proving even "experts" can manage to screw up their love lives.

What hindered her coming-out process was having a child and worrying she might lose custody of him. Although he asked to be sent away to school once he learned of his mother's secret, they eventually made peace with the truth.

What disappoints in *Except for One Little Problem* is Denson's narrow focus on her own life without many insights to the larger picture. That is probably because she didn't fit in with the California lesbian scene and instead chose to socialize mostly with other divorced suburban moms who came out of the closet.

That narrow world view and her lack of great writing skills make this book primarily suited for individuals who find themselves in a



similar situation. Readers who are long past these dilemmas won't find much new here. —OG

BOYS BRIEFS Picture This!

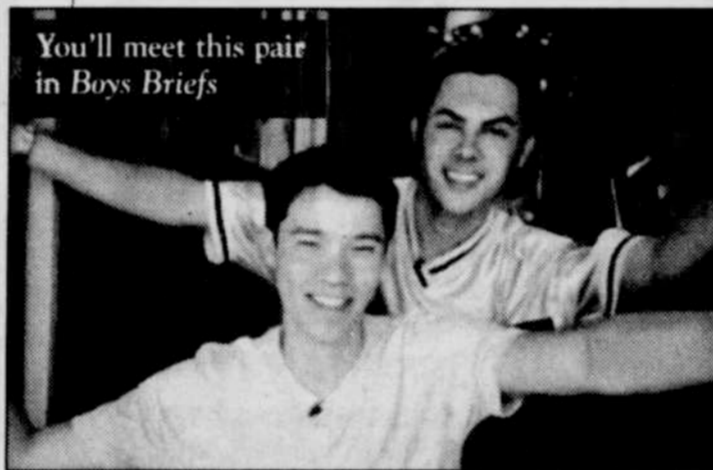
You never know what kind of package you'll find when dipping into a set of briefs, and this collection of short films is no exception. The feature was a selection at both the Sundance and Berlin festivals, and although few of the shorts

seem award-quality, some gems can be found.

"The Absolution of Anthony" is a mildly shocking film about a teen's prank phone sex calls, while "Smear" tells the story of a boy in love with his straight buddy. Two very short featurettes are "Front Room," which showcases the close-up erotic journey of a tongue, and the German "Piglets," a hilarious three-minute sex farce.

Longest of the set is "Fairy Tale," an uncomfortable story of a gay youngster bringing his boyfriend home for dinner with the parents, while the Hong Kong film "Stanley Beloved" features another straight/gay boy romance.

In between each of the six segments the package promises "humorous on-camera commentary by youthful hosts," but thankfully, the DVD allows viewers to bypass these insipid introductions and watch the shorts in any order. With too heavy an emphasis on gay-straight crushes for my taste, *Boys Briefs* is quite a mixed basket, but at least if you don't like one short, another will be along briefly. —AM



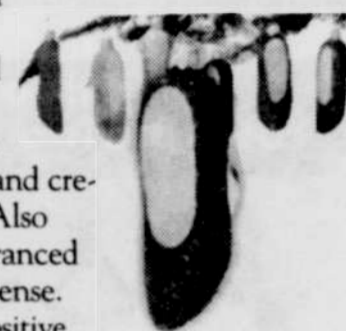
TEN
www.10percent.com

TEN by Intense is the first fragrance for the gay market formulated with an exclusive, patented, man-to-man pheromone based on advanced scientific research.



"I always wanted to develop the perfect cologne," says Greg Nimer, 10% Productions CEO. "I wanted to create something long-lasting but not overpowering—decidedly masculine but clean and fresh—that wouldn't completely take over a room."

TEN (\$38.50 for a 2-ounce bottle) has been specially created by and for gay men who want to improve their self-confidence and create a magnetic aura. Also available is a nonperfumed pheromone called Intense.



Dedicated to the positive portrayal of gay men and lesbians, 10% Productions was founded in 1993. Today, it offers more than 500 cards, posters, gifts and calendars in addition to an extensive video and DVD collection.

From the same company, check out these fab ornaments: a set of six glittery pumps in a rainbow of hues (\$80) or the limited-edition Red Ribbons, with proceeds benefiting the American Foundation for AIDS Research's efforts to find a vaccine—and a cure. Each piece is carefully hand-blown in fine detail, silvered and exquisitely painted to become a collectible work of art. —OG

PETS ON BROADWAY
100 AQUARIUMS • PET SUPPLIES
BOARDING • FLEA PROTECTION
Your neighborhood pet specialist
2762 NE Broadway
282-5824

Visit Portland's sunniest, most whimsical gift store this holiday season!
woodbloom
a cultural crossroads of colorful crafts
The Water Tower at Johns Landing
5331 SW Macadam Av. Portland
503-241-6555 • www.woodbloom.com
One-of-a-kind gifts, home decor and fabulous forever flowers

TRILLIUM ARTISANS
Earth Friendly Gifts
9119 SE Foster Road
(503) 775-7993
Tues-Fri 10-6 • Sat 9-2

FENG SHUI
Guides & directs home energies of family, love, health, career, business, wealth and more...
FREE FENG SHUI CONSULTATION UPON PURCHASE OF MERCHANDISE
Sue Lee
Largest Supplier of Authentic Oriental Furnishings on the West Coast Since 1956
• Roof Tiles
• Lamps
• Furniture
• Bronze Cranes & Ducks
• Foo Dogs
• Porcelain Garden Seats
• Screens
• Jade
• Jewelry & More
The Bat is a symbol of longevity and happiness
ORIENTALE MOTIF SHOP
725 NW 23RD AVE
503-223-4978
OPEN WED-SAT 11AM-5PM

The Love Boutique
"The adult gift shop for lovers with good taste"
♥ ADULT GIFTS & CARDS
♥ LOTIONS & POTIONS
♥ MASSAGE OILS
♥ MEN'S & WOMEN'S LINGERIE
♥ SEX TOYS
♥ NOVELTIES
♥ ADULT CANDIES & GAMES
♥ GIFT CERTIFICATES
Open Mon-Sat
1720 SE 122nd Avenue • Portland OR
503-252-2017 • www.lboutique.com

All Natural Foods • Herbal & Homeopathic Remedies • Books • Treats • Toys
Healthy Pets Northwest
Thanks for your business this past year!
Bring this ad with you and receive
\$2.00 OFF
your next purchase
The Natural Alternative for Pet Foods and Supplies
1402-A SE 39th
(39th & Hawthorne)
Portland, Oregon 97214
503-236-8036
www.healthypetsnw.com
Lesbian Owned & Operated
HOURS
Mon-Sat 10-6
Sun 12-5