

# Bold Strokes Books

## NEWSLETTER

VOL. 5, ISSUE 1 — AUGUST 2009

### Bold Strokes Books Reaches..... 5 years

This issue marks the beginning of a new volume for the BSB newsletter as we celebrate Bold Strokes Books' fifth anniversary. Founded by Len Barot, Bold Strokes Books began with 4 authors in 2004 and now counts 61 authors representing 5 countries—the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the USA—among its members.

BSB currently lists 225 active titles. Among these titles, there are numerous finalists and winners of such awards as the prestigious Lambda Literary Foundation Awards and other, independent publishing honors. Our titles have been licensed for

translation into French and Spanish. In addition to the BSB genre fiction line, Bold Strokes Books has launched Victory Editions, Matinee Romance Books, Liberty Editions, and our newest line for young adults, Soliloquy. Our Aeros line of books has jumped on the new technologies band wagon by offering all of our titles in three electronic formats, including reprints of past published works.

Bold Strokes Books, Inc. became the first independent LGBTQ publisher recognized by the Romance Writers of America and one of the first to initiate the creation of audio books.

It has been a busy five years!

Along with our commitment to publishing the best in contemporary LGBT literature, Bold Strokes Books, Inc. is proud to sponsor the Annual Palm Springs Lesbian Book Festival, Lambda Literary Awards, Provincetown Women's Week book events, and Saints & Sinners Literary Festival.

To all of our readers who helped make this possible and to our talented group of authors, consultants, and associates, we want to say thank you for an incredible five years and look forward to many more.

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### Bold Strokes September Forthcoming

[Bold Strokes Books Online Bookstore](#)

#### Category Fiction:

*The Seduction of Moxie*, Colette Moody,  
ISBN: 978-1-60282-114-9, Price: \$16.95 (pg 3)

*Goldenseal*, Gill McKnight,  
ISBN: 978-1-60282-115-6, Price: \$16.95 (pg 4)

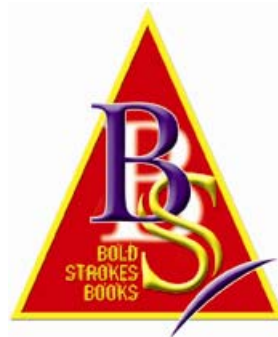
*Femme Noir*, Clara Nipper,  
ISBN: 978-1-60282-117-0, Price: \$16.95 (pg 3)

#### Anthology:

*Romantic Interludes 2: Secrets*,  
eds. Radclyffe & Stacia Seaman,  
ISBN: 978-1-60282-116-3, Price: \$16.95 (pg 4)

#### Victory Editions:

*The Reluctant Daughter*, Lesléa Newman,  
ISBN: 978-1-60282-118-7, Price: \$16.95 (pg 2)



### BSB News Bites

Bold Strokes Books is pleased to announce the signing of three new authors this past month. Rebecca S. Buck's new Victory Edition novel, *Truths*, is scheduled for 2010. A new romantic intrigue novel, *Wind and Bones*, by Kristin Marra, and the romance, *From This Moment On*, by PJ Trebelhorn, will both be coming out in 2010 as well. To see more about these authors and their new tales, go to this [link](#) and click on their names to see their bio pages.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bold Strokes Books congratulates all the BSB finalists for this year's GCLS awards and special kudos to each BSB winner in the

following categories: for romance, *Trails Merge* by Rachel Spangler; for Romantic Intrigue, *Hotel Liaison* by JLee Meyer; for historical romance, *A Pirate's Heart* by Catherine Friend; for erotica, *Thirteen Hours* by Meghan O'Brien; and for debut author, Rachel Spangler. The Trail Blazer Award was presented to BSB author Lee Lynch. A complete list of all BSB awards for the year can be found on the BSB Web site at this [link](#).

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Several new events have opened up for August and September. Check page 5 to see the basic information on each event and the BSB "Calendar of Events"

page for more about them—click [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

Just a reminder about the Bold Strokes Books call for submissions of gay erotic vampire stories for an October 2010 anthology release: *Blood Sacraments* (edited by Todd Gregory). For more information and guidelines on story submittal go to the "Call for Submissions" link on the [Publish With Us](#) page on the BSB Web site.

