



# LAMBDA SCI-FI: RECOMMENDED BOOKLIST

Recommendations by Lambda Sci-Fi members of science fiction, fantasy, and horror books that deal positively with themes of alternative sexuality.



**Anthony, Mark.** *The Last Rune series.* Runic magic, gateways between our world and another, and a bittersweet love story between a Paladin and a man from our Earth highlight this original fantasy series.

**Atwood, Margaret.** *A Handmaid's Tale.* Set in a near future of religious repression and plunging birthrates, this novel explores the repercussions of such a society through the experiences of one woman trapped within its confines.

**Bailey, Robin Wayne.** *Shadowdance.* A disabled young man pays a high price for the opportunity to walk while unravelling and finding his future. Along the way he develops a relationship with another young man in this dark fantasy.

**Barker, Clive.** *Sacrament.* Will Rabjohns is a gay photographer who records the destruction of the biosphere. After a polar bear seriously injures him, he has a series of mystical / shamanic adventures which reveal to him the numinous reality of Nature and force him to explore his own inner nature.

**Baudino, Gael.** *Gossamer Axe.* If music is magic to you, this book will be too. A Celtic harpist whose lover is held captive by fairies has been unsuccessfully searching for centuries for a way to get her back. Finally, she finds heavy metal rock - a power that just might work.

**Baudino, Gael.** *Strands of Starlight.* This novel is set in a past where the line between history and fantasy is vague. The main character is an extremely determined woman out to avenge herself; she is complex, contradictory, and compelling. (This is not a lesbian book; but it has a lesbian tone to it.)

**Beers, Jinx (ed.).** *Lesbian Short Fiction #1.* 21 pieces of excellent short fiction about lesbians. Includes 4 short stories from the fantasy/science fiction genre, as well as a couple of mystery stories and other fictional explorations of lesbian life.

**Berman, Steve.** *Trysts.* A varied collection of short stories each with a fantastic or supernatural twist and always with a GLBT point of view.

**Block, Francesca Lia.** *Weetzie Bat. Witch Baby. Cherokee Bat and The Goat Guys. Missing Angel Juan. Baby Be-Bop.* A series of related "young adult" novels - contemporary urban "punk/Gothic" fantasies set in and around a place variously called Shangri-L.A. or Hell-A (modern Los Angeles). Positive gay and lesbian characters (both major

and supporting) appear throughout each novel. (Collected in one volume as *Dangerous Angels.*)

**Bowen, Gary.** *Winter of the Soul.* Three short stories about gay vampires, set in the United States and Hungary. Fun, light reading.

**Bradley, Marion Zimmer.** *The Shattered Chain. Thendara House. City of Sorcery.* Three independent "Darkover" novels that all deal with the same three characters: Camilla (a voluntarily neutered Darkover woman), Jaelle (a Free Amazon), and Magda Lorne (an Earthwoman). Together, these three novels deal with various aspects of lesbian, bisexual, and woman-to-woman relationships in a male-dominated, feudal society.

**Bradley, Marion Zimmer.** *The Firebrand.* A retelling of the story of the Trojan War through the eyes of Cassandra. Homosexual relationships portrayed as accepted part of society.

**Bradley, Marion Zimmer.** *The Heritage of Hastur.* A "Darkover" novel, set on a lost colony planet where humans have interbred with an indigenous, telepathic race. The dominant culture is feudal, yet psychically advanced. This is the story of Regis Hastur, a member of Darkover's telepathic aristocracy who is awakening to his psychic powers and his gayness, and his youthful love affair with one of his subjects. (This novel also includes a gay villain.)

**Brownworth, Victoria A (ed.).** *Night Bites.* Anthology of 16 vampire stories ("tales of blood and lust") by and about women. Includes stories with lesbian themes.

**Bujold, Lois McMaster.** *Ethan of Athos.* Set in the same universe as the Vorkosigan stories. What happens if a man from a closed all male planet needs to venture out to secure more diverse genetic material and the first woman he meets is a no-nonsense soldier who needs to rescue him? A fun adventure.

**Card, Orson Scott.** *Songmaster.* When Galactic Emperor Mikal wants a "songbird," the Songhouse sends him a beautiful boy who comes to love Mikal and lashes out with his emotion-control powers when Mikal is killed. The boy eventually becomes Emperor himself, falling in love with an openly gay man along the way.

**Carey, Jacqueline.** *Kushiel's Dart. Kushiel's Chosen. Kushiel's Avatar.* The tale of Phedre Delaunay, a courtesan trained in the erotic arts and with a special

divine penchant for pain mixed with pleasure. Tremendous world building, subtle politics and intrigue, plot-twists, deep characters, and a sensual buffet.

**Chabon, Michael.** *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay.* Two young Jewish men in 1930's New York, one gay, get involved in the birth of the comic book industry and use the heroes they create to explore and face their inner demons.

