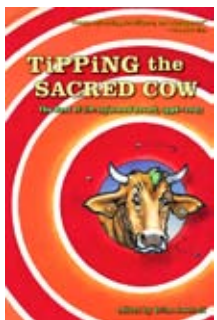


The Mandrake Broom, Jess Wells (Firebrand Books): This richly detailed historical novel is set in late 15th century Italy, a time when women were being burned at the stake as witches for practicing herbal medicine. The story follows the adventures of Luccia Alimenti, the daughter of a medical professor, who is charged with the responsibility of passing herbal lore on to future generations even though the risks for doing so were deadly. (firebrandbooks.com) — Kamala K. Puligandla

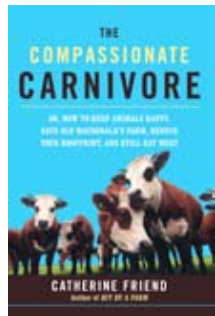


Tipping the Sacred Cow, Ed. Brian Awehali (AK Press): Over the course of 11 years, the magazine *LiP: Informed Revolt* brought its own form of subversive politics, sex and culture to the world. *LiP* is on an indefinite hiatus but fans can rejoice at the publication of *Tipping the Sacred Cow*. With

articles on bugs and litterbugs, a treatise on flag burning and a look at the state of the independent media, this is not a book to read before bed, because you probably won't get much sleep. (akpress.org) — Jenna V. Loceff



The Emotional Lives of Animals, Marc Bekoff (New World Library): The animal lover will delight in this intelligent, conversational and convincing reflection on animals' capacity for emotion. Though it doesn't skimp on the tear-jerking stories that make you say, "Aw!" it avoids over-romanticism through the use of scientific stats and research. If you're the kind of dyke who just might love the family dog more than the girlfriend, you'll devour this, cover-to-cover, in days. (newworldlibrary.com) — Catherine Plato



The Compassionate Carnivore, Catherine Friend (Da Capo

Lifelong Books): A lesbian farmer on a sustainable farm, Catherine Friend (who will be interviewed in the November issue of *CURVE*) writes passionately about "how to keep animals happy, save Old MacDonald's farm, reduce your hoof-print and still eat meat." Her book is packed with tips on how you can avoid vegetarianism in our age of factory farms while remaining an ethical eater. Her words give hope to those of us who crave meat, but are sickened by some modern farming practices. (dacapopress.com) — Kate Goldsworthy



The Candidate, Tracey Richardson (Bella Books): The romance in *The Candidate* is intense, captivating and, at times, heart-breaking. Jane Kincaid doesn't believe she can run for president and have a lesbian lover too. This notion is challenged, raising very important questions about whether out and proud lesbians must sacrifice our personal lives for our careers, especially if we are in the public eye. (bellabooks.com) — Kathi Isserman

Q+A Megan Rose Gedris



Megan Rose Gedris, a 22-year-old graphic designer from Michigan, is the writer-artist of the web comics *Yu+Me* and *I Was Kidnapped by Lesbian Pirates from Outer Space*. *Yu+Me* is a very sweet, dreamy, manga-style teenage romance about a young woman who is finding her way and her sexuality in a series of overbearing environments. *I Was Kidnapped by Lesbian Pirates from Outer Space* is set in the 1950s, and has a Lichtenstein-esque feel. It is a ribald adventure in space, with many familiar comic book themes throughout. Gedris feels that *Lesbian Pirates* is different from anything she has experienced, but she would sure love to live it. — Richard A. Scott

What are your influences and favorite art styles?

I like mixed-media art. For me, the art isn't just about what I'm drawing, but how I draw it.

What about your writing?

I like writing that's funny. If it takes itself too seriously, I'm going to lose interest fast.

The material in *Yu+Me* is reflective of a Catholic upbringing.

People assume I went to Catholic school. I didn't. It comes from my dad and aunt telling stories of their Catholic-school upbringing. When I came out to my aunt and told her about the comics, she was tickled that Fiona's school experience was just like hers. Some of *Yu+Me* is my own experiences.

You received \$1,000 from Prism comics for publishing copies of *Yu+Me*, while *Lesbian Pirates* is being published through a deal by Platinum Studios. Care to elaborate?

I got both the Platinum deal and the Prism grant within a couple months of each other. I went from "Oh, I'm a web-comic artist who would like to be published, but I'll have to spend a lot of my own money to do it, so I'll do it in five years when I'm better off..." to "Oh, I have money for printing comics now." I've just accomplished my five-year plan in less than five months. What am I going to do for the next five years? The next five years will get spent making more comics. What these two deals did was get me the funds to start my own self-publishing endeavor, and get me into the industry on a semi-professional level.

Ever thought about having *Lesbian Pirates* as a cartoon or a movie?

I always thought it would be neat to have a cartoon on Adult Swim. To me, it seems like they've given up trying to get gay characters into the mainstream. I want nothing less than to see *Lesbian Pirates from Outer Space* up there after *The Venture Bros*. If I did this, it wouldn't be done halfway. I wouldn't settle for anything less than total awesomeness. ■

