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# The Persistent Desire A Femme Butch Reader Joan Nestle

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## Brazen Femme Routledge

Here are heartfelt writings from some renowned names in lesbian and gay literature, as well as some debut appearances. These essays explore a kind of love uncomplicated by romance, but surprisingly sensual. As the writers pursue their relationships with the opposite sex, they ultimately lay bare the nature of friendship itself.

## Paul Takes the Form of a Mortal Girl A&C Black

There are many identities within the LGBTQI community. Among these are butch and femme. Both of these identities date back to the beginning of the 20th century and are a part of the lesbian and bisexual subculture. Both have taken on many definitions. In this collection of photographs, people from across the

United States and Canada who claim these identities today share their own definitions and describe how they express themselves uniquely.

## Whipping Girl Lulu.com

An autobiographical novel of a lesbian nun.

*Sister and Brother* Manchester University Press Annotation. A critique of the lesbian sex industry's efforts to profit from women's oppression.

## Queer Excursions Routledge

Twenty-eight short works address a range of issues relevant to the lesbian community, such as love and sex, relationships, sexual abuse, and AIDS

## **Kicking the Habit** Routledge

“A foundational text for anyone hoping to understand transgender politics and

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culture in the U.S. today.” —NPR Named popular misconceptions about being as one of 100 Best Non-Fiction Books of transgender, Serano makes the case All Time by Ms. Magazine Julia Serano that today's feminists and transgender shares her experiences and activists must work to embrace and insights—both pre- and post-transition—tempower femininity—in all of its reveal the ways in which fear, suspicion, wondrous forms. and dismissiveness toward femininity *My Dangerous Desires* shape our societal attitudes toward trans ReadHowYouWant.com women, as well as gender and sexuality First Published in 1997. Routledge is an as a whole. Serano's well-honed imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa arguments and pioneering advocacy company. stem from her ability to bridge the gap **A Problem Like Maria** Univ of between the often-disparate biological California Press and social perspectives on gender. In Surveys a decade of the attempt to this provocative manifesto, she exposes reconstruct and understand the how deep-rooted the cultural belief is meaning and value of butch-femme that femininity is frivolous, weak, and relations for the contemporary lesbian, passive. In addition to debunking drawing on oral history, fiction, poetry,

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and fantasy

*Feminizing Theory Arsenal* Pulp Press Ltd

A sharp-edged collection of creative work celebrating the unhyphenated femme experience.

**Rust Belt Femme** Riverdale Avenue Books LLC

A fierce, unyielding memoir of queer self-discovery in '90s Cleveland

*Femmes of Power* Rowman & Littlefield Publishers

A groundbreaking volume from Lambda Award-winning editors Naomi Holoch and Joan Nestle, *The Vintage Book of International Lesbian Fiction* presents a range of literary voices--from twenty-seven countries spanning six

continents--and offers glimpses of lesbian life in unfamiliar, often exotic climes. We follow an Irish woman as she travels through time in search of a wronged maiden, and anticipate the harrowing fate of a married Indian woman who pursues pleasure with her female lover under the shadow of her husband's suspicious rage. We meet a teacher in Barcelona who locks herself up in her grandmother's house with her young Columbian student, and witness a Slovenian woman's rendezvous with her long dead lover. This collection includes the work of familiar writers, as well as a number never before published in English. From the West Indies to Eastern Europe, the Middle East to

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Southeast Asia, Latin America to South Africa, the distinctive stories found in these pages evoke the diverse political, cultural, emotional, and sexual landscapes of each writer's life. A groundbreaking volume from the Lambda Award-winning editors Naomi Holoch and Joan Nestle, who also wrote the introduction, this collection evokes the universal urgency of persistent desire.

Table of Contents: Mary Dorcey, Ireland from *A Noise from the Woodshed* Makeda Sivera, Jamaica *Caribbean Chameleon* Mireille Best, France *Stéphanie's Book* Christina Peri Rossi, Uruguay *Final Judgement and Singing in the Desert* Shani Mootoo, India-Trinidad-Canada *Lemon*

Scent *Marguerite Yourcenar, Belgium* *Sappho or Suicide* Emma Donoghue, Ireland *Looking for Petronilla* Sylvia Molloy, Argentina from *Certificate of Absence* Dale Gunthorp, South Africa *Gypsophila* Karen Williams, South Africa *The Came at Dawn* Cynthia Price, South Africa *Lesbian Bedrooms* Alifa Rifaat, Egypt *My World of the Unknown* Yasmin V. Tambiah, Sri Lanka *The Civil War, Sandalwood, Transl(ite)ration I, and Transl(ite)ration II (for Aruna and Giti)* Dionne Brand, Trinidad *Madame Alaird's Breasts* Violette Leduc, France from *L'Aphyxie* Anchee Min, China from *Red Azalea* Gerd Brantenberg, Norway from *Four Winds* Esther Tusquets, Spain from