**Charnas, Suzy McKee.** *Walk to the End of the World. Motherlines. The Furies. The Conqueror's Child.* A feminist epic which explores the concepts of slavery, safety, history, legends, humanity, and revenge. After the Wasting (a cataclysm of pollution and war), the Riding Women, the Free Fems, and the Newly-Freed each strive to construct new women's societies from the ruins and to destroy the remains of the oppressive male-dominated world.

**Christian, Deborah.** *Mainline.* Reva is an assassin with a psi talent for moving through alternate timelines. She's a loner by choice, and lonely by consequence, until a young female crime boss enters her life. Reva lets herself be drawn into the young woman's world and both chaos and love ensue.

**Clarke, Arthur C.** *Imperial Earth.* Interplanetary intrigue between Earth and Titan in the year 2276, centering on a bisexual Titanian still haunted by memories of his estranged male lover.

**Connolly, John.** *Every Dead Thing.* Grisly novel about a detective tracking down a serial killer, with ghosts and other supernatural elements. The detective's best friends / guardian angels are a very tough, compelling and positively portrayed gay couple. First in a series.

**Cooke, John Peyton.** *Torsos.* A thrilling story about the search for a gruesome serial killer in 1935 Cleveland - based on an actual unsolved case investigated by Eliot Ness. A closeted gay detective is a member of the investigation and finds clues leading him to Cleveland's homosexual underworld - and he even falls in love with a potential victim.

**Cooke, John Peyton.** *Out for Blood.* A gay leukemia victim is on the verge of death when he gets an offer he can't refuse: become a vampire and enjoy perpetual youth, health, and sexual encounters! Only gradually does he learn just how dangerous the life of a vampire can be! (racy!)

**Coville, Bruce.** *The Skull of Truth.* The latest in the Magic Shop series of young adult novels. A young boy, who has trouble

telling the truth, picks up a skull that compels those near it to speak the truth, regardless of their intentions. At a family gathering the honest opinions of each is revealed and the boy's older brother is "outed."

**David, Peter.** *Star Trek: New Frontiers series (12+ books).*

Peter David finally delivers on the promised diversity of Star Trek with a series of books combining characters seen in the Star Trek TV series and new characters of his own creation. Of special interest is the chief engineer, Burgoyne 172, a hermaphrodite who takes both male and female lovers. Unlike the love-them-and-leave-them-fast Star Trek of Kirk and Riker, the characters in this series develop and maintain romantic relationships that make the series more realistic. The books are an enjoyable fast read.

**Decarnin, Camilla; Garber, Eric; and Paleo, Lyn (eds.).** *Worlds Apart: An Anthology of Lesbian and Gay Science Fiction and Fantasy.*

An anthology of 11 short stories with gay and lesbian themes.

**Dedman, Stephen.** *Foreign Bodies.*

Time travel, cross-gender body swaps, and a world needing heroes make for a refreshingly sharp sf novel from this Australian writer.

**Delany, Samuel R.** *Stars in My Pocket Like Grains of Sand.*

A highbrow intergalactic love story between the sole survivor of a destroyed planet and an industrial diplomat. This is the first novel of a series of two. (The second has not yet been published.)

**Dreher, Sarah.** *Gray Magic. A Captive in Time.*

Technically, mystery novels, part of the "Stoner McTavish" series. These two include heavy fantasy elements. Stoner tries hard to be a down-to-earth, skeptical dyke, but keeps finding herself involved in spiritual and magical mysteries. In *Gray Magic*, there's a heavy dose of Native American shamanism and mysticism; and in *A Captive in Time*, Stoner finds herself unexpectedly time-travelling back to Colorado in the 1870s.

**Duane, Diane.** *The Door Into Fire. The Door Into Shadow. The Door Into Sunset. (The Tale of the Five series).*

High fantasy series in a world where everyone is fundamentally bisexual (main characters are portrayed having relationships with people regardless of gender); contains two strong central female characters and two male lovers as leads.

**Duane, Diane.** *So You Want To Be A Wizard. Deep Wizardry. High Wizardry. (and others).*

Young adult fantasy series with minor gay characters about two teens who discover a book instructing them on becoming wizards.

**Edelman, Scott.** *The Gift.*

A gay couple revives a vampire and must deal both with the "gift" of immortality offered by the vampire and with the rampant homophobia in their new small town. Interesting comparisons between the oppression of gays and hatred of vampires.

**Edmonson, Roger.** *Silverwolf.*

Gay men are being brutally murdered in the nighttime streets of Seattle. Could there be a gay werewolf on the prowl?

**Elliot, Jeffrey M (ed.).** *Kindred Spirits.*

An anthology of 12 short stories with gay and lesbian themes. These stories portray same-sex love in all its richness and diversity. A good introduction to gay science fiction.

