

## The Best Books of '05

By Jesse Monteagudo  
Contributing Writer

2005 was not a good year for queer books. Four major GLBT book stores — Key West's Flaming Maggie's, Sacramento's The Open Book, Seattle's Beyond the Closet and Tampa's Tomes & Treasures —

went out of business, victims of declining sales

and competition from major retailers and the Internet.

Even worse, the Lambda Book Report, which reviewed GLBT literature with distinction since 1987, ceased to exist.

On the other hand, the Lambda Literary Foundation (LLF's parent) is currently regrouping; the InsightOut book club continues to

serve its members; and

Books to Watch Out For (btwof.com) promises to continue in the LLF tradition with e-newsletters devoted to lesbian, gay male, and women's literature.

No single book dominated the LesBiGay and Trans literary scene this year, with the possible exception of the late Dr. C. A. Tripp's *Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln*

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# Holiday Gift Guide: Books!

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Books make great gifts. With that in mind, "The Book Nook" offers this list of books that we think would make great gifts for the lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered person(s) in your life. As we did last year, we list the books by price range. Please note that these are list prices, which do not take into account the discounts that various outlets might offer.

**Under 10 Dollars:** There aren't too many good books for less

than \$10 these days, so we repeat three titles from last year's list: *The Bear Essentials Postcard Book: The Best of Barry Gollop* (Bruno Gmunder;

\$8.99); *Homo Art* by Gilles Néret (Taschen; \$8.99); and *The Essential Gay Mystics*, edited with an introduction by Andrew Harvey (Harper Collins; \$8.99). Also priced under \$10 are *The Only Bush I Trust Is My Own*, humorous

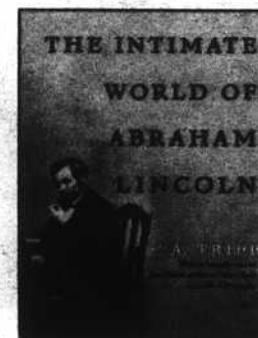
essays by Perial Aschenbrand (Tarcher; \$9.95) and *Shut Up! and Listen to Yourself*, an insightful self-help book by Joshua Estrin (Angel Mind).

**\$10-19.99:**

One of this year's sad stories is the breakup of Silo and Roy, two male chin-strap penguins at New York City's Central Park Zoo (Silo has since moved in with a female penguin).

This shouldn't stop you from buying the charming *And Tango Makes Three*

(Simon & Schuster, \$13.99). Written by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson, and illustrated by Henry Cole, it tells the story of Silo and Roy — and their adopted chick, Tango — back when they were one big happy family. Gay history buffs will appreciate last year's *Stonewall: The Riots that Sparked the Gay Revolution* by David Carter, now in paperback (St. Martin's Press; \$14.95). The lesbian in your life might enjoy *Rock Hard, Put Away Wet: Lesbian Cowbo y Erotica* [cow-girl erotica?] edited by Sacchi Green and Valencia Roxelle (Suspect



Thoughts Press; \$15.99) and/or *Lesbian Pulp Fiction: The Sexually Intrepid World of Lesbian Paperback Novels 1950-1965* (Cleis; \$18.95). Gay men who like their comics hot and sexy will devour two new collections by Canada's own Patrick Fillion — *The Incredibly Hung Adventures of the Mighty Males and Heroes* (Bruno Gmunder; \$17.95 each) — which feature the erotic adventures of Camili-Cat, Naked Justice, Ghost Boy and other muscly, hung, and frequently nude super heroes. Finally, these books in the White Crane/Lethe spirituality series will make great gifts: *Two Flutes Playing* by Andre Ramer (\$123.95); *Gay Spirituality* by Toby Johnson (\$16.95) and the classic anthology *Gay Spirit*, edited by Mark Thompson (\$19.95).

**\$20-29.99:** We all remember the moment

when we KNEW that we were G, L, B or T. Famous "people of the Rainbow" recall that moment in their lives in

*When I Knew*, edited by Robert Trachtenberg (Regan Books; \$22.95). Humorist Margaret Cho, who defies categories, is back with

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