

New Gay and Lesbian Fiction – November 2010

***Descent* by Julie Cannon** 9781573444088

Being on top is the only thing that matters to Shannon. If not in that position in a hotel room with the latest groupie on the mountain bike racing tour, it's seeing her name in first place on the leader board. That is until she comes head to head with Caroline Davis, her main rival and the woman with whom she had a brief, yet sizzling sex-fest ten years earlier

***Paperboy* by Christopher Fowler** (Bantam Books) 9780553820096

1960, and after fifteen years of post-war belt-tightening, Christopher Fowler's family wasn't quite ready to indulge a child cursed with too much imagination. Told through the eyes of a lonely boy who spent his days devouring novels, comics, cigarette cards, cereal boxes – anything that might reveal a story – this acclaimed memoir recalls an era, not so long ago, when Vesta beef curry was considered the height of sophistication and reading was regarded as 'a bit of a waste of time'. By turns moving, painful and touchingly funny, *Paperboy* is about a coming-of-age that was both deeply eccentric and endearingly ordinary. (Green Carnation Prize shortlist)

***God Says No* by James Hannaham** (McSweeney's) 9780802144966

Gary Gray marries his first girlfriend, a fellow student from Central Florida Christian College who loves Disney World as much as he does. They are nineteen, God-fearing, and eager to start a family, but a week before their wedding Gary goes into a rest-stop bathroom and lets something happen. *God Says No* is his testimony—the story of a young black Christian struggling with desire and belief, with his love for his wife and his appetite for other men, told in a singular, emotional voice. (Green Carnation Prize shortlist)

***Yield* by Lee Houck** 9780758242655

A contemporary Manhattan thrumming with sex and violence as seen through the eyes of Simon - a twenty-something part-time hustler with a cadre of loyal, sometimes floundering friends. As Simon grows increasingly involved with a gorgeous client named Aiden, he tried to navigate a path to fulfilment in a city where love and honesty are as dangerous as they are rare

***London Triptych* by Jonathan Kemp** (Myriad Editions) 9780956251534

Three men, three lives and three eras sinuously entwine in a dark startling and unsettling narrative of sex, exploitation and dependence set against London's strangely constant gay underworld. Rent boys, models, aristocrats, artists and gangsters populate this bold debut novel as the lives and loves of three men interweave in three distinct and pertinent historical periods (Green Carnation Prize shortlist)

***Wind and Bones* by Kristin Marra** 9781602821507

Jill's first love, Annie Doyle, lives in Prairie View and despite Annie's blistering past betrayal, Jill still desires her. Fortunately, Sheriff Rae Terabian, a woman with a uniform, power, and shady associates, deliciously distracts Jill from her obsession with Annie.

***Kiss of noir* by Clara Nipper** 9781602821613

"I was forty-six when I left the big city for the Big Easy. They say New Orleans is like a woman, beautiful, deceitful, and deadly. All I know is, I had to leave Los Angeles on the run and The Crescent City beckoned like a broad on her back."

***Sterling Road blues* by Ruth Perkinson** 9781594931871

Carrie Tomlinson's life is short on rewards and long on challenges. Even she admits that she's probably not coping the best she can, but her still grieving heart over the death of her lover only leaves her so much energy for her special needs students and her own self-control. Audra Malone understands Carrie too well, but that doesn't stop her from hoping that her role as Best Friend will become something more.

***Under her skin* by Lea Santos** 9781602821620

Who would believe that the world-famous supermodel Iris Lujan has a care in the world? Only Mexican gardener, Torien Pacias, sees through Iris's facade and offers gentle understanding and friendship when Iris needs it most. Though Torien senses the passion smouldering between them, she doesn't dare imagine a future with Iris.

***Children of the Sun* by Max Schaefer** (Granta) 9781847082428

1970: fourteen year old Tony becomes seduced by the skinhead movement, sucked into a world of brutal racist violence and bizarre ritual. It's a milieu in which he must hide his homosexuality, in which every encounter is potentially explosively risky.
2003: James is a young TV researcher, living with his boyfriend. At a loose end, he begins to research the far right in Britain, and its secret gay membership, (Green Carnation Prize shortlist)

***Man's World* by Rupert Smith** (Arcadia Books) 9781906413408

London today: a world of sex and drugs and designer clothes, where Robert searches for fulfilment in gay clubs. London 50 years ago: Michael enters a secret queer underworld, negotiating the dangers of the law and the closet. Past and present collide when Robert moves into a new block of flats, and discovers that history is alive in his doorstep. (Green Carnation Prize shortlist)

***The Devil be damned* by Ali Vali** 9781602821590

Cain Casey is close to getting everything she wants. Her partner Emma is pregnant with their third child, her children are safe and happy, and her business is still thriving despite the FBI's vendetta. Life is perfect on the surface, but it's the underbelly that worries her.