

# *Queered Science*

*Not what teacher said to read*

## **2013 Calendar** {July - December}

### July

7.27 – Saturday

#### **Palimpsest**

by Catherynne Valente

book discussion – au coquelet\* – 4:30pm

### August

8.3 & 8.4 – Saturday & Sunday

#### **GaymerX 2013**

*world's first lgbt geek & gaming convention*

hotel kabuki – san francisco – gaymerconnect.com

8.31 – Saturday

#### **Silence**

Anonymous

book discussion – au coquelet\* – 4:30pm

### September

9.1 - Sunday

#### **Oakland Pride**

uptown oakland - 19<sup>th</sup> street bart – 11:00 am

9.28 - Saturday

#### **Stars in my Pocket Like Grains of Sand**

by Samuel Delaney

book discussion – au coquelet\* – 4:30pm

### October

10.26 - Saturday

#### **Swordspoint**

by Ellen Kushner

book discussion – au coquelet\* – 4:30pm

### November

11.30 – Saturday

#### **Glasshouse**

by Charles Stross

book discussion – au coquelet\* – 4:30pm

### December

12.20 – Friday

#### **Winter is Coming**

pot luck social – location tbd

12.21 - Saturday

#### **Book Suggestions Due**

for the first half of 2014

### January 2014

1.25 – Saturday

#### **Flying Cups and Saucers**

edited by Debbie Notkin

& the Secret Feminist Cabal

book discussion – au coquelet\* – 4:30pm

### 2014 Books

#### **To be determined**

*Please submit suggestions by Saturday, November 21, if you would like them to be considered for the first half of 2014*

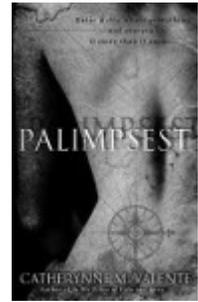
*\* Rides from Todos Santos Plaza (Concord) may be arranged upon request.*

# About the Books

## **Palimpsest**

by Catherynne Valente

2009 Contemporary Fantasy



Between life and death, dreaming and waking, at the train stop beyond the end of the world is the city of Palimpsest. To get there is a miracle, a mystery, a gift, and a curse—a voyage permitted only to those who've always believed there's another world than the one that meets the eye. Those fated to make the passage are marked forever by a map of that wondrous city tattooed on their flesh after a single orgasmic night. To this kingdom of ghost trains, lion-priests, living kanji, and cream-filled canals come four travelers: Oleg, a New York locksmith; the beekeeper November; Ludovico, a binder of rare books; and a young Japanese woman named Sei. They've each lost something important—a wife, a lover, a sister, a direction in life—and what they will find in Palimpsest is more than they could ever imagine. - **Amazon**

**Content Notes:** Catherynne Valente is known to include Violent Sex and Sexual Violence, but not in conjunction (i.e. any violent sex will be consensual).

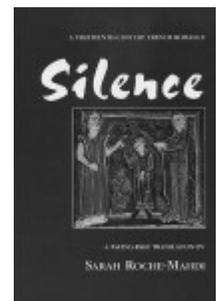
### **Available at...**

Amazon	<a href="http://amzn.to/3Z4kU4">http://amzn.to/3Z4kU4</a>
Alameda County Library	<a href="http://bit.ly/13ZG96s">http://bit.ly/13ZG96s</a>
Contra Costa County Library	<a href="http://bit.ly/10J4Mjx">http://bit.ly/10J4Mjx</a>
Oakland Public Library	<a href="http://bit.ly/11cuCiV">http://bit.ly/11cuCiV</a>

## **Silence**

by Anonymous

13<sup>th</sup>-Century Arthurian Romance



The *Roman de Silence*, is finally recovering its voice after seven hundred years of undeserved neglect. Drawing on traditional themes (the warrior maiden, Potiphar's wife and Merlin's laughter), it tells of a girl raised as a boy, equally accomplished as a minstrel and knight, whose final task, the capture of Merlin, leads to her unmasking. - **Michigan State University Press**

**Content Notes:** The focus on nature vs. nurture lends itself to gender essentialist language. The story also covers themes of fostering, abandonment, and intense familial grief.

### **Available at...**

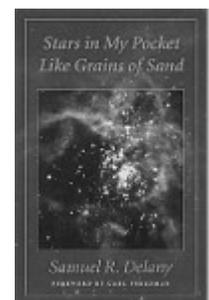
Amazon	<a href="http://amzn.to/1awRmvp">http://amzn.to/1awRmvp</a>
UC Berkeley Library	<a href="http://bit.ly/11qdxOg">http://bit.ly/11qdxOg</a>

**If you intend to buy this book, do so SOON – the price goes up as the school year approaches.**

## **Stars in my Pocket Like Grains of Sand**

by Samuel Delany

1984 Science Fiction



*Stars in My Pocket Like Grains of Sand* is a science fiction masterpiece, an essay on the inexplicability of sexual attractiveness, and an examination of interstellar politics among far-flung worlds. First published in 1984, the novel's central issues—technology, globalization, gender, sexuality, and multiculturalism—have only become more pressing with the passage of time.

