

THE YEAR IN books



let's them know that everyone feels that way."

Large's robust and sometimes sinister sense of humor provided a palatable foundation for the memoir—the immature timing of which, being that she's only 42, is not lost on her. Much of the book is taken based on script snippets from her one-woman show of the same name.

"I can happily report that in no way was [writing the book] cathartic," said Large. "I feel no relief or redemption. I've never hidden any of my sexual or drug history, and I always speak candidly, so that part was easy."

Out of the frying pan and into the fire we go with the most recent release by Portland's most famous author, **Chuck Palahniuk**. *Damned* traverses the wonderfully disgusting world of eternal damnation via the experiences of a recently-deceased-by-way-of-weed-overdose teenaged girl. Sound... weird? It is.

Featuring cringe-worthy descriptions of the geographical standouts of Hell—shit waterfalls and oceans of hot vomit—and a crew of *Breakfast Club*-ian cohorts, *Damned* is entertaining in a demented children's book sort of way. By no means is it one of Palahniuk's best—shhh, don't tell *The Cult!*—but its distinctly Judy Blume-ish plodding actually melds pretty well with Palahniuk's honed oeuvre of twisted realities.

The underworld is a hot topic with today's readers, and nowhere is it more lucrative than with vampire sagas. The success of the *Twilight* series is evidence enough of that. Utilizing a slightly different route this year was Portland "gay horror" poet and Bram Stoker Award-winning author **Chad Helder**. The

release of *The Vampire Bridegroom—Poems and Tales* added to Helder's bulging body of writing, which includes *Pop-Up Book of Death* and a co-editing credit for the queer horror anthology *Unspeakable Horror: From the Shadows of the Closet*.

"*The Vampire Bridegroom* is my ultimate response to the horror genre as a gay poet," Helder told *Just Out* in October. "Personally, I believe the horror genre is a healthy outlet for fears and anxieties about gay life: fear of AIDS and its association with blood, fear of being rejected by religious communities, fear of being alienated from friends and family, fear of hate crimes, and even fear of being assimilated into straight culture—all of these translate beautifully into horror stories."

Nationally, LGBTQ writers were represented well at the 2011 National Book Awards. Poet **Nikky Finney** received the NBA for Poetry for the collection *Head Off & Split*. Finalists for the award included **Adrienne Rich** for *Tonight No Poetry Will Serve: Poems 2007-2010*, and **Carl Phillips** for *Double Shadow*, both of whom identify as LGBT. Artist **Philip Iosca** released his debut book of poetry, *Ballad of The Sad Young Men*, in February via local DIY print shop Publication Studio, and the Rev. David E. Weekley, the first openly transgender pastor in the United Methodist Church, published his autobiography.

Stay tuned for a slew of admirable books slated for release in 2012, including Portlander **Peter Zuckerman**'s highly anticipated *Buried in the Sky: The Extraordinary Story of the Sherpa Climbers on K2's Deadliest Day*. Until then, read on. JO

RADIO CAB

portland 503.227.1212 vancouver 360.694.1234

RADIO CAB
Your #1 Choice 24/7/365



Need Wine for the Holidays?

Buy Local—Hip Chicks do Wine has been producing wine in SE Portland since 1999. With 18 wines in the bottle we are sure to have some you like! Open daily for wine tasting. We also have a limited amount of our limited production Pride Wines available. Multiple bottle discounts available.

Bring in this ad for a **BUY ONE GET ONE FREE** tasting flight.

Both tasting rooms open daily.
Portland tasting room: 11AM-6PM; Newberg tasting room: 12 (noon)-7PM.

LOCATED AT 4510 SE 23RD AVE. PORTLAND, OR 97202
503-234-3790 | www.hipchicksdowine.com

Taboo
ADULT VIDEO
www.taboovideo.com

Merry Christmas to all our valued customers.

As a present to you, we are offering our popular

20 RENTALS FOR \$20

for the month of December.
Limit one per customer.

Visit our stores between Dec. 25th — Jan. 3rd for our annual clearance sale. Save up to 75% off close-out and select overstock items.

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT WWW.TABOOVIDEO.COM

VANCOUVER 4811 NE 94th Ave. Vancouver WA (360) 254-1126	82ND AVE. 2330 SE 82nd Ave. Portland OR (503) 777-6033	MLK BLVD. 237 SE MLK Blvd. Portland OR (503) 239-1678	BROADWAY (PEARL) 311 NW Broadway, Portland 97209 (503) 227-3443
---	--	---	---

HUGE SELECTION OF DVDS • ADULT TOYS • LINGERIE • MAGAZINES
ALL STORES OPEN 24 HOURS TO SERVE YOU! PRIVATE AND INTIMATE MULTICHANNEL ARCADE