



Lesbians' Favorite Books and Some Book Related Happenings An OLOC Open House Discussion

February 7, 2022

Some Book Related Happenings Mentioned

5th Annual Readout! A Festival of Lesbian Literature! All by, for, and about Lesbians! Friday, February 18–20, 2022! Runs two simultaneous tracks of mostly panels. A project of the LGBTQ Resource Center of the Gulfport Library. Included will be 41 authors reading from their works. Available for free on Zoom.

<https://readout.lgbtqgulfport.org/>.

Are you looking for a feminist bookstore? Go to the Feminist Bookstore list on the OLOC website: <https://oloc.org/feminist-bookstores>.

Interested in starting a book club through OLOC? Please contact Janet Holstine if you have “how to” questions about starting an “affinity group” such as a book club: jkholstine@aol.com or 269-323-2042.

Mev Miller is starting a Lesbian Archive—Wanderground—located in Rhode Island, but which will probably evolve into a **New England Regional Archive**. **Mev already has an extensive and growing booklist on its website** (2,200 books listed already). Each listing includes a photo of the book’s cover. This list and much more is available at: <https://wanderground.org/collections/>.

For Wanderground’s most recent newsletter, go to: <https://conta.cc/3LaQvda>.

Cloudburst. Highly recommended 2011 Canadian-American comedy-drama film. Directed by Thom Fitzgerald and starring Olympia Dukakis and Brenda Fricker. An adaptation of Fitzgerald’s 2010 play of same name.

Kitchen Table Literary Arts Center builds awareness, appreciation, and support for Women of Color and Black women writers, poets, and their work. View at www.kitchen-table.org.

Participants’ Favorite Lesbian Books are listed here alphabetically under the author’s name. Every book named was enthusiastically highly recommended when mentioned during this lively discussion!



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Favorite (Mostly) Lesbian Books

- Adams, Eve “Lesbian Lives” is reprinted in Jonathan Ned Katz’s *The Daring and Dangerous Life of Eve Adams*.
- Albert, Susan Wittig *Loving Eleanor*. Mentioned in regard to this book was Terry Baum’s play *Hick*.
- Alther, Lisa *Swan Song* and other books in the 1990s.
- Ames, Lynn *Chain Reactions*. An historical novel.
Secrets Well Kept. An historical novel.
46. A wishful thinking novel about a Lesbian 46th American president.
- Auel, Jean M. *Clan of the Cave Bear*.
- Barney, Natalie Clifford *Wild Heart*. Her bio.
- Barrington, Judith *Writing the Memoir*. Highly recommended if you are planning to or are writing your memoir.
- Beach, Sylvia *The Letters of Sylvia Beach*. Ran Paris bookstore.
- Beck, Evelyn Torton, Ed. *Nice Jewish Girls: A Jewish Lesbian Anthology*
- Benstock, Shari *Women of the Left Bank*. Nonfiction about the different groups of Lesbian writers in Paris, mostly in the 1920s. Natalie Barney and Romaine Brooke were one group. Stein and Toklas another. Very interesting.
- Bledsoe, Lucy Jane *Thin Bright Line*. Also her non-fiction about being an outdoors woman: *Ice Cave*, *How to Survive in Antarctica* and *No Stopping Us Now*, which is about fighting for and getting basketball team in high school.



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- Bliss, Harper *The Pink Bean* series set in Sydney, Australia. Complex characters and interesting issues embedded in gripping Lesbian erotic romances.
- Bohan, Becky *A Light on Altered Land*. A great read! A favorite of many participants!
The Santorini Setup. Just published in paperback.
- Bradley, Marion Zimmer *The Mists of Avalon*. She was a Lesbian (maybe?).
Darkover series. Some are boycotting her work because some women claim she and her husband abused them.
- Brayden, Melissa *Heart Block, Marry Me*.
- Bridgeforth, Sharon *Blue-jean Stories*.
- Broner, E. M. *A Weave of Women*.
- Brown, Rita Mae *Rubyfruit Jungle*. A first Lesbian book for this reader.
- Bull, Jennie Boyd *Learning to Weave: A Woman-Loving Life*. Jennie is also an OLOC member.
- Chacaby, Ma-Nee & Mary Louisa Plummer *A Two-Spirit Journey: The Autobiography of a Lesbian Ojibwa-Cree Elder*.
- Cloverdale, Amber Sumrall and Patrice Vecchine *Catholic Girls*.
- de Robertis, Carolina *Cantoras*.
- Dillon, Alena *Mercy House*. A 2020 novel about three nuns who run a shelter in Brooklyn (Mercy House). The main nun—it is eventually revealed—is a Lesbian.
- Donoghue , Emma *Pull of the Stars*. Currently on bestseller lists.



