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More Books for Women

- February 2007 -
Volume 3 Number 2

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Welcome to the February issue of *More Books for Women*. This edition contains reviews of a truly eclectic group of books. Variety can definitely be the spice of life - enjoy!

We join others in celebrating the life and work of Molly Ivins. Her humor, passion, and spirit will be missed, but her words live on, thanks to the printed page and the Internet. And her fight lives on - several journalists have taken on her pledge to write regularly about the war - see Passings [below](#) for more on Molly and the Molly Ivins Tribute Project.

Books

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Ann Christophersen recommends

Half of a Yellow Sun, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, was published in September 2006, but it was several months later that I read it. I was drawn to it because a bookseller colleague I know raved about Adichie's first novel, *Purple Hibiscus*, and I hoped this one would be as strong as she said that book was. But I was also drawn to it because the subject of the novel brought up some very painful and powerful images from my young adult years. It's about the civil war in Nigeria in 1967, when one ethnic group decided to secede from Nigeria because of the brutality they were suffering at the hands of another group. The new country they fought to establish was Biafra. Though the war for Biafra is central to the novel, what Adichie focuses on are the human dimensions of it, especially through the lives of the three main characters. Richard is a British expatriate, a student of Igbo art, and someone who finds a real sense of belonging in Biafra, so much so that he falls in love with a Nigerian/Biafran woman and considers himself a Biafran. Olanna is a Nigerian academic, a very interesting, independent woman from a wealthy family who is at first discomfited by the war and the turmoil it is causing in her personal life and later a zealous supporter of its goals. Ugwu, Olanna and her husband's houseboy, is fascinating to watch as he grows up under the conditions of war, developing his skills as a student and writer and, later, as a soldier conscripted to fight. There is much nuance as this novel unfolds, nuance about the politics and horror of war, certainly, but even more so about the complexity of love and relationships. One experiences a wide range of feelings as she reads this novel, feelings created by a writer with great talent and sensitivity and a large measure of understanding and insight. I highly recommend this book. Random House/Knopf, \$24.95, 9781400044160.



About BTWOF

Books To Watch Out For publishes monthly e-letters celebrating books on various topics. Each issue includes new book announcements, brief reviews, commentary, news and, yes, good book gossip.

More Books for Women

covers the finest in thinking women's reading, plus mysteries, non-sexist children's books, and news from women's publishing. Written by the owners and staff at Women & Children First, and friends.

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The Lesbian Edition

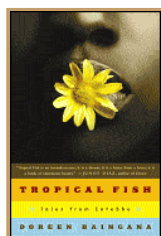
covers both lesbian books and the whole range of books lesbians like to read. It covers news of both the women in print movement and mainstream publishing. Written and compiled by Suzanne Corson.

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The Gay Men's Edition

announces and reviews new books by and about gay men as

Linda Bubon enjoys...



One of the best parts about being in a book group is reading books I would have never discovered on my own, such as **Tropical Fish: Tales from Entebbe** by Doreen Baingana. This is a linked-story collection by a Ugandan writer currently living in the U.S. Christine Ugisha is a young girl who narrates the first story and most of the subsequent stories which show her navigating the turbulent waters of adolescence; several of the stories are narrated by her sisters. Most are set in post-Amin Uganda, an unstable, economically ravished place, but the last two stories take our

well as other books of interest and gay publishing news. Written and compiled by Richard Labonte.

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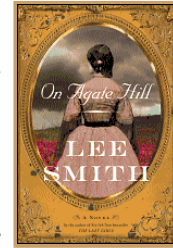
Send books for review consideration for the **Lesbian Edition** to the San Francisco address above.

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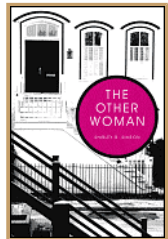


narrator to Los Angeles for some years and then back "home." The language is precise, beautiful, and haunting. Baingana shows us her country after Amin's brutal dictatorship more memorably than nonfiction could, and she also captures universal truths about teen desire, young adult angst and experimentation, growing up in a home dominated by an alcoholic father, and the meaning of home. Random House/Harlem Moon, \$10.95, 9780767925105.