**Flewelling, Lynn.** *Luck In The Shadows. Stalking Darkness. Traitor's Moon.*

Well crafted dark-tinged fantasy, with gods, wild magics, hidden pasts, and romance. Alec is a backwoods young man unaware of his elven heritage. Seregil is a thief and spy who instantly sees in Alec a partner and more. Seregil trains Alec as they attempt to thwart the plans of a dark god's minions.

**Flynn, Michael.** *In the Country of the Blind.*

A black real estate developer and her gay architect friend stumble upon evidence that a clandestine organization has secretly been manipulating historical events since the Civil War - and that this organization is willing to go to any lengths to remain hidden!

**Forrest, Katherine V.** *Daughters of a Coral Dawn.*

Lesbian classic. A race of women (founded by one woman and her daughters) leaves its home to colonize a vacant planet. Men show up and have to be dealt with; but otherwise the story revolves around setting up a new world and dealing with attraction and love.

**Garber, Eric (ed.).** *Embracing the Dark.*

An anthology of 11 short stories of horror and dark fantasy, with gay men and lesbians at the center of these tales of ghosts, vampires, werewolves, and spirits.

**Garber, Eric; and Gomez, Jewelle (ed.).** *Swords of the Rainbow.*

An anthology of 14 short stories of fantasy and science fiction featuring gay or lesbian protagonists, including a new "Gilda" story by Jewelle Gomez.

**Garber, Eric; and Paleo, Lyn (ed.).** *Uranian Worlds: A Guide to Alternative Sexuality in Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror (2nd edition).*

The annotated bibliography of variant sexuality (gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans-sexual, etc.) in science fiction, fantasy, and horror literature and film from A.D. 200 through 1989. A window to the changing attitudes toward sexual variance over several centuries.

**Gearhart, Sally Miller.** *The Wanderground: Stories of the Hill.*

The threat to a lesbian utopia is men. This is a classic exploration of how women, if left to their own devices, would find a way to live in harmony with themselves and nature.

**Gerrold, David.** *The Man Who Folded Himself.*

A man inherits a pocket watch that allows him to travel through time and alternate realities. He meets (and dates) male and female versions of himself. Things get complicated when he decides to have a baby with himself.

**Gerrold, David.** *Jumping Off the Planet. Bouncing Off the Moon. Leaping to the Stars.*

A teenager, his older brother, and their mentally disabled little brother escape Earth and divorced parents and strike out on their own. The older brother meets a new male lover on the journey. The second and third books continue the saga of the Dillinger family.

**Gilman, Carolyn Ives.** *Halfway Human.*

While investigating an attempted suicide by a mysterious alien, Val Endrada discovers that the alien is a "bland", a member of the asexual underclass of the closed planet Gammadis. Her investigation uncovers the darkest secrets of Gammadian society. A fascinating exploration of class, slavery and gender.

**Gomez, Jewelle.** *The Gilda Stories.*

This book chronicles the adventures of a black lesbian vampire, from her flight from Mississippi as a runaway slave child in 1850 through her flight to Peru as a hunted vampire in 2050. Gilda also serves as a witness to the changes in how blacks and women are viewed by the majority society.

**Green, Roland.** *Squadron Alert. Division of the Spoils. The Sum of Things. Vain Command.*

Exciting "combat SF" & space opera on the grand scale. The uneasy truce between two intra-stellar confederations is threatened by political unrest on the planet Victoria; and the starcruiser Shenandoah is sent in to keep the peace, if possible. Includes many well-handled GLBT characters.

**Griffith, Nicola.** *Ammonite.*

The Company plans to exploit the planet GP as soon as they figure out how to survive the planet's mysterious virus, which kills all men and some women. Anthropologist Marghe Taishan volunteers as a vaccine guinea pig in return for the chance of a lifetime: studying an all-woman planet that has been isolated for centuries.

**Griffith, Nicola.** *Slow River.*

In the near future, Lore Van de Oest is a woman on the run from her hateful past, her dysfunctional mega-wealthy family, and her wounded self-image. As an electronic criminal and as a lowly worker in a high-tech sewage

treatment plant, she confronts such issues as dependency, child abuse, and self-esteem.

**Griffith, Nicola; and Pagel, Stephen (eds.).** *Bending the Landscape: Fantasy. Bending the Landscape: Science Fiction. Bending the Landscape: Horror.*

Three award-winning anthologies of original genre stories about gay & lesbian characters. Includes a wide variety of works, and authors both famous and new.

**Grimsley, Jim.** *Kirith Kirin.*

A young man discovers his role in a portentous and cataclysmic war between eternal beings at the end of an age in his world. The King he swears to serve becomes his lover.

**Haldeman, Joe.** *The Forever War.*

A potent exploration of the nature and consequences of war as told through the eyes of a soldier living through over a thousand years of an interstellar conflict. In time, he must deal with the fact that homosexuality has become the norm and that his heterosexuality makes him a social oddity, a queer.