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| Douglas, Carol Anne | <i>Sister Matthew and Sister Rose: Novices in Love.</i>
Her most recent marvelous Lesbian convent title! |
| Dykewoman, Elana | <i>Beyond the Pale.</i> An all-time favorite of one recommender! Recommended several times.
<i>Riverfinger Woman.</i> |
| Faderman, Lillian | <i>Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers</i>
<i>Surpassing the Love of Men.</i> |
| Forbes, Caroline, Ed. | <i>The Needle On Full: Lesbian Feminist Science Fiction,</i> out of print from England but also fabulous. |
| Forrest, Katherine V. | <i>Curious Wine</i>
<i>Daughters of a Coral Dawn</i>
<i>Out Of Time.</i> Recommended by several. |
| Friday, Nancy | <i>My Secret Garden.</i> |
| Gearhart, Sally Miller | <i>Wanderground.</i> |
| Gidlow, Elsa | <i>I Come With My Songs.</i> Her autobiography. |
| Goffe, Lauren | <i>Matrix.</i> |
| Gomez, Jewelle | <i>The Gilda Stories.</i> Fabulous and an interesting way to take in Black history.
<i>Swords of the Rainbow: Gay and Lesbian Fantasy Adventures,</i> edited by Gomez. |
| Good, Missy | Started with <i>Xena Warrior Princess.</i> |
| Graf, Elena | <i>In This Small Space.</i> Set in Nazi Germany.
The <i>Hobbs</i> Series set in contemporary Maine. |



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The *Passing Rites* Series set in 1930s and 1940s Germany with a Lesbian surgeon main character and a Lesbian ex-nun secondary character.

Greer, Sheree L.

A Return to Arms. An extraordinary Lesbian novel about Black Lives Matter.

Fleishman, Jane, Ed.

The Stonewall Generation: LGBTQ Elders on Sex, Activism, and Aging (2020)

Highsmith, Patricia

The Price of Salt. Becky Bohan has written a sequel to *Carol*, titled *Carol Recovered*, but cannot publish it due to copyright infringement laws. But a PDF copy can be obtained by asking her and emailing her at nancybecky21@gmail.com.

Hoagland, Sarah

Lesbian Ethics: Toward New Values. Essays.

Kallmaker, Karin

Warming Trend.
Making Up For Lost Time.
Painted Moon.

Katz, Jonathan Ned

The Daring and Dangerous Life of Eve Adams.
Includes Eve Adams' "Lesbian Lives."
Recommended by more than one reader.

King, Florence

Confessions of a Failed Southern Lady. Funniest novel ever read by the participant recommending this book.

Lacour, Nina

You Know Me Well. A young adults' book.

Larson, Nella

Passing.

Lorde, Audre

Anything and everything by Audre!



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Lynch, Jane	<i>Happy Accidents</i> . A memoir.
Lynch, Lee	All her books recommended by one participant.
Macdonald, Barbara	<i>Look Me In the Eye</i> .
Maher, Keri	<i>The Paris Bookseller</i> .
Manahan, Nancy, Ed.	<i>Lesbian Nuns</i> . Essays.
Marolt, Bobbi	<i>Coming Attractions</i> .
Martinac, Paula	<i>Out of Time</i> . <i>Testimony</i> . An academic witch hunt novel.
McDermid, Val	Scottish mystery writer; newest book is 1979.
McNab, Claire	Many mystery novels.
Mikuta, Zoe Hana	<i>Gearbreakers</i> series. Good sci-fi with lead Lesbian characters.
Miller, Dusty	<i>Women and Trauma</i> . <i>Danger in the Air</i> and other novels she's written, such as the Alice Ott mystery series based on the life of Francis Crowe.
Miller, Isabel	<i>Patience and Sarah</i> .
Monnier, Adrienne	<i>The Very Rich Hours of Adrienne Monnier</i> . She and Sylvia Beach were lovers in Paris for about ten years. Both ran bookstores in Paris.
Moraga, Cherrie	<i>Native Country of the Heart</i> . A memoir.



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- Morris, Bonnie *The Disappearing L: Erasure of Lesbian Spaces and Culture.* SUNY Press.
- Pearlman, Sarah, Ed. *Bar Time: A Lesbian Rite of Passage.* Anthology of Bar Stories by Older Lesbians. (2021) Can be ordered from Sue Reamer at sbreamer@comcast.net.
- Penelope, Julia, Ed. *The Coming Out Stories*
- Perry, Imani *Looking for Lorraine* (Hansberry). This book won the Lambda Award.
- Radclyffe *Turn Back Time.*
- Reid, Taylor Jenkins *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo.* Gorgeously written.
- Rosenberg, Carol Smith *The Female World of Love and Ritual.*
- Rule, Jane Anything by her!
- Russ, Joanna *The Female Male.*
Silk Jasmine.
- Savageau, Cheryl *Out of the Crazywoods.* A memoir on being bipolar.
- Segrest, Mab *Memoir of a Race Traitor* (1989, revised 2020).
- Sinister Wisdom* A Tribute to *Conditions*; 123, Winter 2022 issue.
- Stein, Gertrude *The Alice B Toklas Cookbook.*
First Lesbian book one reader found in her public library at age 12, and it gave her entrance to another way of writing, seeing, life, and cooking!
Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas.



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- Waters, Sarah *Tipping the Velvet*. Recommended by at least two. Set in England during music hall days.
- Werlinger, Caren J. *In This Small Spot*. Recommended by at least three!
An Unlit Candle.
- Wilson, Barbara *Gaudi Afternoon*. A very well-done Lesbian mystery.
Murder in the Collective.
The Dog Collar Murders.
All her mysteries are good. Recommended by many.
- Windsor, Edie *A Wild and Precious Life*. Her memoir!
- Winik, Rowena *The Sixty-Fourth Day*.
Novel based on the author's homeless teenage years.
- Winterson, Jeannette Anything by her!
Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit, her autobiography.
Recommended by several participants.
- Wittig, Monique *L'opoponax*
Les Guerilleres
- Author unknown *Worlds Apart: An Anthology of Lesbian and Gay Science*.
Fiction and fantasy. Has a short story in it by Jewelle Gomez.