Lee Smith has really outdone herself with **On Agate Hill**, a tender, sad, compelling, exciting, and *rich* novel set during the fifty years following the Civil War. I fell in love with Molly Petree, whose diaries and letters reveal her to be bright, creative, and enormously resilient. Orphaned by the war, living with a kindly but ill uncle and dozens of hangers-on as well as ghosts, Molly is always honest with herself and determined to live the life thrust upon her the best she can. As the story progresses, Molly is sent to a girls' academy where she finally gets to have some fun and friends although the headmistress picks on her - unaccountably, although that is just one of the mysteries that create suspense in the novel. Molly and her best friend and protector, Margaret, escape after graduation and wind up teaching in a one-room schoolhouse in Appalachia. More adventures, marriage to a charismatic mountain minstrel, and running a country store fill Molly's life with enough joy and sorrow to satisfy any reader. Throughout her life a mysterious, wealthy, dark benefactor intervenes in Molly's life; his story and their connection isn't revealed until the end. This was a great read with wonderful historical detail by one of the South's most loyal and insightful writers. Algonquin Books for Chapel Hill, \$24.95, 9781565124523.



Self-published novels complicate my life as an indie bookseller. I want to be kind to the struggling writers in my community who are often faithful customers and earnest, determined writers who choose to publish their own stuff for a variety of reasons, but usually because they can't get published in the traditional way. I sympathize, but often the books are too personal to be of general interest, or too quirky, or just not very well written. However, I was captivated by two such books recently and want to share them with you, although they may be hard to find outside the Internet and Women & Children First.



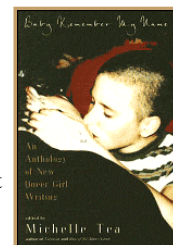
The first is a memoir by Chicagoan Shirley Simeon, an African-American woman in her eighties who was a social worker and clinical psychologist most of her life. She married the same man twice, had two sons - now grown and successful, she tells us proudly - and also had passionate, rewarding affairs with women, some long-term. She tells her story in simple, clear prose, adorned by the occasional well-placed simile, and I was absolutely fascinated. She eschews labels, isn't sure how she feels about the LGBT struggle for human rights, and is somewhat elitist about ambition and education. But her reminiscences about middle-class black life in Chicago in the 30s and 40s are priceless, and her story is one that deserves to be heard. Imagine the Delaney sisters being candid about their sex lives (if they had them), and you'll have an idea what **The Other Woman** is like. AuthorHouse, \$28.95, 9781425940171.

On a completely different note, Chicago gay journalist and playwright Rick Karlin has published a fun novel called **Show Biz Kids** which I read in bed on a cold, snowy day that made me feel as deliciously self-indulgent as I might on a day at the beach. The novel follows the lives of six kids with parents in the business from pre-adolescence in the mid-fifties to a spectacular conclusion at the New York Bicentennial celebration. It's fun to guess who the characters might be modeled on (Liza Minelli? Jane and Peter Fonda?) and there's lots of sex, most of it bent. The writing is bright, witty, and never takes itself too seriously. There's a feminist - and gay - sensibility throughout; Gloria Steinem makes an appearance and one of the characters gets arrested in the Stonewall riots. This is *good* trash. XLibris, \$21.95, 9781425718596.

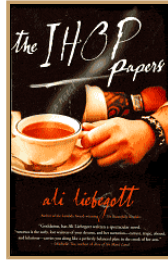


Chelsey Clammer is reading...

When I first started reading the new anthology **Baby Remember My Name**, edited by Michelle Tea, I expected to encounter a lot of stories about sex, drugs, and San Francisco. I love Michelle Tea, and I love all of her writing, therefore I thought this new anthology edited by her would resemble her own writing. As soon as I read the first story, however, I realized how wrong I was, and how happy I was to be so wrong. This new collection of queer girl writing is diverse in its content and wicked in its writing. The selection of stories ranges from the thoughts of a young Hispanic boy who doesn't understand why



everyone insists he is a girl, to the love story of two pigeons as told by a woman spying on them from inside of her apartment. Some of the writing is simple and organic in its approach to complex ideas of gender, sexuality, and race; and some of the writing is poetic and spans across many dimensions. Either way, there's something in this collection for everyone, even those partying San Francisco queer girls. Carroll & Graf, \$14.95, 9780786717927.



