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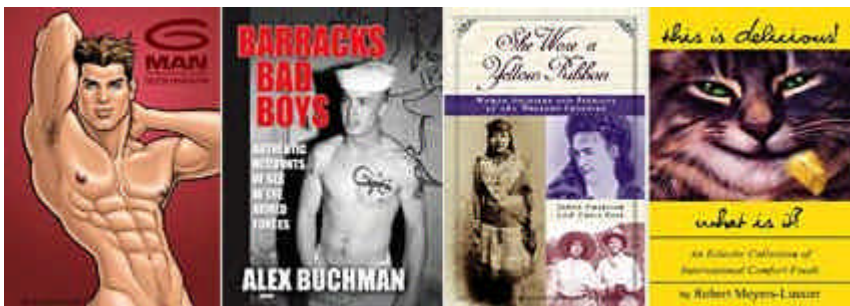
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Booked

by Ken Furtado

Featured Books

The world at large may be reading less, but publishers are relentless in keeping new books flowing. Lovers of nonfiction and of military men will be delighted with Alex Buchman's **Barracks Bad Boys: Authentic Accounts of Sex in the Armed Forces** (Harrington Park, \$19.95, pap.). Call it, documentary nonfiction meets erotica. The denizens of these pages ask, tell, pursue and shout it from the rooftops.



She Wore a Yellow Ribbon: Women Soldiers and Patriots of the Western Frontier (Globe Pequot, \$11.95, pap.) offers a different view of the military experience. JoAnn Chartier and Chris Enss tell the stories of "women who heeded the call" and headed west, either alone or in the company of their husbands and boyfriends, many of whom were soldiers.

Confessions of a Casanova (Kensington, \$23, hardcover), by Chris Kenry, puts a same-sex spin on the eternal saga of the lovable cad who has culture, wit, knowledge, money and charm but can't find a mate.

Brian Francis' **Fruit** (MacAdam/Cage, \$23, hardcover) is young adult fiction of the highest order. Eighth-grader Peter Paddington is fully aware of his need for a boyfriend, but being unpopular and overweight are equally pressing problems. But when his nipples begin to grow and to speak to him one day, Peter has to find quick new strategies for coping. Lots of humor free from angst keeps this story from becoming maudlin.

If you enjoy cooking and you love comfort food, dip into the pages of Robert Meyers-Lussier's **This Is Delicious! What Is It? An Eclectic Collection of International Comfort Foods** (iUniverse, \$24.95, pap.). More than 250 recipes from around the globe are included in this tempting collection. Recipes are presented by type of dish (e.g., salads, appetizers, breads, desserts) with a separate alphabetical index. The ingredients are not so exotic you won't be able to locate them, and the nutritional content won't require roto-rooting your arteries afterwards. My only beef is that each recipe does not tell you its country or region of origin (which is not always obvious). Read more online at www.thisisdeliciouswhatisit.com.

When you throw your dinner party, you can decorate the table with hand-made creations from **Very Naughty Origami: The Art of Turning Pure Paper into XXX Conversation Pieces** (Universe, \$16.95, hardcover), by Nick Robinson. The French Tickler would make dandy napkin rings and Subtle Ploy (a bed) is a terrific place card holder. A flotilla of tiny spermatozoa or the Randy Rabbits would make a centerpiece bound to stimulate table talk. Sixteen "recipes" in all. (If you're not having a dinner party, consider making festive holiday decorations for the office.)



Same-sex marriage rears its controversial head in two titles. **Same-Sex Marriage: The Personal and the Political** (Insomniac Press, \$16.95, pap.), by Kathleen A. Lahey and Kevin Anderson (a lawyer and a psychologist) uses case histories from the USA and Canada to illustrate the multi-faceted issues surrounding marriage. Award-winning writer George Chauncey (*Gay New York*) has written **Why Marriage? The History Shaping Today's Debate Over Gay Equality** (Basic Books, \$22, hardcover). Chauncey compares today's same-sex marriage issues to past historical hot-button controversies such as

interracial marriage and desegregation. While a dwindling number of activists today question whether the "gay agenda" should include same-sex marriage at all, Chauncey brings a historical perspective that persuasively argues there will never be full equality for gays as long as marriage remains ruled out.

Fans of Dick Hardesty, the sleuth featured in writer Dorien Gray's series of whodunits, now have an eighth novel to indulge in. **The Role Players** (GLB Publishers, \$15.95, pap. or download from www.GLBpubs.com) finds Dick and his younger lover Jonathan vacationing in New York City, when they are called upon by an influential theatrical producer to find out if foul play was involved in the death of his star player. Past editions of this column have had many good things to say about Hardesty's hardboiled persona, but love seems to have a softening effect.



Another novel recommended for gay youths is

Mark A. Roeder's *Someone Is Watching* (iUniverse Star, \$16.95, pap.). Ethan is his high school's star wrestler, but he's being stalked by someone threatening to tell the whole school Ethan is gay. Ethan bravely embraces his sexuality and dares his tormenter to do his worst, which nearly happens. The story is set in the rural Midwest in 1980.

Glen Hanson, creator of the "Chelsea Boys" comic strip, offers an entire volume of his idealized studs and street dudes in *G Man* (Bruno Gmünder, \$19.95, hardcover), which also offers a 2005 calendar. Abs and attitude are the hallmarks of Hanson's multi-ethnic creations.

Paula Christian returns with another pair of lesbian pulp classics, to follow-up the successful *Twilight Girls* and *Another Kind of Love*. *The Other Side of Desire* (Kensington, \$15, pap.) offers two 1965 pulps, the title novella (originally published as *Another Kind of Love*) and *Amanda*. In *Amanda*, Evelyn is straight but not narrow — until she meets Amanda. In *The Other Side of Desire*, Carrie is a model housewife until she becomes the #1 most wanted on Kim's recruiting campaign. Readers are asked to check their political correctness at the door.

Marginalia

Submissions sought for Queer Faery Fiction anthology

Maple Shade, NJ — They're immortal. They cannot lie. Often they are unnaturally beautiful or horrendously ugly. With a song, a glance or a single kiss they can bewitch. They are the Fey Folk.

While there have been anthologies of queer speculative fiction, none ever focused attention on faeries. But consider how many gay cultural elements apply to the Fey — the focus on youth and beauty, the love of dance, wild passion and decadence — not to mention the drama of vengeance and spurned love.

Editor Steve Berman is seeking stories fantastical and moving that capture the Fey and their dealings with humankind. Stories need not be set in a bucolic past or pseudo-medieval setting.

Authors should do their research. The intended readership is savvy and appreciates the nuances of spec fiction. Know the difference between a boggart and a kelpie. While faeries can be seductive, the focus of the book is on story and not stroke. Erotic portions of any story should serve (or complement) the tale's theme.

Stories should be 2,500-7,500 words (query if more). Except for a few choice tales, stories should be original. Inquire before submitting previously published work. One submission per author.

E-mail manuscripts as attached files, to sberman8@yahoo.com. Files should be MS Word (.doc or .rtf) format. Include name, word length, and e-mail address in cover letter and attached story. A brief bio with any publishing credits is also appreciated.

Contributors will be paid based on word length, up to \$100, plus one copy of the book, which will be published by The Haworth Press, Inc.

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