

## Book Reviews:

proudly contributing to  
Canada's insidious agenda of  
world domination  
by Lauren Vedal

As I thought up books to recommend to supplement the impoverished B-GLAD library and to aid you in your procrastinatory efforts, I realized that the first books that came to mind, and several after that, were all of Canadian origin. As a result, I'm doing sort of a Canadian theme including a book of short stories by a Canadian writer, one by a Canadian journalist, and one about a Canadian bookstore. Although these books may be harder to find here, given uneven distribution by Canadian publishers, they are well worth the extra effort.

*In the Spice House*  
by Marnie Woodrow  
Minerva Canada

A woman who murders the rude customers at 32-Flavors, a butcher in love with a vegetarian baker, and a waitress obsessed with a patron who eats only white pureed food-- these characters and others appear in *In the Spice House*. Woodrow demonstrates more than a simple respect for good eating in this book of 16 stories, each of which reserves a special role for food. *In the Spice House* artfully blends the sensuality of food with sex, and is completely satisfying on both accounts. A full range of emotional tone as well as varieties of cuisine are explored finding the interrelationships (Freud aside) between women, food, and sex.

*Restricted Entry*  
by Janine Fuller and  
Stuart Blackley  
Press Gang Publishers

*Restricted Entry* is the story of Little Sister's Bookstore's court battle with Canada Customs. Little Sister's is a small queer bookstore in Vancouver, for which the financial losses, caused by book seizures at the border, became so significant as to force them to take on Canada Customs in a harassment suit.

Issues of free speech and discrimination are discussed as the trial progresses. The Canadian example of strong hate laws (i.e. fewer nasty neo-nazis) but greater censorship (more restriction of "questionable" material) should stimulate a little thought on what is at stake when we talk about limitations on freedom. In addition, though Canada is in many respects more liberal than the US (women are actually equal \*gasp\* under their constitution) and there are no nasty Defense of Marriage type acts, the appearance of institutionalized homophobia throughout the trial and the belittlement of Little Sister's claim show that the prevailing sense of complacency is illfounded.

*Restricted Entry* does not attempt to be exceedingly evenhanded, but the authors' bias is clearly identifiable (hey, it was written by the store's owners) and is not misleading.

*Lip Service*  
by Kate Fillion  
HarperCollins

*Lip Service* deals with the mythology of male and female roles in society, which is perpetuated not only by the media but by "common sense" and the cult of *Men are From Mars, Women are*

*From Venus*. Assumptions about women being more supportive and better friends are shown to be false as Fillion reveals the underlying motivations for many conventional behaviors. Fillion argues that these myths are hurtful to all of us as we fail to see things as they really are and recognize our own ulterior motives. Fillion's journalistic style is very clear and she draws very realistic examples upon which to base her analyses. This is a very thorough, insightful, and thought-provoking book.

## Chasing the Rainbow

by Jennifer Jordan

I am a 38 year-old woman—the mother of two beautiful children. I have been divorced once, more the result of a poor decision in parting than of sexuality. I am currently separated from a man for whom I have a deep love and respect. This time the break-up was a result of an inability to reconcile my sexuality with my marriage. One might ask how I have gotten to this point in my life. How does a woman, for so many years, lead a heterosexual lifestyle without realizing her true sexuality?

Well, we have all heard it said that life is a journey. And so it is. The same can be said for the coming-out process. This is true whether one is coming out to themselves or to the rest of the world. Just when, then, does this journey begin?

The answer to that question is as varied as the people who make up our community. Many times this process begins before

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