I feel ashamed to admit that I have never read anything by Ali Liebegott before. Her writing is both fun and complex and leaves you feeling very satisfied. **The IHOP Papers** is a compelling story about a young woman who moves to San Francisco to be near her college professor with whom she has fallen in love. Liebegott takes us through the horrors of working as a waitress for a chain restaurant, the pleasure in making friends with people who society tries to expel, and the complexity of falling in and out of love with multiple women at the same time. Following the standard of lesbian writing from San Francisco, I expected the main character to have a drug or alcohol problem, and spend most of the story being drunk and hopelessly in love with the wrong person. Surprisingly, the main character, nicknamed Goaty, is a scruffy, recovering-alcoholic dyke, who doesn't allow substance abuse to guide her through the story. She's young and inexperienced in sex and love, and shows us the vulnerability that we all have when we change our lives in the hopes of falling in love. To make the story a little more complex, Goaty is also a cutter. This information is presented in a very nonchalant sort of way, and allows the reader to fully understand the complexities and intersections of pain and love. Other than being absolutely fun to read, *The IHOP Papers* offers a new perspective on life and love in the enthralling setting of San Fran. Carroll & Graf, \$14.95, 9780786717941.



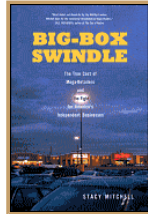
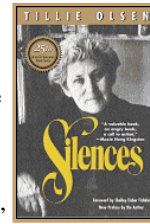
Mary Ellen Kavanaugh is up all night with...

Special Topics in Calamity Physics by Marisha Pessl is a vexing novel. Over the years, I've developed a predilection for debut novels, primarily because I think they need to be really outstanding works, combining compelling writing with an engaging plot, to even get to print. I was very eager to get my hands on this one, in part because the title intrigued me and in part because it was named one of the *New York Times's* ten best books of the year. At first, I was utterly enamored of the prose - luminescent, engaging, literary - but soon enough, I found myself tiring of the cleverness of it. The reader learns, early on, what the ending of the book is, and the intervening 400 or so pages play out the minutest of details leading to the actual action you've already known was going to take place. Descriptions come complete with drawings (visual aids, Van Meer, et al), literary references become chapter titles (*The Taming of the Shrew*, et al), and there is a final exam at the end. What started out as clever turned annoying. Sort of like that dumb thing a lover does that you once found so endearing but years later cannot abide. That said, I could not put this book down for about the first 250 pages. It felt so delicious to "be" with characters, the adolescent Blue (our narrator) and her professor father, who are intellectuals and live and delight deeply in their intellectual pursuits. It was enriching to read a book whose references were all ones I could identify with - as opposed, say, to cultural references to current pop culture, which more than occasionally elude me. I do suspect that this novel might be what is called pomo (or postmodern), and, I suspect, that if I had taken literary criticism classes more recently than 1977, there might be a world of wonderment for me to recognize here. I keep trying to think about why this book was named one of the 10 best of the year. Once you strip away the clever references, and take into consideration that the ending is revealed before the story even begins, I still cannot come up with anything. Penguin/Viking, \$25.95. 9780670037773.



Born in the Big Rains: A Memoir of Somalia and Survival by Fadumo Korn is yet another important memoir from the Feminist Press (2006). Anti-FGM (female genital mutilation) activist Korn was born in Somalia, where her first seven years were spent playing freely on the steppes in the countryside with her nomadic family. After her circumcision at this age, she becomes quite ill and deformed and is taken to Mogadishu to live with very rich relatives who are able to send her to Germany when the repercussions of her circumcision become life threatening. Eventually, she marries and is able to bear a child. In Germany, she turns the pains of her childhood experience with FGM into a passion to help change what she now accepts as one of Somalia's cultural mores, though still in need of abandonment. Feminist Press, \$23.95, 9781558615311.

Shortly after I got word that Tillie Olson died in January (see [MBW #15](#)), I picked up the 2003 Feminist Press edition of [Silences](#), a book I've been meaning to read for years. The introduction (by Shelley Fisher Fishkin) alone, brought tears to my eyes as I realized how much of what I was able to discover, sell, and read as a feminist bookseller was thanks to Tillie Olson. Fishkin tells us the story of how the collection of essays now known as *Silences* came to be and the myriad ways in which Olson's works have influenced feminist literary criticism, women's studies classes, and the U.S. canon as it filters down to high school curricula. Perhaps the biggest gift Olson's work offered is that it provided a lens through which we are able to recognize the ways in which women are silenced - a good beginning to bringing women's voices into the center of the conversation. Any serious feminist personal book collection should include a copy of this book. Feminist Press, \$16.95, 9781558614406.



