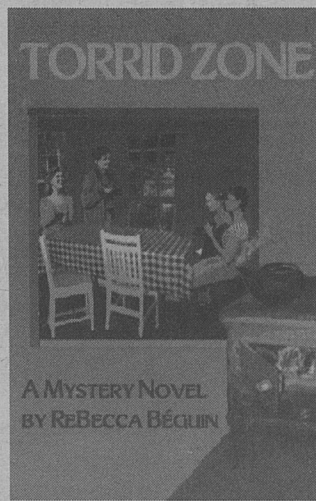


Enter the TORRID ZONE with ReBecca Beguin



BY DONNA FREEMAN

One glance at the title "Torrid Zone" and those of us enlightened folks immediately think, "Romance novel, a little bit of sex, a little bit of that..." That's what I thought, anyway. The cover declares this a mystery novel, so I also sneered my usual, "Oh goody, another soft-porn lesbian murder mystery, by a Vermont writer, no less. Save me!"

Even so, I began reading and discovered to my delight an apparently simplistic story about a farm-girl Vermont lesbian who is anything but simple. I was surprised, but not disappointed when I discovered that Torrid Zone did not refer to anything sexual, but rather was the name given to a warm and trust-worthy friend.

Beguin's novel is a mystery more about Ida, the main character, rediscovering her own lost (or hidden) emotions and beliefs, than it is about a 20 year-old unsolved murder. Her therapist in this rediscovery comes in the form of Viv, a young college student.

Viv, in need of shelter from harassing violence on campus, wants to use Ida's experience in a 70's separatist collective as fodder for a Women's Studies project. Her prodding, youthful persistence enables Ida to unlock many of her dormant feelings. Viv's research also nudges Ida into introducing Viv to the members of the now defunct farm collective, as well as finding journals and documents from the collective years. Ida holds Viv spellbound as her sometimes painful memories bubble up to the surface while she recounts daily life in the collective farm.

I found myself to be as captivated as Viv, with Beguin's Fried-Green-Tomatoes-esque first person writing style. I got impatient with the daily events and chores that Viv and Ida found themselves dealing with - I wanted more of the nightly tale. What was it that caused this ideal wimmin's community to disintegrate? And, why did it seem that Ida was existing in a life with no emotion, even though she had a lover?

As she digs to recover her repressed memories, Ida shows Viv that she is anything but a simple hold-over from the communal times of twenty years ago. She also reveals to herself the true complexity of her own emerging psyche, the true solution to her own mystery, that although it appears everyone from the collective besides her has changed, this is not true.

Beguin's tale is a novel chronicling how some of our lives evolve over the course of time. It is a revealing account of changes experienced when the determination we acquire in our twenties, becomes the disillusionment and disappointment of our thirties, and, eventually, through grief and regrowth, becomes our reawakening.

OUTings...

Lucie Blue Tremblay

Benefit Concert
September 20th
8pm (doors 7:30)
Unitarian-
Universalist, 152
Pearl St., Burlington

Tickets:
\$15 in advance, \$13.50 student,
\$17 door (student rate for
advanced ticket sales only.
all door tickets \$17.)

Tickets available at:
Outright Vt. Office, Peace and
Justice Center, or by mail: checks
payable to Lavender Visions,
Productions, Inc., PO Box 307,
St Albans, VT 05478
information: (802) 849-2739
• all profits from this
concert benefit Outright



Triangle Ministries ▲▼▲▼▲▼▲▼

A Center For Lesbian & Gay Spiritual Development
14 White Birch Lane, Williston, VT 05495
802-860-7106 or Email: revcsl@aol.com

Offers Weekend Retreats In Burlington, VT

"Surfacing Our Souls"

A Study of Families, Fear, & Faith
November 28 - 30, 1997

"Having the Holy in Our Holidays"

December 19-21, 1997

"Body & Soul"

A Valentine's Retreat For Lesbian Couples
February 13 - 16, 1998

Contact for rates, registration, & further information
Or visit TM web page <http://members.aol.com/revcsl>

DAR WILLIAMS

WITH RICHARD SHINDELL
in a benefit for the
Peace & Justice Center

SEPTEMBER 21 ST, 7 PM

UNITARIAN CHURCH
BURLINGTON, VT

\$15-\$20 SLIDING SCALE

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PEACE & JUSTICE STORE

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15

Brattleboro Area Gay Men's Film Club. 7-9pm. FMI call Ron (603) 876-4825.

GLITTER at Rhombus Gallery, Burlington. 7:45-10pm.

Pink Flamingoes, by John Waters. By now, the disgusting film that launched John Waters career into the gutter has achieved cult status. Come watch a 400 pound drag queen eat dog poop. The recently released version will be shown in our new location on a huge projection screen.

EATING WITH GRACE. a ten week psychoeducational support group for women w/food issues. Lesbian/bisexual/survivor positive. Mondays 4-6pm. B'ton, Fee. FMI call Theresa Bacon, MA, ABMP, MSW 985-4045.

16

Brattleboro Area AIDS project annual meeting at the project office, 67 Main St., 4th Fl. FMI call 254-8263.

Game night with SAM. FMI call 649-3133.

19

6th Annual VT HIV/AIDS Educators Training Conference Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee, VT FMI call Jonathan at 862-1668.

19-21 Gender-free dance camp, Becket/Chimney corners camp, Beckett, Massachusetts. Contact Ruth FMI 649-1164.

19-21 Come help OUTRIGHT VT and Out in the Mountains paint and move

furniture. We also need paint brushes, pans, and rollers. Contact Tami FMI 865-9677.

20

AIDS walk in Rutland to benefit VT CARES. Walk starts in the Main St. Park at 9:30am. FMI call Leah at VT CARES, 863-2437. 30th Anniversary Annual meeting of the ACLU at the Cortina Inn on Route 4 in Killington. Beginning at 9 with registration.

BAD Grrrls (Brattleboro Area Dykes) Pot Luck. 6pm. Call 254-7721.

The Amelia's Underground is adopting a NH highway in the name of "Upper Valley Lesbians". We'll be doing our initial clean-up of Route 4 from the Enfield/Lebanon town line to the in-

terstate exit (I89 #17) We're meeting at the Interstate Tire Parking lot at 10am. FMI call (603) 632-7146.

Amelia's potluck and open house at Vanessa and Jayne's (603) 448-5201.

Lucie Blue Tremblay at the Unitarian Church, 152 Pearl St. Burlington. All proceeds will benefit OUTRIGHT VT. Tickets available at OUTRIGHT, The Peace and Justice Store or call, 849-2739.

20-21 Sleepless in September. Get off campus and explore the beauty and fun of the Green Mts. with other VT GLBT college students and allies at Middlebury College's Breadloaf campus in Ripton. Sponsored by MGLBA and Free To Be at UVM. Contact David or Don FMI 388-0750

21

AIDS Walk in St. Johnsbury. To benefit VT CARES. Walk starts in Ramsey Park (across from Troll Press). FMI call Leah at VT CARES: 863-2437.

Dar Williams with Richard Shindell at UU Church, Burlington to benefit The Peace & Justice Center. Tickets available at Peace & Justice Store, Flynn Box Office, Pure Pop, B'ton, Middlebury Natural Food Co-OP, Vermont Trading Co., Montpelier. FMI call 863-8326.

more **CALENDAR**
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