**Harper, Steven.** *Nightmare: A Novel of the Silent Empire.*

The planet Bellerophon is supposedly a safe haven for Silents, the telepathic "Dreamers" whose instantaneous mental communications keep the civilized galaxy running. But a serial killer is viciously murdering Silents in the dream-state - and simultaneously mutilating their bodies! Can the killer be located and stopped? The main character is a young Silent teenager who is learning about his homosexuality at the same time as his powerful telepathic abilities are developing.

**Harper, Steven.** *Dreamer.*

Kenji is a Dreamer, able to enter the group mind space of the Dream and communicate across vast interstellar distances. He, an ex-lover, and their friends race to rescue a powerful latent Dreamer before a threat to both the Dream and the real world destroys society.

**Harris, Anne.** *Accidental Creatures.*

Helix has always been different, with her extra set of arms and strange teeth, she has shunned most human contact until wanderlust sends her out into the world. Her past and the future of a biopolymer harvesting company collide in this fast paced and emotionally charged knockout of a book.

**Harrison, Don.** *The Alexandrian Drachma.*

A well-written gay historical-fantasy/romance. An English nobleman and his young ward search for the lost tomb of Alexander the Great in 19th Century Egypt.

**Hartman, Keith.** *The Gumshoe, The Witch and the Virtual Corpse. The Gumshoe Gorilla.*

Murder mysteries with social and political intrigue set in a 21st-century Atlanta on the

brink of city-wide civil war between radical Fundamentalists and what they term "the Godless Satanic Conspiracy" (Gays, Liberals, Wiccans, Democrats, Catholics, etc.). Starring gay PI Drew Parker and his Wiccan partner Jen Gray, the stories feature numerous major, minor and background characters that portray alternate sexual and religious lifestyles positively.

**Huff, Tanya.** *Blood Price. Blood Trail. Blood Lines. Blood Pact. Blood Debt.*

The adventures of Toronto private investigator Victoria Nelson and her unlikely partner, Henry Fitzroy, a 500-year-old vampire. Their cases involve such supernatural elements as demons, werewolves, a murderous Egyptian mummy, zombies, ghosts and "mad scientists." Henry is unabashedly bisexual; many other GLBT characters.

**Huff, Tanya.** *Sing the Four Quarters.*

Courtly intrigues cause romantic complications in a "high fantasy" world where bards can Sing the elemental spirits of Earth, Air, Fire, and Water into doing their bidding. Sexual orientation is not an issue in this society; and gay, lesbian, and bisexual characters abound.

**Johnson, Toby.** *Strange Matter.*

A coming-out story set in 1996, with friendly aliens in big flying saucers. Many comparisons have been made between this story and such science fiction shows as V and Star Trek.

**Joyce, Graham.** *The Tooth Fairy.*

A young boy wakes up and finds the Tooth Fairy in his room, a ragged, smelly fairy who won't go away. A macabre dark fantasy/coming of age story, in which the Tooth Fairy changes sex several times.

**Katz, Judith.** *Running Fiercely Toward A Thin High Sound.*

Fits in as genre literature only because of elements of "magical realism" in it. Nevertheless, a vivid, engrossing, imaginative read.

**Kay, Guy Gavriel.** *The Lions of Al-Rassan.*

An openly-bisexual assassin, a rough-edged but idealistic rogue who is happily married, and the Jewish daughter of a famed healer form an unlikely alliance in an Iberian Peninsula torn by religious strife between Muslims, Christians, and Jews.

**Keesey, Pam (ed.).** *Daughters of Darkness: Lesbian Vampire Stories.*

An anthology of sexy, innovative short stories, mostly by contemporary women authors. Includes the 1872 classic Carmilla, by J. Sheridan LeFanu.

**Kerr, Peg.** *The Wild Swans.*

Two interlaced retellings of the fairy tale of a young girl who must fashion coats for her swan brothers from nettles in silence to save them from a curse. One is a fairly straightforward retelling in Puritan New England, the other is a

modern take on the eve of the AIDS epidemic in New York City. Beautifully written and powerful.

**Koja, Kathe.** *Skin.*

Two female artists share obsession towards their work, and eventually their lives, as they meld dance, performance, metalwork and music into a new and disturbing artform. Eventually obsession takes them past a point of no return, into a world of torture, extreme body modification, and pain. Not a book to be taken lightly.

**Koja, Kathe.** *Strange Angels.*

Grant is a photographer who has lost his artistic drive. Robin is a psychiatric patient of Grant's girlfriend. When Grant sees some of the eerie art created by Robin, he becomes obsessed with the young man. Nice switch on the gay-man-obsessed-with-straight-man cliché.

