

BOOKS

Standout sisters

Lesbian Pulp Fiction: The Sexually Intrepid World of Lesbian Paperback Novels 1950–1965

■ Edited by Katherine V. Forrest
■ Cleis ■ \$18.95



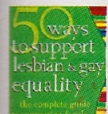
Are the pulps more about empowerment than perversity? More literature than lust? While much that's been written about lesbian pulp novels to date has emphasized their camp appeal, Forrest reaches beyond the sleazy covers and sensationalized jacket copy to demonstrate these dime novels' literary strengths and their role in bringing solace and solidarity to postwar lesbians. The covers may have screamed warnings of a twilight world where freakish "third sex" predators shattered innocent lives, but as Forrest shows, lesbian love fared far better inside the pages.

Within these novels, strong erotic elements play off intelligent, self-sufficient characters, and love between women is nurturing and satisfying. And while boy still usually gets girl in the end, Forrest's selections from nearly 20 women pulp authors—several of them recently returned to print—supports her theory of the subversive power of this genre. —Joy Parks

Upbeat ideas

50 Ways to Support Lesbian and Gay Equality

■ By Meredith Maran with Angela Watrous
■ Inner Ocean ■ \$14.95



These well-meaning essays are obviously slanted to educate straight readers—or someone who came out yesterday—and stress patience and compromise. No more rudely demanding one's human and civil rights! Instead, *50 Ways*—subtitled "The Complete Guide to Supporting Family, Friends, Neighbors or Yourself"—offers exceedingly benign views from representatives of such organizations as Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, the Human Rights Campaign, Lambda Legal, and the American Civil Liberties Union as well as activists and writers including Judy Shep-

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ard, the Reverend Troy Perry, and *The Advocate's* Anne Stockwell. Essays mostly deal with marriage, parenting, and family-related issues. Readers not stung by the bitter U.S. political climate may be put off by the book's pleading-for-tolerance tone, which reads like a PR campaign for "nice" GLBT folk who really are just like everyone else. —Joy Parks

Party miser

Party Like a Rock Star: Even When You're Poor as Dirt

■ Camper English
■ Alyson ■ \$12.95



You're sitting home on Saturday night just because you're broke?

Oh, show some ingenuity! Invest a smidge of the rent money on this shrewd little guidebook and, broke or not, you'll soon be queen of the night. San Francisco nightlife writer English personally tested his party-boy survival strategies during the two years after he was laid off from his job, and he brings real savvy along with the sass. (Don't pay for condoms, he advises. Grab them out of the jar at your local bar! But they usually expire within six months, so don't grab 50.) By learning to avoid spending situations and make the most of the money he had, English says he went out five nights a week, and to hear him tell it he never suffered. Judging by this book, we think his charm had a lot to do with it. —Anne Stockwell