[www.boldstrokesbooks.com](http://www.boldstrokesbooks.com)

### NEW RELEASES

eBooks & Print

*Breaking the Ice*, Kim Baldwin

*It Should be a Crime*, Carsen Taite

*On Dangerous Ground*, D.L. Line

*Liberty Editions:*

*Looking Glass Lives*, Felice Picano, *reprint*

*Rough Trade: Dangerous Gay Erotica*, ed. Todd Gregory

Buy all at the  
[BSB Online Bookstore](#)





## BEHIND THE WRITING: LESLÉA NEWMAN



*"...LIKE THE READER, I LIKE TO BE SURPRISED..."*

**Lesléa Newman** has published more than fifty books, including novels, short-story collections, poetry collections, middle-grade novels, and children's books. She has received numerous literary awards and nine of her books have been Lambda Literary Award finalists. Currently, she is the Poet Laureate of Northampton, Massachusetts.

Lesléa's first Bold Strokes novel, *A Reluctant Daughter*, will be released this September.

\*\*\*\*\*

### What made you decide to become a fiction writer?

I started out as a poet, and then one day I lost my job and went to a psychic and asked her what kind of job I should look for. She said, "You don't need to find a job. You need to

go home and get to work." I wrote the first 20 pages of my first novel, *Good Enough To Eat*, that day and never looked back.

### What type of stories do you write? And why?

I write the type of stories I want to read: stories about contemporary lesbians and their (our) lives. It's so important for us to see ourselves portrayed in literature. It's very validating to write these types of stories; I hope readers find them very validating to read.

### Where do you get your ideas?

I never plan or outline. I subscribe to the spelunker school of writing. It's like I'm in a dark cave and I'm wearing one of those hats with a headlight on it. All I can see is where to put

my foot—or my pen—next. Once I take that step, all I can see is where to put my foot—or my pen—next. And it just keeps going like that. I was once on a panel and the question was asked: "Do you know the end before you begin?" Another writer said, "Of course. Otherwise I wouldn't know how to start." I said, "Of course not. If I knew how it was going to end, why would I bother writing it?" Like the reader, I like to be surprised.

To see the rest of Lesléa's interview and read an excerpt of her novels, go to her [bio page](#) from the following link:

[www.BoldStrokesBooks.com/authors.html](http://www.BoldStrokesBooks.com/authors.html)

## RELATIONSHIPS CAN BE...

This is a story every daughter will recognize as it depicts the struggles of Lydia Pinkowitz to communicate the realities of her life as a lesbian, as a feminist scholar, and as the woman she has become to her mother Doris. After years of hoping to attain her mother's love and acceptance while struggling to live a true and honest life, Lydia eventually acknowledges her mother will never really see her. When Doris develops a life-threatening illness, Lydia is forced to make a life-and-death decision of her own: should she make one final attempt to heal her relationship with her mother or simply let her go?

-Excerpt-

It took me half a century to find my mother.

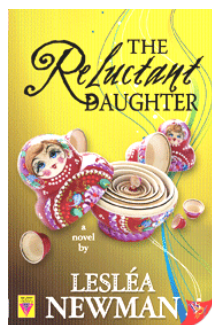
My mother wasn't lost like the poor child whose sad face

graces the poster hanging outside the convenience store that I pause to study every time I dash in to buy a carton of half-and-half for Allie's morning coffee. Nor was she lost like the small gold Jewish star my parents gave me to wear around my neck when I turned sixteen which slid off its chain one day when I wasn't looking and disappeared completely as an ice cube melted by the sun. No, I've always known exactly where my mother is: sitting in the living room of the split-level house I grew up in on Maple Drive, a quiet tree-lined street in Oakwood, New York, a suburb in the upper most part of Westchester County. I can locate my mother any time I want to, but that doesn't matter. She is still missing in action. At least to me. My mother and I are so estranged, she doesn't even know that we're estranged. It's not

that we don't communicate with one another. We speak on the phone once a month, sometimes once every other month, sometimes once a season. I am always the one to break the silence between us and dial my parents' number, usually during a weekday when I know my father isn't home.