**Kushner, Ellen.** *Swordspoint.*

A brilliant adult fairytale set in a fantasy Renaissance-like world. A fascinating story of political intrigue and the romance between a swordsman-for-hire and his lover, a young scholar. An excellent read. (Two other male characters are bi.)

**Kushner, Ellen & Sherman, Delia.** *The Fall of the Kings.*

This brilliant "sequel" to Kushner's "Swordspoint" lays out a tale of passion burning too brightly amidst the political intrigues of academia and hidden history.

**Lackey, Mercedes.** *Magic's Pawn.*

*Magic's Promise. Magic's Price.*

Set in a feudal world where magic and chivalry exist side by side. Chronicles the romantic tale of a young "herald-mage" who must come to accept his powers and his gayness. A good portrayal of the struggle of "coming out" and accepting oneself as a good person.

**Lai, Larissa.** *When Fox Is a Thousand.*

A fantasy based on Chinese mythology and folktales. The intricate story of three female characters - a fox spirit, a 9th-century Chinese poetess/nun, and a contemporary Canadian-born Chinese woman - as they interact down the centuries - socially, personally, and sexually.

**LeGuin, Ursula K.** *The Left Hand of Darkness.*

A fascinating exploration of an alien culture where a person's gender changes throughout life. The protagonist is an Earthman who must learn to deal with people who are literally "neutral" (although they may seem male) one day and become male or female the next.

**Leigh, Stephen.** *Dark Water's Embrace.*

Surrounded by the remains of a recently extinct native civilization, a small colony of humans struggle against growing infant mortality rates, infertility, and rapid genetic mutation. Anais is the colony's doctor, and treated as an outsider. Banished for her presumed lesbianism, she races to unravel the mystery of the natives and

her own hermaphroditism. Her answers hold the key to survival.

**Lewitt, S.N. (Shariann).** *Songs of Chaos.* A mixture of samba, cyberspace, Santeria, and spaceships - this novel discusses what it means to be an "outsider," as well as the nature of reality itself. And the mutual love of two women brings them to the forefront of their society.

**Lewitt, S.N. (Shariann).** *Interface Masque.*

Adventure and intrigue in cyberspace and a near-future Venice, as the Sept Houses plot to gain control over access to the "infosea" - with "mood music," jazz, and a unique alien "invasion" thrown in for good measure. One major character finds himself falling in love with another young man.

**Marks, Laurie J.** *Fire Logic.*

Is violence the answer to violence? Can wounds be healed by love alone? Only a handful of outcasts can bring peace to a nation at war with its conquerors. Marvelous characterizations, and thoughtful and thought-provoking dilemmas.

**Marks, Laurie J.** *Dancing Jack.*

Two older, more experienced women rekindle their relationship as lovers after long years of separation - in a fantasy world that is a fascinating mix of Twain and Tolkien. Unique system of magic.

**Matthews, Susan R.** *The Devil and Deep Space.*

Fifth book in the "Judiciary" series, recounting the adventures of Andrej Koscuisko, Fleet Ship Inquisitor (i.e. official torturer). Can be read on its own. A complex, satisfying read: space opera filled with lots of political intrigue and inter-personal rivalries. A number of gay male background characters, some in significant supporting roles.

**Matthews, Susan R.** *An Exchange of Hostages. Prisoner of Conscience. Hour of Judgment.*

Andrej Koscuisko is the son of a wealthy conglomerate family and has been sent, unwillingly, to train as an Inquisitor, a professional torturer. A brilliant physician, he attempts to maintain his humanity as he discovers how much he enjoys the darkest aspects of his work. His prowess as an Inquisitor is his personal demon and he struggles to use his talents to mete out true justice. The sexual tensions between Andrej and his victims and Andrej and his slaves are potent.

**May, Julian.** *The Many-Colored Land. The Golden Torc. The Nonborn King. The Adversary. The Surveillance. The Metaconcert. Jack the Bodiless. Diamond Mask. Magnificat.*

A highly readable series about the rise of metapsychic humanity, time travel to the Pliocene, and contact with alien civilizations.

GLB&T characters (as good folk, bad folk, and in between) appear as major and minor characters throughout the novels.

**McCaffrey, Anne.** *Moreta: Dragon Lady of Pern. The Chronicles of Pern: First Fall. Dragonseye.*

Books in the "Dragonriders of Pern" series. Pern is a world where human colonists from Earth live with genetically engineered dragons. As the series progresses, homosexuality and bisexuality are portrayed as an accepted part of the dragonrider way of life. In the later books, Ms. McCaffrey makes very open references to gay couples.

**McHugh, Maureen F.** *Mission Child.*

Janna lives in a backwaters village on a remote human colony. Attacks by raiders leave it in ruins, and result in the deaths of her husband and infant child. Escaping to a refugee city, she takes on the identity of Jan, a young man, as a way to protect herself. She finds herself between the worlds of technology and primitivism, offworlder and native, female and male as she slowly forges her future.