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The Same Sea as Every Summer Karen-Georgie  
Susan Fessel, Germany Lost Suzana Tratnik, Slovenia  
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Cuba The Girl Typist Who Worked for a Aphrodite's Vision Elena Georgiou,  
Provincial Ministry of Culture Ngahua Te Lebanon from In the Heart of the Heart of  
Awekatuku, Aotearoa/New Another Country Gina Schein,  
Zealand Paretipua, Old Man Tuna, Australia Minnie Gets Married  
and Watching the Big Girls Dacia Maraini, The Persistent Desire NYU Press  
Italy from Letters to Marina Rosamaría When most lesbians had to hide, how  
Roffiel, Mexico Forever Lasts Only a Full bars of the 1940s and 1950s more fun  
Moon Anna Blaman, Holland from Lonely than the bars today? Did Black and  
Adventure Christa Winsloe, white lesbians socialize together? Boots  
Germany from The Child Manuela Achy of Leather, Slippers of Gold is a ground-  
Obejas, Cuba Waters Nicole Brossard, breaking account of the growth of the  
Canada from Mauve Desert Gila Svirsky, lesbian community in Buffalo, New York  
Israel Meeting Natalia Maureen Duffy, from the mid-1930s to the early 1960s  
England from The Microcosm Jeanne Drawing on oral histories collected from  
D'Arc Jutras, Canada from 45 women, it is the first comprehensive

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history of a working-class lesbian community. These poignant and complex stories provide a new look at Black and white working-class lesbians as powerful agents of historical change. Their creativity and resilience under oppressive circumstances constructed a better life for all lesbians and expanded possibilities for all women. Based on 13 years of research, *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold* ranges over topics including sex, relationships, coming out, butch-fem roles, motherhood, aging, racism, work, oppression, and pride. Kennedy and Davis provide a unique insider's perspective on butch-fem culture and trace the roots of gay and lesbian liberation to the determined

resistance of working-class lesbians. The book begins by focusing on the growth and development of community, culture, and consciousness in the bars and open house parties of the 1930s, '40s, and '50s. It goes on to explore the code of personal behavior and social imperative in butch-fem culture, centering on dress, mannerisms, and gendered sexuality. Finally the book examines serial monogamy, the social forces which shaped love and break-ups, and the changing nature and content of lesbian identity. Capturing the full complexity of lesbian culture, this outstanding book includes extensive quotes from narrators that make every topic a living document, a composite

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picture of the lives of real people fighting for respect and for a place that would be safe for their love.

*The Vintage Book of International Lesbian Fiction*  
*The Persistent Desire*

The metropolis has been the near exclusive focus of queer scholars and queer cultures in America. Asking us to look beyond the cities on the coasts, Scott Herring draws a new map, tracking how rural queers have responded to this myopic mindset. Interweaving a wide range of disciplines—art, media, literature, performance, and fashion studies—he develops an extended critique of how metronormativity saturates LGBTQ politics, artwork, and criticism. To counter this ideal, he offers a vibrant theory of queer anti-urbanism that refuses to dismiss the

rural as a cultural backwater. Impassioned and provocative, *Another Country* expands the possibilities of queer studies beyond its city limits. Herring leads his readers from faeries in the rural Midwest to photographs of white supremacists in the deep South, from Roland Barthes's obsession with Parisian fashion to a graphic memoir by Alison Bechdel set in the Appalachian Mountains, and from cubist paintings in Lancaster County to lesbian separatist communes on the northern California coast. The result is an entirely original account of how queer studies can—and should—get to another country.

*Twenty-First Century Lesbian Studies*  
Routledge

When *GenderQueer* was first published in 2002, it was groundbreaking, even



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inventing a new word for those whose voices had been hidden behind the walls of the gender binary. Now—finally!—it's republished, and those voices are still fresh and compelling in a volume that can take its place as one of the field's early and most original "classics." Michael Kimmel SUNY Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies Stony Brook University (retired) Perhaps more than any other issue, gender identity has galvanized the queer community in recent years. The questions go beyond the nature of male/female to a yet-to-be-traversed region that lies somewhere between and beyond biologically determined gender. In this groundbreaking anthology, first published nearly two decades ago, three experts in gender studies and politics navigate around rigid, societally imposed concepts of two genders to discover and illuminate the limitless possibilities of identity. Thirty first-person accounts of gender construction, exploration, and questioning provide the groundwork for cultural discussion, political action, and even greater possibilities of autonomous gender choices. Joan Nestle is the cofounder of the Lesbian Herstory Archives in New York and the writer and editor of six books including the groundbreaking *Women on Women* series. Riki Wilchins is the executive director of GenderPAC, the national gender advocacy group, and the cofounder of the Gender Identity Project of New York City's Lesbian and Gay Center. She is the author of *Read My Lips: Sexual Subversion and the End of Gender*, *Gender Theory*, *Burn the Binary*

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and TransGRESSIVE. Clare Howell is a senior librarian at the Brooklyn Public Library.

Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold Routledge Presents over twenty years of the author's work examining such themes as the relationship between activism and desire, sexuality and class identity, and the author's own political development as a response to her unique personal history.