It's never my idea to give my mother a ring. The thought would never even occur to me on my own. If it weren't for Allie, years could easily slip by without my mother and I having a conversation.

But Allie, my sweet, kind, wonderful, not to mention drop-dead handsome as butch can be Allie, can't seem to mind her own damn business and leave well enough alone.



ISBN: 978-1602821187

Price: \$16.95

e-Price: \$12.95

Release: September 2009

Victory Editions



### ...DAMES, BOOZE, AND MURDER

Womanizing tough broad Nora Delaney meets her match in Max Abbott, a sex-crazed dame who may or may not have the information Nora needs to solve a murder—but can she contain her lust for Max long enough to find out?

Dames, booze, and murder is the oldest story in the book, but this time, it happens too fast to Nora Delaney, who is a notorious womanizing college basketball coach. After her ex is found murdered, Nora chases the scent all the way from Los Angeles to Tulsa to find some right angles in this nasty business, only to be waylaid by a gorgeous, gin-swilling skirt who has information as well as an appetite for women like Nora.

-Excerpt-

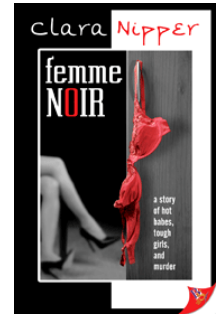
I was thirty-five the year I

started drinking gin. It's not a pretty story and I don't come off smelling like a rose, but it's time to tell it. With a story like this, gin is the only thing astringent enough to clean the dirt from my mouth. Gin is snappy and crisp and washes away my sins, at least for the night. I love everything about gin, but maybe that's because my love affair with it is new. The smell of it is a cold wintry tang in the nose; the look of it is hard and clear like liquid diamonds and that's sort of deceptive because the taste of it is smooth and sweet yet sharp too like a beautiful woman with a knife. Gin slides down my throat like an ice snake. It's bitter and oily, wavering in the glass like a silver mirror, and when it is a mirror is when I drink most. I'll take it any way—neat, a shot, on the rocks, in a martini, I don't care.

But my favorite way to drink it is with tonic because it reminds me of Her, the red-haired siren. I got the idea that gin is a disinfectant like hydrogen peroxide and if I drink enough, it will boil out the infection, which is this sordid story I must tell.

I found I'm a woman of excesses. I love cigarettes, I love gin, I love women and I love winning, all to a fault. I was born for trouble without knowing it and that is the worst kind. Suddenly, I've found that sometimes, a woman must drink alone.

So I was thirty-five the year I started drinking gin. It all started one day with a frantic call from my ex who was later found murdered.



ISBN: 978-1602821170

Price: \$16.95

e-Price: \$12.95

Release: September 2009

Mystery

### SPEAK EASY TO THE HEART...

New York City, 1931: when wry Broadway actress Violet London and her hard-drinking cohorts venture into a speakeasy the night before she is to board a train for Hollywood, she is floored by sassy blond singer Moxie Valette. As Violet introduces Moxie to an assortment of bootleg liquor, cross-dressers, and sex shows, she vows to find a way to see her again.

From Manhattan to Los Angeles, both women's lives are turned upside-down by separation, unscrupulous motion-picture studio executives, self-serving agents, eccentric celebrities, and the collection of hedonistic reprobates that are their closest friends.

-Excerpt-

Moxie stopped at the table and cleared her throat as the loud redheaded woman was in the middle of a sentence.

"...and I told him, 'Darling, you need to get that away from my

vagina'—oh, hello there," she said, suddenly noticing her.

Moxie was stunned, wondering what the beginning of that story could possibly have entailed. "Um, hello. I may have been given the wrong table number."

The other woman at the table smiled, her smoky eyes alight with something. "No, this is the right table. We wanted to tell you how very much we enjoyed your singing."

Moxie remained wary. "That's nice of you to say."

"Do have a seat. I'm Violet London, and these are my friends Wilhelmina Skoog and Julian French."