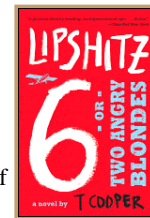
Stacy Mitchell, researcher for the Institute for Local Self Reliance, won my indie-supporting heart in her first book *The Hometown Advantage* (9780917582899) published by the Institute for Local Self Reliance in 2000, which exposed practices of Walmart. In late 2006, Beacon Press published her [Big-Box Swindle: The True Cost of Mega-Retailers and the Fight for America's Independent Businesses](#). While I am only about one-third of the way into this (good - this means the good news is yet to come!), I did not want to put off recommending this to folks - especially those of us who are seeing the damage done to communities

where locally-owned pharmacies, hardware, music, and, yes, bookstores have been driven out. This book will reinforce what you already know and provide you with interesting information to share with your big-box store addicted pals. (Can I tell you that I'm still stuck on the statistic that Walmart has the 34th largest economy in the world, beating out any number of countries, such as Chile or Israel.) Mitchell outlines not only the economic fallout of the big-box stores but also the environmental issues and the ways in which government participates in this. The last few chapters (can't wait to get there) talk about how one by one, communities are fighting back and interrupting the spread of the box stores. Beacon Press, \$24.95, 9780807035009.



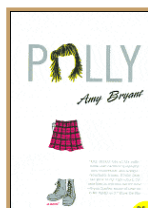
Sara Luce Look loves...

T Cooper's first novel, [Lipshitz 6, Or Two Angry Blondes](#), now in paperback, is two books in one: the first half is a historical novel about a Jewish family who comes to the U.S. Once here, one of the sons goes missing and the mother becomes convinced that he's Charles Lindburgh. The second half of the book is a contemporary story of a trans man, T Cooper, a writer who is the last living Lipshitz. The second half was a bit frustrating to me, since it seemed like T was making fun of the first part of the book, which I really loved. The first section reminded me of a great novel from several years ago, *Beyond the Pale* by Elana Dykewomon. I think the first half could have stood alone as a novel. Penguin/Plume, \$14, 9780452288065.



As you may have noticed with my past reviews, books that feature food interest me: [Baker's Apprentice](#), [Full Moon Feast](#), and [The Language of Baklava](#) are a few examples. Marsha Mehran's [Pomegranate Soup](#) is another one, a beautifully written novel with lots of recipes. The author is Iranian and has an Irish husband, which informs this book. *Pomegranate Soup* is set in Ireland and is about three Iranian sisters who fled Iran immediately following the revolution and opened a café in Ireland. I learned a lot about both Iranian and Irish culture when reading this book. Random House, \$13.95, 9780812972481.

I loved Radclyffe's new book, [When Dreams Tremble](#); it's become my new favorite of all her titles. A woman goes back to her hometown for a visit and runs into a former flame from high school days. This lesbian-themed title is entertaining, romantic, and sexy. Bold Strokes Books, \$15.95, 9781933110646.



The eponymous protagonist of [Polly](#) by Amy Bryant lives just outside of Washington, D.C. in the eighties. She comes of age during the punk rock era, and her story is interspersed with the music of the times and the boys and men she's involved with. (One interesting - and annoying - thing is that the chapters are named after those boys and men.) The author's pro-choice work experience is reflected in the book - Polly's best friend works for a pro-choice organization. When the author was asked in an interview

"What's the book you'd most like President Bush to read?" Bryant responds, "He knows how to read!?" Then she recommends Carole Joffe's *Doctors of Conscience*. Pretty cool. HarperCollins, \$13.95, 9780060898045.

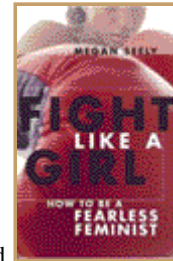
And not just for the kids:

Tracy Kane and Barry Kane started their own company, Light-Beams Publishing, to publish books and DVD's about fairy houses. Their new release, **Fairy Houses...Everywhere!**, is a companion book to *Fairy Houses*, in which a girl visits an artist in Maine who tells her all about fairy houses. *Fairy Houses...Everywhere!* shows photos of many fairy houses that people have created following certain rules: they can't use anything living and only can use "found things" in nature (flowers fallen on the ground, shells, etc...). The book shows houses for each season as well as ones with different themes. For ages 7 and up, it's also good as a gift book for adults who are enchanted by fairies. \$14.95 hardback, 9780970810441.