**Persistence** Routledge

*Baby, You Are My Religion* argues that American butch-femme bar culture of the mid-20th Century should be interpreted as a sacred space for its community. Before Stonewall—when homosexuals were still deemed mentally ill—these bars were the only place where many could have any

community at all. *Baby, You are My Religion* explores this community as a site of a lived corporeal theology and political space. It reveals that religious institutions such as the Metropolitan Community Church were founded in such bars, that traditional and non-traditional religious activities took place there, and that religious ceremonies such as marriage were often conducted within the bars by staff. *Baby, You are My Religion* examines how these bars became not only ecclesiastical sites but also provided the fertile ground for the birth of the struggle for gay and lesbian civil rights before Stonewall.

Aesthetic Subjects Spinifex Press  
From Streep to Foster, Maidens in Uniform

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to Heavenly Creatures, Whatling reinvestigates mainstream feminist film theory, & provides an engaging introduction to a complex area, whilst drawing on the relationship between an audience & a film text.

*Fantasy Girls* Psychology Press

Femme seeks to redress the ways that femme identities have been elided, idealized, or not fully historicized in a productive reconsideration of lesbian and butch-femme history, of feminism, and of queer thought. As a feminist project, Femme offers an alliance between many communities of women previously passed over by feminism. Contributors: Leah Lilith Albrecht-Samarasinha, Barbara Cruikshank, Madeline Davis, Heather Findlay, Jewelle Gomez, Kelly Hankin,

Leslie Henson, Amber Hollibaugh, Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy, Mabel Maney, Katherine Millersdaughter, Joan Nestle, Lisa Ortiz, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Rebecca Ann Rugg, Gaby Sandoval, Marcy Sheiner, Alex Robertson Textor.

**Invisible Families** Routledge

An enlightening, entertaining look at what the term “lesbian” really means—and what it means to be a lesbian Twenty-First Century Lesbian Studies focuses on the field’s institutionalization into the humanities and social sciences, examining how the term “lesbian” is used in activist, community, and cultural contexts, and how its use impacts the lives of women who have chosen it as an identity. The book’s contributors include many of the world’s foremost experts in lesbian studies, as well

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as scholars whose primary research is in bisexuality, transsexuality and transgender, intersex, and queer theory. The innovative essays touch on five individual themes—“Genealogies,” “Readings,” “Theories,” “Identities,” and “Locations”—as they explore the past, present, and future of lesbian studies. *Twenty-First Century Lesbian Studies* places the term “lesbian” at the center of analysis, whether as a concept, a category, an identity, a political position, or an object choice. The book’s cutting-edge essays examine the various meanings of “lesbian;” the risks taken by women who live and/or act, write, and speak as lesbians; current genealogical myths; and the lives, studies, and activism of lesbians who represent a range of geographical and

historical contexts. The book presents research produced outside the United States/United Kingdom, two places which tend to dominate the field, and essays that focus on areas, such as medieval studies, that are often ignored in theoretical discussions. *Twenty-First Century Lesbian Studies* considers these questions: does the term “lesbian” still have relevance as an identity descriptor or political position? who does “lesbian” include and/or exclude? how does intersectional thinking impact the way we formulate lesbian identities? are we now “post-lesbian?” what, if anything, defines the field of lesbian studies? what is the current state of the field? what is the possible future of the field? what current topics should be most important to practitioners? how is work that

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falls under the “lesbian studies” umbrella connected to efforts in the areas of feminism, LGBT, intersex, and queer straight studies? and many more Twenty-First Century Lesbian Studies is an enlightening, entertaining, and essential read for academics and students working in all disciplines in the social sciences and humanities, and for the lesbian/queer population, in general.

Another Country Burns & Oates

A new collection on women in American television in the 90s uncovers a cultural obsession with tough yet sexy heroines in mythical pasts, the 'girl power' present, and utopic futures. Xena, Buffy, Sabrina, and a host of other characters have become household words, as well as icons of pop culture 'feminism.' Their popularity makes

for successful programming, however, how much does this trend truly represent a contemporary feminist breakthrough? And what does it mean for feminism in the next few decades? *Fantasy Girls: Navigating the New Universe of Science Fiction and Fantasy Television* seeks to explore as well as challenge the power and the promises of this recent media phenomenon. Such TV programming offers the exciting opportunity to rethink established gender norms, but how far is it really pushing the limits of the status quo? Amidst the exuberant optimism of fanzines and dotting fan websites, the contributors to this volume endeavor to provide us with a much needed critical analysis of this contemporary trend. These essays explore the contradictions and limitations inherent in the genre, forcing

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readers to take a fresh and critical look through a variety of lenses including girl power, postfeminism, cyborg feminism, disability politics, queer studies, and much more. Programs covered are Babylon 5, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Disney's Cinderella, Lois and Clark, Mystery Science Theater 3000, Sabrina the Teenage Witch, Star Trek: Voyager, The X-Files, Third Rock from the Sun, and Xena: Warrior Princess.