**McHugh, Maureen F.** *China Mountain Zhang.*

In a world dominated by Chinese Marxism and Western capitalism, a young gay "ABC" (American-born Chinese) tries to make a career for himself as an engineering tech and live a gay life that is hidden from a sexually repressive society.

**McIntyre, Vonda N.** *Starfarers.*

Central to this book is an out-of-the-ordinary partnership marriage of a black woman, an Asian man, and a white man. (Their fourth partner has died.) They're all on a "world-ship" on an exploratory expedition into space. The story includes government spies and double-crossing, genetically engineered humans, in-law hassles within the partnership, and lots of bisexual attraction (though not much sex). Psychologically based and very interesting.

**McMahan, Jeffrey N.** *Vampires Anonymous.*

A wry and witty vampire and his lover get mixed up in the murderous in-fighting within the vampire community. There are gay vampire-hunters on the prowl, too!

**Morrow, James.** *Only Begotten Daughter.*

This story of Jesus' half-sister takes on the so-called "religious right" with a sense of humor and adventure. The heroine's best friend's mother is a wonderful woman who happens to be a lesbian. Fun, thought-provoking, and a good read.

**Nader, George.** *Chrome.*

A gay love story between a human and an alien. A young cadet is charged with the care of a recuperating "robot" who is the perfect specimen of manhood. The cadet knows that

falling in love with the robot would condemn them both, but he simply can't help himself.

**Nissenson, Hugh.** *The Song of the Earth.* The "biography" (told through journal entries, interviews, article excerpts, art photographs and samples, and more) of a genetically engineered artistic genius from the early 21st century. Amazing book.

**Park, Severna.** *The Annunciate.*

A young woman with magic-like powers in a technically crumbling society and two other "meshed" humans travel the human galaxy, watching the nanotech environment they can control fade. Enter both Naverdi, a young rebel woman, and a powerful alien life form.

**Patton, Fiona.** *The Painter Knight.*

Political maneuvering, regicide, religious antagonism and magical plots set in the same feudal/medieval society as The Stone Prince, but at an earlier time. When the Aristok Marsellus III is murdered, his best friend and lover, Simon of Florenz, a renowned painter, must rescue his 5-year-old daughter and heir. The story revolves around returning Cassandra DeMarian to Branion to claim her throne. A fast moving and fun read.

**Patton, Fiona.** *The Stone Prince.*

Border warfare, espionage, magical conflict, and dynastic intrigues set in a feudal/medieval society where a person's titles and societal position are not dependent on his/her gender and same-sex relationships are common among the aristocracy. This is the setting where Crown Prince Demnor DeMarian, heir to the Branion throne, falls in love with Kelahnus, a male courtesan in the Guild of Companions.

**Pollack, Rachel.** *Godmother Night.*

Laurie is head of the college's Lesbian Alliance; Jacqueline has never known who she was. With the behind-the-scenes help of Godmother Night, they meet and fall in love instantly and later have a baby, which changes their lives forever. But Godmother Night is more than she seems; and everything comes with a price.

**Reamy, Tom.** *San Diego Lightfoot Sue and Other Stories.*

Reamy populates his stories with characters from all walks of life, and takes a long scary look at sexuality, desire, and what we are willing to allow ourselves to see and handle. Drag queens, hustlers, macho cops, and more.

**Robinson, Spider.** *The Callahan Touch. Callahan's Legacy.*

The latest additions to the "Callahan's Crosstime Saloon" stories - as always, rollicking good fun! These episodic novels contain some thought-provoking, often poignant discussions of gay relationships, the spectre of AIDS, bisexuality, homophobia, and young gay life experiences.

**Rosen, Selina.** *Hammer Town.*

Action-packed, fast-paced adventure. Sci-fi with a flavor of noir fiction and Wild West stories: a

cyber-enhanced lesbian cop takes on the local kingpin of crime in an effort to avenge the murder of her lover while rescuing the kingpin's kidnapped daughter from a rival gangster.

**Russell, Mary Doria.** *The Sparrow. Children of God.*

An astounding pair of novels of first contact and the search for the divine. Russell populates her novels with brilliant characters, strong cultural science, beautiful prose and questions that haunt the reader well after the book is finished. Of particular note are her explorations of families-by-choice and her use of positive gay characters. One of the best genre tales ever.

**Russo, Richard Paul.** *Destroying Angel. Carlucci's Heart. Carlucci's Edge.*

In the future San Francisco, life is harsh and cheap. Megacorporations rule, the Tenderloin is a no-holds-barred bazaar, and the police accomplish little. First an ex-cop, Tanner, and then a current cop, Frank Carlucci, struggle to bring justice for unthinkable crimes. Body thieves, drugs, bio-terrorism, serial killers and much worse stalk the streets. These books are dark and gritty, and are peppered with gay characters.