Suzanne Corson suggests...

Megan Seely, a feminist activist since childhood, was, at 28, the youngest elected president of California National Organization for Women. She has taken her experience and created a de facto Feminist Activism 101 with her book **Fight Like a Girl: How to be a Fearless Feminist**. It's quite an impressive text, with quotes from third-wave feminists featured throughout the chapters on women's health, racism, sexual and gender diversity, reproductive rights, eating disorders, feminist herstory, and fighting violence against women. She goes into great detail about how to plan an action, including getting media attention, provides book, film, and web resources for most chapters, and includes timelines for significant events in both the U.S. women's movement and the LGBT movement. She even includes a list of do's and don'ts, for both young and "veteran" feminists. Listing more of the existing organizations for women of color and lesbians would have been good - I was quite surprised not to see the National Center for Lesbian Rights, for example. And her film resource lists did not include any films made before 1988 - *Norma Rae*, *Silkwood*, and *Salt of the Earth* are a few that would have fit right in on her lists. But overall the content that was there, as well as the organization and presentation of the material in *Fight Like a Girl* were excellent. York University Press, \$17.95 paper, 9780814740026.

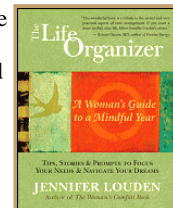


More young women's voices are found in **We Got Issues!: A Young Woman's Guide to a Bold, Courageous, and Empowered Life**, edited by Rha Goddess and JLove Calderón. This collection of rants, Q&A's, poetry, and essays addresses the issues in question: health, spirituality, "the ISMs," sexuality, love and relationships, motherhood, violence against women, money, work, and voting/politics. Each section includes statistics about each issue that are relevant for the more than thirty million women between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five in the U.S. I especially liked the introductions by the editors. From that intro:

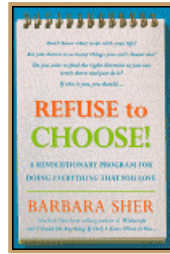
"Now, let's get one thing clear. You will *not* agree with everything in these pages - none of us who have worked on this labor of love do. So the question is, what will you do with the ones you agree with, and how will you react to the ones you don't? Our request: Be open to learn from all of them. Every single voice in this book has something to offer you, whether it's validation, resonance, and understanding, or anger, fear, and 'I told you so.'"

Inner Ocean, \$14.95, 9781930722729.

In my bookselling days, one of the books I recommended often from the self-help section was *The Woman's Comfort Book* by Jennifer Louden. It was a great resource for stressed out, overly busy women who needed some easy, concrete, and fulfilling ideas for how to give themselves some relief and respite. In Louden's new **The Life Organizer: A Woman's Guide to a Mindful Year**, she again addresses the needs of overwhelmed women by turning her gaze to time management. In her own life, Louden discovered that conventional time management tools did not work for her, so she developed a system that is uniquely suited for women, utilizing women's intuition. This lovely hardbound book includes an undated planner (so

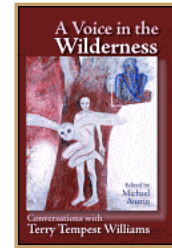


one can begin using it any time), suggestions from the author to guide your week, words from women who have used Louden's system successfully, and as the second subtitle says, "(tips, stories, and prompts to focus your needs and navigate your dreams." Most importantly, this book will help the reader remember who *she* is, in the midst of weeks that may be largely about the needs of those around her. New World Library, \$19.95, 9781577315544.



Another author who wants to help women live more fulfilling lives is Barbara Sher, author of *Wishcraft, I Could Do Anything If Only I Knew What It Was*, and *It's Only Too Late If You Don't Start Now*, among others. One thing I especially appreciate about Sher is her ability to honor the fact that no one solution suits everyone, that we're all individuals and have different styles, thought patterns, and goals. She focuses on one group she calls "scanners" in her new book **Refuse to Choose!: A Revolutionary Program for Doing Everything You Love**. Scanners, Sher says, are people who "scan the horizon, eager to explore everything you see." Such people are often told that they lack focus, are commitment-phobic, or that they're too idealistic. Not only does Sher recognize and honor the way scanners think, she identifies multiple kinds of scanners and offers support and strategies for each. She even provides job advice for scanners. A great book for folks who are passionate about many things simultaneously. Rodale, \$24.95, 9781594863035.