The novel's topic is information itself: What are the repercussions, once it has been made public, that two individuals have been found to be each other's perfect erotic object out to "point nine-nine-nine and several nines percent more"? What will it do to the individuals involved, to the city they inhabit, to their geosector, to their entire world society, especially when one is an illiterate worker, the sole survivor of a world destroyed by "cultural fugue," and the other is--you! - **Amazon**

**Content Notes:** Slavery, sexism, cultural destruction, and derogatory language.

**Available at...**

- Amazon <http://amzn.to/16o49DZ>
- Berkeley Public Library <http://bit.ly/11qdNgd>
- Oakland Public Library <http://bit.ly/11cymks> <http://bit.ly/118Gj7g>
- UC Berkeley Library <http://bit.ly/17vt090>

**Swordspoint**  
by Ellen Kushner  
1987 Low Fantasy

On the treacherous streets of Riverside, a man lives and dies by the sword. Even the nobles on the Hill turn to duels to settle their disputes. Within this elite, dangerous world, Richard St. Vier is the undisputed master, as skilled as he is ruthless--until a death by the sword is met with outrage instead of awe, and the city discovers that the line between hero and villain can be altered in the blink of an eye. - **Bantam Press**



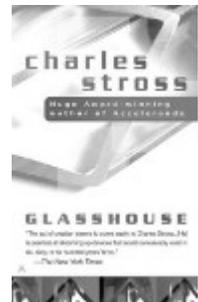
**Content Notes:** *Swordspoint* is a work of fantasy that includes both ageist and suicidal characters. The world also includes entrenched sexism, which doesn't get challenged until the sequel, *The Privilege of the Sword*.

**Available at...**

- Amazon <http://amzn.to/11qfFFC>
- Alameda County Library <http://bit.ly/1aBwLGf>
- Oakland Public Library <http://bit.ly/12Q75Tc>

**Glasshouse**  
by Charles Stross  
2006 Science Fiction

The novel is set in the twenty seventh century aboard a spacecraft adrift in interstellar space. Robin, the protagonist, has recently had his memory erased. He agrees to take part in an experiment, during which he is placed inside a model of a late twentieth/early twenty-first century Euroamerican society. Robin is given a new identity and body, specifically that of a woman named "Reeve". Major themes of this novel are identity, gender determinism, self-image- and conformity. *Glasshouse* was nominated for the Hugo, Campbell, and Locus Awards in 2007. - **Wikipedia**



**Content Notes:** *If you have any content notes or trigger warnings for Glasshouse, could you please share them.*

**Available at...**

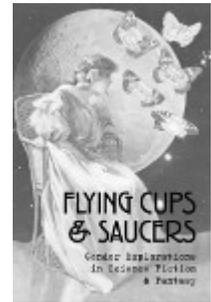
- Amazon <http://amzn.to/113EffJ>
- Alameda County Library <http://bit.ly/19nJGOa>
- Berkeley Public Library <http://bit.ly/17vyWim>
- Contra Costa County Library <http://bit.ly/16qPGHi>
- Oakland Public Library <http://bit.ly/10JbhmD>
- UC Berkeley Library <http://bit.ly/ZfDmEs>

## ***Flying Cups and Saucers***

edited by Debbie Notkin and the Secret Feminist Cabal

*Collection of James Tiptree Jr. Award Winning Stories from 1991-1995*

Flying Cups & Saucers collects 13 winners and finalists for the James Tiptree Jr. Award, named for science fiction's ultimate gender pioneer, the woman writer everyone thought was a man. Accordingly, the Tiptree Award (est. 1991) honors the best science fiction and fantasy to explore and expand gender roles. As you might expect, these stories are feminist; non-heterosexist; focused on sex and desire; and sometimes androgynous (a few stories feature three sexes, and one even stars Freud's nightmare, the woman with a penis). But this list hardly begins to describe the contents. - **Goodreads**



### **Available at...**

Amazon	<a href="http://amzn.to/176HcEH">http://amzn.to/176HcEH</a>	<a href="http://amzn.to/17wcfuz">http://amzn.to/17wcfuz</a>
Lulu Marketplace*	<a href="http://bit.ly/13ZZwfr">bit.ly/13ZZwfr</a>	
Berkeley Public Library	<a href="http://bit.ly/ZuPy6r">http://bit.ly/ZuPy6r</a>	
Oakland Public Library	<a href="http://bit.ly/ZuPIL7">http://bit.ly/ZuPIL7</a>	

\* Selected vendor of the James Tiptree Jr. Awards

## ***About the Club***

**Queered Science** was founded in 2012 as the East Bay Queer Science Fiction & Fantasy Book Club. We meet once per month to discuss various works of speculative fiction that examine questions of gender and sexuality, or which feature trans\*, genderqueer, queer, bisexual, lesbian, or gay characters and themes.

## ***Winter is Coming (December 21, 2013)***

*A 2013 Bibliophiles' Potluck & Bookswap*

This December, Queered Science will be hosting a potluck where we can meet and discuss all manner of literature and geekery, as well as club policies and reading suggestions for 2014. While they are not required, dishes from *Dining in Westeros: a Feast of Fire and Ice* will most certainly be enjoyed.

## ***Where we Meet***

### **Au Coquelet**

2000 University Avenue  
Berkeley, CA

*near Downtown Berkely BART*

### **Rudy's, Uptown**

1805 Telegraph Avenue  
Oakland, CA

*near 19<sup>th</sup> Street BART*

### **Walnut Creek Library**

1644 North Broadway  
Walnut Creek, CA

*near Walnut Creek BART*