**Ryman, Geoff.** *Was.*

Three lives follow their own yellow brick roads towards epiphany. This novel of magic realism ties together the lives of the real Dorothy, an abused and bitter young girl met by substitute teacher Frank L. Baum; Bill, a kind hearted young man whose life is changed when he works in a nursing home; and Jonathan, an actor dying of AIDS.

**Ryman, Geoff.** *The Child Garden.*

In a world where "I love you is bad grammar," young artist Milena meets a mysterious young bio-engineered polar woman named Rolfa. Love and art unfettered by conformity ensue. Strange, filled with remarkable ideas, and thoroughly rewarding.

**Sawyer, Robert J.** *Hominids. Humans. Hybrids.*

A well-written science fiction series about the interplay between a parallel Earth where what we call Neanderthals are the only human species and our own world after an experiment opens a gateway between them. In the Neanderthal society, bisexuality is the norm; and the author provides a fascinating explanation of how and why that came about.

**Schimel, Lawrence.** *The Drag Queen of Elfland and Other Stories.*

A collection of 17 short stories featuring innovative, sometimes funny, sometimes shocking, sometimes romantic, sometimes erotic combinations of standard fantasy themes with (not-so-standard) gay or lesbian characters and themes.

**Schimel, Lawrence (ed.).** *Things Invisible To See.*

A collection of short stories filled with magic realism, strange surreality, and gay and lesbian characters.

**Scott, Melissa.** *Night Sky Mine.*

Ista Kelly is the sole survivor of a raid on a space mining operation. As she searches for her true identity, she feels the first stirrings of love for one of her female classmates. Meanwhile, a gay male couple investigates rumors that someone is breeding "wild" programs in cyberspace aboard the abandoned mine and threatening the very existence of computer-based interstellar society.

**Scott, Melissa.** *Shadow Man.*

In the far future, an intra-stellar civilization recognizes five distinct human genders and nine sexual preferences. But on the planet Hara, only the male/female "straight" paradigm is sanctioned. Warreven Stiller, a "herm," finds life in the "shadows" of Haran society increasingly unacceptable - and dangerous!

**Scott, Melissa.** *Mighty Good Road.*

A lesbian couple operates a successful interplanetary salvage operation. Their latest assignment is tougher than usual - there's sabotage and hijacking afoot. Excellent, fast-paced adventure.

**Scott, Melissa.** *Dreamships.*

Interplanetary corporate intrigue and personal ambitions clash in a brilliant novel which explores the nature of Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality. Many of the major characters are lesbian or gay.

**Scott, Melissa.** *Dreaming Metal.*

Celinde Fortune is a stage illusionist who begins to suspect that the new computer construct she uses in her act may in fact be a renegade AI once implicated in a murder. A follow-up novel to Dreamships, it continues an exploration of the concept of Artificial Intelligence amid the class struggles and economic-political upheavals on the planet Persephone.

**Scott, Melissa.** *Burning Bright.*

The planet Burning Bright is a hub for intergalactic trade and the center of virtual-reality role-playing gaming for all human space. Spacepilot Quinn Lioe visits for the VR gaming; but finds herself caught up in a more deadly game of interstellar political intrigue. A fascinating novel! Most major characters seem to be bisexual.

**Scott, Melissa.** *Trouble and Her Friends.*

In the not-too-distant future, the US Government is devising and enforcing new laws that will regulate and pretty much "close" the cyberspace frontier. Can ex-lovers Trouble and Cerise (and all their lesbian and gay friends) survive in this new, riskier, and more regulated virtual reality? An excellent novel!

**Scott, Melissa & Barnett, Lisa.** *Point of Hopes. Point of Dreams.*

The adventures of Pointsman Nicolas Rathe and his friend and lover Philip Esling as they

solve dangerous magical crimes, and avoid the pitfalls of political plots and schemes - all while undertaking the hardest task, developing a relationship. Very original magic.

**Sheffield, Charles.** *Aftermath.*

Interwoven tales of survivors of a space borne electro-magnetic pulse which has destroyed all modern electronics as they seek answers and rebuild the country. The survivors include cancer patients, a mysterious serial killer, and the President and his staff.

**Sherman, Delia.** *The Porcelain Dove.*

The magical tale of a French noble and the handmaiden who loves her. The gentle caring and romance between the two women is played out as dark deeds are discovered, curses are cast, and fairy tales are lived. A rich tapestry of language, imagery, love and magic.

**Singleton, Jacqui.** *Heartstone and Saber.*

A swashbuckling fantasy adventure with lead female and lesbian characters.