Fans of *Refuge*, *An Unspoken Hunger*, *Leap*, and others by Terry Tempest Williams should enjoy **A Voice in the Wilderness: Conversations with Terry Tempest Williams**. This collection of interviews, edited by Michael Austin, spans from 1991 through 2005 and covers everything from her spirituality and connection with the desert to her relationship to her muse. Utah State University Press, \$19.95 paper, 9780874216349.



New in Paperback:

Brass Ankle Blues by Rachel M. Harper, Simon & Schuster/Touchstone, \$13, 9780743296588, reviewed in [MBW #11](#).

Dope, Sara Gran, Penguin/Berkley, \$14, 9780425214367, reviewed in [TLE #22](#).

The Last of Her Kind, Sigrid Nunez, St. Martin's/Picador, \$14, 9780312425944, reviewed in [MBW #7](#).

Not Buying It: My Year Without Shopping, Judith Levine, Free Press, \$14, 9780743269360, reviewed in [MBW #10](#).

Rose of No Man's Land, Michelle Tea, Harcourt/Harvest, \$14, 9780156030939, reviewed in [MBW #15](#).

The Thin Place by Kathryn Davis, Little, Brown/Back Bay, \$13.99, 9780316014243, reviewed in [MBW #11](#).



Passings

Molly Ivins died at 62 at her home in Austin, Texas, after battling breast cancer for a third time. Best known for her humorous and biting political writing, most recently she had been working on a campaign to end the war in Iraq. She had pledged to address the issue every day in her column. Unfortunately her health did not allow that to happen, so the *Berkeley Daily Planet* started the Molly Ivins Tribute Project. Announced before her January 31 death, the "idea is that her colleagues in the opinionated part of the journalistic world should take over her campaign while she's sick, creating a deluge of columns about what's wrong with Bush's war and what should be done to set things right. It would be nice if a lot of these columns could be funny, since skewering serious subjects with humor is what Molly does best, but that's not required."

Hers was a voice of sanity in a seemingly insane world, especially appreciated in the 2000 election season. She gamely tried to warn the country what we would be getting into if Shrub, as she called George W. Bush, then governor of Texas, was unleashed on the rest of the nation. (In retrospect, the amount of energy she expended in warning readers about Bush seems doubly impressive since her first bout with breast cancer began in 1999. At that time, she famously told her readers that she didn't need get-well cards; they needed to go get mammograms.) After that election, she kept a close eye on Shrub's doings as well as other politicians and political bodies, such as the "Lege," the Texas Legislature, which she described as great free entertainment and "reporter's heaven."

Books by Molly Ivins include *Who Let the Dogs In?: Incredible Political Animals I Have Known*, *Molly Ivins Can't Say That, Can She?*, *You Got to Dance With Them What Brung You*, *Nothin' But Good Times Ahead*, and two co-authored with Lou Duboce: *Shrub: The Short but Happy Political Life of George W. Bush* and *Bushwacked: Life in George W. Bush's America*. Her journalism career included stints at the *New York Times*, the *Dallas Time-Herald*, and the *Star-Telegram* in Austin. At the time of her death, her syndicated column appeared in more than 400 newspapers.

Austin *Star-Telegram* obituary, links to her columns, a profile, and an audio slideshow tribute:

www.dfw.com/mld/dfw/news/state/16591107.htm?source=rss&channel=dfw.

Remembrance by Anthony Zurcher, editor of her syndicated column:

www.creators.com/opinion/molly-ivins/molly-ivins-tribute.html.

Associated Press obituary:

www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2007/01/31/national/a160010S74.DTL.

Listen to Molly Ivins on NPR online:

www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=7113087.

More on the *Berkeley Daily Planet's* Molly Ivins Tribute Project:

<http://berkeleydailyplanet.com/article.cfm?issue=01-30-07&storyID=26216>.