Moxie pulled up a chair and sat, feeling self-conscious. Her eyes were drawn to the small, yawning reddish-brown dog sitting in Violet's lap. "And who is this?"

"Ah, this is Clitty." Violet held up the dog's paw to simulate a friendly wave.

"That's an unusual name." Moxie assured herself that she

had either misheard the woman or was simply the victim of her own filthy mind. The dog could not possibly be named that.

Violet took a drink of champagne and nodded as she swallowed. "Yes, it's short for Clitoris."

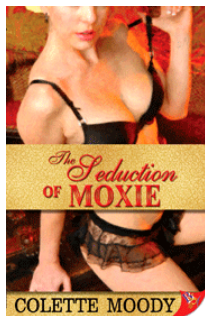
"Why would you name your dog that?"

"Well, it seemed appropriate," Violet replied, scratching Clitty's head between the ears. "I mean, he has a beard." She playfully tugged the animal's protracted chin hair. "And he wants to be rubbed all day long."

"But does he want to be licked?" Wil asked.

"Lord, Wil," Julian interjected, exhaling smoke from his nostrils. "I hope you're not offering."

"Hardly, darling. It's far too early in the evening for me to have lowered my standards that much." She looked at her watch. "I won't settle for less than a human for another three hours."



ISBN: 978-1602821149

Price: \$16.95

e-Price: \$12.95

Release: September 2009

Romance

## ... STALKER OR PROTECTOR

Amy Fortune and Leone Garoul were teenage lovers. Now, years later, Amy returns to Little Dip, the Garoul home valley, to help her aunt finish a botanical project. Except Little Dip is no longer the happy place of Amy's childhood memories. There's something sinister in the woods. And why hasn't Leone moved on? Why does she still dog Amy's every move?

As more and more of the Garoul family arrive for a special hunting weekend, parts of the puzzle come together and Amy's fears escalate as she moves closer to the truth—and the secret that has eluded her since childhood.

-Excerpt-

Amy wasn't sure what woke her. She lifted her head and scanned the tree line hugging the riverside. The birdsong had stopped, and an eerie quiet had descended. Was that what had

awoken her? The unnatural silence?

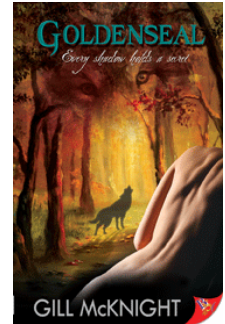
Something drifted into her peripheral vision, dark velvet slinking through the shadows before being swallowed by the forest. She squinted, trying to focus on its fluidity, a liquid whisper that melted from tree to tree. It was nothing more than a penumbra, as vague as a watermark on the surrounding gloom. No sooner had she caught it than it dissolved away into nothingness. She rose onto her knees to look harder but all was now uniform darkness. Nevertheless, she was left with a strong residue of unease. It coated her tongue and cramped her stomach. Tentative birdcalls began to fill the quiet. The ominous pause in nature seemed to flutter, then lurch hesitantly back into the everyday life of the forest.

Amy gave one last sweeping glance along the riverbank. It was then she noticed her fish. Her

trout lay several feet away from where she'd left them. Towel in hand, she padded across the stepping-stones to the bank. As she approached she noticed the rapidly drying paw prints circling her catch. They were massive, and clawed, and made every fine hair on her already goose-bumped flesh stand on end. She watched aghast as the prints slowly dissipated before her eyes with the heat of the sun. She dropped her towel and hurriedly grabbed at her clothes, deciding it was best to get dressed and go as quickly as possible.

"Been fishing?" Leone emerged from the tree line just several yards upstream from where Amy stood.

Startled, Amy spun around angrily. *As if this wasn't creepy enough, now I've got a peeper ogling me from the woods.*



ISBN: 978-1602821156

Price: \$16.95

e-Price: \$12.95

Release: September 2009

*Paranormal Romance*

## ROMANTIC SECRETS...



ISBN: 978-1602821163

Price: \$16.95

e-Price: \$12.95

Release: September 2009

*Romantic Anthology*

Imagine the excitement when everything you thought you knew about love becomes so much...more.

