

Chamberlain cleverly melds scientific reasoning into metaphor

BOOK REVIEW

By Stephanie Lodromeanan
The Southwest Portland Post

On October 13 Glen Chamberlain came by Annie Bloom's Books in Multnomah Village for a reading. She was there in support of her new book of short stories called "Conjugations of the Verb To Be."

You might have missed the reading, but the book is something that shouldn't be overlooked. In her career as an author, Chamberlain has been awarded a Pushcart Prize, Gilcrease Prize and Rona Jaffe award for her fiction.

Currently Chamberlain is a writing professor at Montana State University. Although her name might not be as recognizable as some of the bestselling authors, there is something special about the way she tells a story and she is worth looking into.

"Conjugations" is a collection of short stories which cleverly melds scientific reasoning into metaphor; displays a variety of narrators which

choose to stray from traditional; and chooses to focus on tiny aspects of life which when actually analyzed can display just how meaningful seemingly immaterial things are, like how to properly pronounce a person's name.

One of the superior strengths that Chamberlain exhibits in her writing is a beautiful way of telling a story, taking the reader through elegant prose and slowly sneaking in the wisdom of revelation.

Reading any one of the eleven stories straps you into the life of a young girl, a wandering twenty-something, or a jaded professor, and there are plenty of others.

You find yourself quickly navigating through the thought systems of a life that isn't your own, but Chamberlain draws you in so perfectly that you start to understand and deconstruct their lives.

With each start to Chamberlain's stories there is this idea that you know what is happening, that of course you can tell the situation before even the character can put them together, and with each story there is this air of superiority over watching

the story unfold from some place above it all.

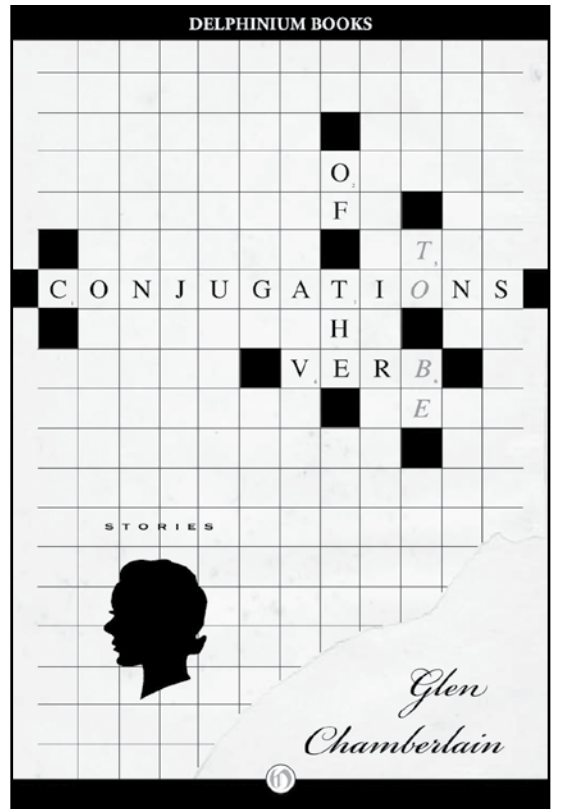
One such story is "The Track of Animals," in which a weepy and insecure wife, stricken with the plight of losing her love one snowy night, is the focus.

"Out on the ranch, she felt no separation between herself and the world; she moved through it unmembraned, unaware of borders. Only in town did she feel the shape she had made of herself and, by consequence, her limitations."

As the story progresses you stop fighting against her apparent frailty and start to understand what made her that way and what it's like to go through such heartbreaking events as she does.

With each word she uses to progress the story, you find yourself falling into place and rooting for these underdog figures to figure out the situation so you can have a revelatory moment with them.

If you are looking to read something with wisdom and thoughtful



Conjugations of the Verb To Be, by Glen Chamberlain, 193 pages, softcover: \$11.95. Delphinium Press, September 2011

reflections on life, in all its forms and stages, than I suggest turning to "Conjugations of the Verb To Be."

POST A TO Z BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY 503-244-6933

"WE MAKE HOUSES HAPPY!"
Sarah Anderson, 10

Stan Anderson Builders, LLC
SPECIALIZING IN KITCHENS, BATHROOMS & ROOM ADDITIONS.
Call today for an appointment:
503-901-1009

STAN ANDERSON BUILDERS, LLC
WWW.STANANDERSONBUILDERS.COM
STANANDERSONBUILDERS@MSN.COM

CZ BECKER COMPANY
WOOD FLOORS
A Family Owned Business Since 1982

- Restoration Repairs & Refinishing
- State of the Art Dust Containment
- Installation of New Wood Floors
- Environmentally Friendly Finishes

503.282.0623
czbecker.com

Cuts & Chemistry LLC
Hair Design, Color Specialists

503-246-2077
6349 SW Capitol Hwy
Portland, Or 97239

Walk Ins Welcome
Open Tuesday - Saturday

KEITH DAVIS
CONSTRUCTION, LLC
Over 30 years experience

- KITCHEN & BATHROOM REMODEL
- HISTORIC & WHOLE HOUSE RENOVATION
- DECKS, WINDOWS, MAINTENANCE & MORE

503.329.9212 | kdcllc@mac.com
keithdavisconstruction.com | CCB#173455

Julia Fitzgerald
phone: 503-244-6905
fax: 503-244-4569
julia@juliafitzgeraldcpa.com
www.juliafitzgeraldcpa.com
4620 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy, Suite B-4; Portland, OR 97221

Julia Fitzgerald, CPA, PC

A professional resource for your home business or small business.
QuickBooks® • Taxes • Business Development

HAND TO PAW RESALE
Proceeds support medical care for pets

**ENTIRE MONTH OF DECEMBER!!
RED AND GREEN DOT SALE!
COME AND PAW THROUGH**

8210 SW 25th at Multnomah, Portland
(503) 246-PAWS

SINCE 1962
HANDY ANDY'S
Handy Andy's Auto Repair
7991 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland
503-246-8497

EXPERT REPAIRS
TOWING • GAS
Expert Repairs • Competitive Rates
We service most vehicles, new or old.
Customer Service Is Our Business

www.HandyAndysAutoRepair.com

Your Repair to Remodel Source
General Repairs **Free Estimates**

Plumbing
Electrical
Fencing
Locks
Drywall
Windows

Maintenance
Rentals
& More
Over 25 Years Experience
Licensed, Bonded & Insured
CCB# 193715

503-867-5597
www.TheHandymanPro.net

MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTING
Barbara Serrell Hansen
(503) 244-9936
SW Portland

Special This Month:
BUSYNESS

www.no-nonsense-svc.com

Decks • Stairs • Rails • Trellises • Screens • Benches

DECKS

I live in the neighborhood. CCB#173192

Davis Hart • 503-888-4342 • DecksbyDavisHart.com

Ann Slocum-Edmond
Optometric Physician

Heather Dudzik
Optician

Annie Wolf
Optometric Physician

HILLSDALE
EYE CARE
1522 SW SUNSET BLVD
PORTLAND OREGON 97239
PH 503 - 473 - 8039
FAX 503 - 473 - 8952
WWW.HILLSDALEEYE.COM

Happy Holidays
from all of us at
The Post!

The Southwest Portland Post