Mystery writer **Barbara Seranella** died at the age of 50 of end-stage liver disease while awaiting a liver transplant. Once an auto mechanic, she turned to writing and created the character Munch Mancini, an auto/motorcycle mechanic and detective, who was featured in eight novels, most recently *An Unacceptable Death*. In April, St. Martin's Press will publish *Deadman's Switch* with a new character, Charlotte Lyon. Among the accolades for Barbara Seranella and her writing, she was awarded the inaugural Dennis Lynds Memorial Award for Social Consciousness in Crime Fiction by the Southern California Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America in 2006.

Her website:

www.barbaraseranella.com.

Orange County Register obituary:

www.ocregister.com/ocregister/homepage/abox/article_1552067.php.

S.J. Rozan's blog tribute:

www.journalscape.com/sjrozan/2007-01-23-10:09.



Pro-Choice Reading Cancelled - and Rescheduled - in Iowa City

Prairie Lights Books in Iowa City, Iowa, cancelled a February 1 event with Krista Jacob, editor of the book *Abortion Under Attack: Women on the Challenges Facing Choice* (Seal Press, 2006), after the store owner, Jim Harris, received threatening phone calls and letters. *Publishers Weekly* reported that the owner was about to leave town and was concerned about leaving his employees with "an awkward situation." Jacob, also an abortion rights activist, said at the time about the decision to cancel the reading, "This bookseller doesn't understand the impact of this [decision]. This is a tremendous victory for the local antichoice movement. They just censored a writer." **Update:** Just before we went to press, we learned that Prairie Lights has decided to reschedule the event with Krista Jacob for March 21, and the event will be broadcast on the Iowa Public Radio show "Live from Prairie Lights."



Awards

Among the nominees for the Mystery Writers of America's **2007 Edgar Awards** are *Strange Piece of Paradise* by Terri Jentz (reviewed in [MBW #9](#)) in the Best Fact Crime category and Best Novel nominees *Gentlemen and Players* by Joanne Harris, *The Dead Hour* by Denise Mina, and *The Virgin of Small Plains* by Nancy Pickard. The complete list of nominees can be found online at

www.mysterywriters.org/pages/awards/nominees07.htm.

The **National Book Critics Circle** has announced the nominees for their 2006 awards. Nominees include: Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* (Houghton Mifflin, \$19.95, 9780618477944, reviewed in [MBW #8](#)) and Terri Jentz, *Strange Piece of Paradise* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$27, 9780374134983, reviewed in [MBW #9](#)) in the Memoir/Autobiography category; Kiran Desai, *The Inheritance of Loss* (Grove/Atlantic, \$14, 9780802142818, reviewed in [MBW #7](#)) and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Half of a Yellow Sun*, reviewed [above](#), in the Fiction category; Anne Fessler, *The Girls Who Went Away: The Hidden History of Women Who Surrendered Children for Adoption in the Decades Before Roe V. Wade* (Penguin, \$24.95, 9781594200946) in the Nonfiction

category; and Julie Phillips, *James Tiptree, Jr.: The Double Life of Alice B. Sheldon* (St. Martin's Press, \$27.95, 9780312203856, reviewed in [MBW #15](#)) for Biography. Learn more about the NBCC and see the complete list of nominees at www.bookcritics.org/?go=finalists.

The Green Glass Sea by Ellen Klages is the winner of the **2007 Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction**. The late Scott O'Dell, author of *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, established this award to encourage authors to write historical fiction for young people. *The Green Glass Sea* was reviewed in [MBW #12](#) and was named one of the favorite books of 2006 by Jill Roberts in [MBW #15](#). For more information about the award, see www.scottodell.com/odellaward.html.

The American Library Association announced its 2007 awards for children's literature. The **John Newbery Medal**, for the most outstanding contribution to children's literature, was awarded to *The Higher Power of Lucky* written by Susan Patron, with illustrations by Matt Phelan. For the complete list of award winners and other honorees, visit www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=News&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=146679.



Books To Watch Out For

For those who have been missing Lynda Barry since the publication of *Cruddy* in 2000, relief is in sight. Publisher Drawn & Quarterly recently announced that they will be publishing her new book, *What It Is*, in early 2008. *What It Is* is described as "part comics, collages and paintings." Drawn & Quarterly will also be bringing her *Ernie Pook's Comeek* collections back in print with redesigned volumes.

For or more on Lynda Barry and *Ernie Pook's Comeek*:
www.marlysmagazine.com.



We hope you've enjoyed this issue of **More Books for Women**.

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With thanks,

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