An anthology of sensual love stories about women sharing passion, surprises, and secret

desires. Discover the thrill of love as you never dreamed it could be with more than twenty selections from best-selling romance authors: Colette Moody, Lesley Davis, Lesléa Newman, Meghan O'Brien, Clifford Henderson, Merry Shannon, Erin Dutton, Ali Vali, Carsen Taite, VK Powell, Julie Cannon, Yolanda Wallace, Andrews & Austin, D. Jackson Leigh, Nell Stark and Trinity Tam, KI Thompson, C. J. Harte, Lisa Girolami, Clara Nipper, Shea Godfrey, Kim Baldwin, Lea Santos, and Radclyffe writing as L.L. Raand.

## BSB & WOMEN'S WEEK IN PROVINCETOWN '09



*(dunes near Provincetown, MA)*

Come join Bold Strokes authors, editors, staff, and friends at what looks to be the best Women's Week ever! A complete BSB schedule will be in next month's newsletter but as a peek, here's one event that'll "blow your socks off":

**Helping Our Women (HOW) 6th Annual Lesbian Author Panel:**

**"Celebrating 25 years of Women's Week - Lesbian Literature Telling the Story of Our Lives"**

at the Crown and Anchor from 9 - 11 am on Friday, Oct. 16  
Panelists: Fay Jacobs, Lee Lynch, Lesléa Newman, Radclyffe

President: Len Barot  
 bsb@BoldStrokesBooks.com

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**CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS OF FULL-LENGTH LGBTQ FICTION!**

(for submission guidelines go to [www.BoldStrokesBooks.com](http://www.BoldStrokesBooks.com))

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We welcome first-time as well as previously published authors. Our focus at **Bold Strokes Books** is to provide authors with the professional expertise, individualized editorial attention, and wide-scale marketing and distribution necessary to showcase their work.

**AUGUST 2009 BOLD STROKES EVENTS CALENDAR**

SU	MON	TUE	WE	THU	F	SAT
Go to <a href="http://www.BoldStrokesBooks.com/events.html">www.BoldStrokesBooks.com/events.html</a> for more info.						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Erin Dutton signing, 8pm, Charis Books, Atlanta, GA	15
16	17 <b>Book Releases:</b> <i>It Should be a Crime</i> , Carsen Taite <i>Breaking the Ice</i> , Kim Baldwin <i>On Dangerous Grounds</i> , D.L. Line <i>Rough Trade: Dangerous Gay Erotica</i> , ed. Todd Gregory (Liberty Edition) <i>Looking Glass Lives</i> , Felice Picano (Liberty Edition reprint)	18	19	20 Carsen Taite signing, 7pm, Borders (Dallas-uptown), Dallas, TX	21 D.L. Line signing, 7pm, Barnes & Noble (Harrisonburg Crossing), Harrisonburg, VA	22

**SEPTEMBER 2009 BOLD STROKES EVENTS CALENDAR**

BR	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Go to <a href="http://www.BoldStrokesBooks.com/events.html">www.BoldStrokesBooks.com/events.html</a> for more info.						
		1	2	3	4 Decatur Book Festival starts, Atlanta, GA	5 DBF LGBT Panel with Kim Baldwin, J.M. Redmann, & Radclyffe, at Decatur Library, 3pm, Decatur, GA
6 DBF ends	7	8	9	10	11	12 Carsen Taite signing, 3pm, Barnes & Noble, Albuquerque, NM
13	14 <b>Book Releases:</b> <i>The Seduction of Moxie</i> , Colette Moody <i>Goldenseal</i> , Gill McKnight <i>Femme Noir</i> , Clara Nipper <i>The Reluctant Daughter</i> , Lesléa Newman <i>Romantic Interludes 2: Secrets</i> , eds. Radclyffe & Stacia Seaman	15	16 D.L. Line signing, 6:30pm, Lambda Rising Bookstore, Washington, DC	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	26	26	30 Lesléa Newman signing, 7pm, Broadside Books, Northampton, MA			

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