**Slonczewski, Joan.** *A Door Into Ocean.*

The ocean-world of Shora is populated solely by "Sharers," amphibious females who "share" with each other every aspect of their lives, as well as "sharing" the biosphere with all the other life forms on the planet. When Shora is invaded by soldiers from a neighboring planet (many of whom are "malefreaks"), the non-violent Sharers face either ecological disaster and extinction at the hands of the militaristic Valedons or, if they fight the invaders, the loss of their most deeply held beliefs.

**Slonczewski, Joan.** *Brain Plague.*

In the worlds of The Fold, a new threat is growing as sentient microbes are developing cultures and symbiotic relationships within the brains of some citizens, while a mutant strain is taking over others. Politics, philosophy, art, and more.

**Spinrad, Norman.** *Journals of the Plague Years.*

Four people's lives are on a collision course, in a near-future America of rampant AIDS, quarantined cities, safe-sex machines, ID cards for HIV status, and outlawed "meat sex". Controversial and "in your face" fiction - typical Spinrad.

**Springer, Nancy.** *Larque on the Wing.*

Larque is a small-time artist and housewife going through an identity crisis. She gets an opportunity to reassess her life when she finds herself with a second chance to grow up - this time as a randy young man who happens to be gay. She goes on a quest to find her long-lost father, desperately trying to avoid the smothering attentions and demands of her villainous mother. One of the most fascinating "second chance" books to date - and hilarious to boot.

**Springer, Nancy.** *Metal Angel.*

A disaffected angel materializes himself on Earth in order to lead the fast life - debauchery,

sexuality of all sorts, and rock music - only he forgets to keep his wings from coming with him. The daughter of a fanatical preacher, a tough guy with a heart of gold, and a power-hungry, vain, gay man all full under the angel's spell and into his circle of confederates. The Religious Right (in the form of the woman's parents) takes on this "blasphemous fiend," leading to betrayal, confrontation, and redemption.

**Springer, Nancy. *Fair Peril.***

What happens when a struggling storyteller/librarian/recent divorcee encounters a frog claiming to be a Prince? Not what you might expect. With the help of a fellow librarian (a gay black man), she fights her ex-husband, the Prince, and all of Fairyland to win her daughter back. Along the way she learns strength; and her partner finally learns to take chances and snags the Prince of his dreams.

**Starhawk. *The Fifth Sacred Thing.***

Finally! A feminist utopian novel that not only doesn't pit women against men, but that solves the problem of how to non-violently counter force. All that and vivid writing, too!

**Steele, Allen. *The Tranquility Alternative.***

In an alternate timeline, a budget-conscious US is abandoning its space program and turning over Tranquility Moonbase to a European corporation - but first plans to destroy nuclear missiles siloed near the moonbase (left from the Cold War era). Unknown conspirators have \*other\* plans for the missiles! One of the major characters is a lesbian - she's an Air Force officer, a senior NASA astronaut, and second-in-command on the final US lunar mission.

**Stewart, Jean. *Return to Isis. Isis Rising. Warriors of Isis.***

An excellent series about a post-apocalyptic society with city-states that are completely accepting of any way of life.

**Tarr, Judith. *Lord of the Two Lands.***

The story of Alexander the Great's early victories over the Persians and of the supernatural battles behind the scenes, as witnessed and largely motivated by Meriamon, a priestess-mage of Egypt and daughter of the last native Pharaoh. Treats Alexander's love for Hephaestion endearingly and matter-of-factly.

**Waitman, Katie. *The Merro Tree.***

This marvelous first novel explores the meaning and purpose of art, questions the value of censorship, and tells a damned fine same-sex-different-species love story while doing it. A remarkably colorful galaxy, wonderful characters, and tough questions - this is what science fiction is supposed to be.

**Weathers, Brenda. *The House at Pelham Falls.***

A supernatural "fantasy." A woman on a retreat is trying to find herself. Instead, she becomes the lover of the ghost of a long-dead lesbian. The mystery is: will she have to die to join this new love?

**Williams, Liz. *The Ghost Sister.***

A crew from a peaceful planet arrives on Monde D'Isle to re-establish contact with a long lost colony only to discover the long term results of an attempt to align the colonists with the cycles of the planet.

**Wittig, Monique. *Les Guerilleres.***

A lesbian-feminist classic. Written in an avant-garde style, interspersed with litanies of women's names. This is the story of a society of women warriors fighting against men. Angry, powerful, hypnotic.

**Wolfe, Chris Anne. *Shadows of Aggar.***

Written very much in the style of M.Z. Bradley's "Darkover" novels. Interplanetary intrigue sparks adventures on a feudal world, while two women (an Amazon and a Shadow guide) discover their mutual love.

**Yolen, Jane. *Briar Rose.***

A masterful retelling of the German version of the "Sleeping Beauty" fairy tale. This beautifully crafted story revisits the horrors of the Holocaust and presents a perfect modern-day fable, complete with gay Prince Charming. Lyrical, evocative, and completely compelling.