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December 7, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Cleis Press celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
best-selling lesbian and gay erotica series in America*

## **Best Lesbian Erotica 2005**

Edited by **Tristan Taormino**  
Selected and Introduced by **Felice Newman**

## **Best Gay Erotica 2005**

Edited by **Richard Labonté**  
Selected and Introduced by **William J. Mann**

(SAN FRANCISCO) The best-selling lesbian and gay erotica series in America has reached a historic milestone. With the publication of *Best Lesbian Erotica 2005* and *Best Gay Erotica 2005*, Cleis Press celebrates ten years of collecting the hottest, freshest lesbian and gay erotica available anywhere. No previous erotica series has reached this mark—or can boast a veritable queer lit *Who's Who* of guest judges and authors, including Michelle Tea, Pat Califia, JT LeRoy, Kirk Read, Laura Antoniou, Matt Bernstein Sycamore, Rachel Kramer Bussel, Ian Phillips, Greg Wharton, Scott Pomfret, Joan Nestle, Cecilia Tan, Simon Sheppard, Justin Chin, Heather Lewis, Carol Queen, D. Travers Scott, Michael Rowe, M. Christian, Andy Quan, Cara Bruce, Christopher Bram, M.R. Daniel, Jewelle Gomez, and Felice Picano.

Not only the longest-running and top-selling series, Cleis's *Best Erotica* has won the Lambda Literary Award for erotica twice, in 2003 and 2004.

Cleis copublisher Frédérique Delacoste recalls, “We began in 1995 with the goal of putting together a collection of sharply written, well-edited, intelligent, sexy stories unafraid to be sold with a dirty cover and to embrace its smutty self. Now a decade later, we continue to raise the bar for queer erotic writing year after year.”

In the last ten years, *Best Lesbian Erotica* and *Best Gay Erotica* have both reflected and fueled the evolution of the genre. As *Best Lesbian Erotica* series editor Tristan Taormino notes, “The sheer volume of queer erotica—in magazines, in books, and on the Web—has increased tenfold. A genre that was once fringe and underground has found its way into mainstream bookstores, spawned writing classes, warrants reviews in literary journals, and has been recognized by the LGBT community as a vital, valuable contribution to queer literature. It even has its own category at the Lambda Literary Awards.”

Cleis copublisher Felice Newman says, “In *Best Lesbian Erotica* and *Best Gay Erotica* a generation of writers has opened up the genre to stories of lust, memory, obsession, attraction, anticipation, longing, love, hate, transgression. We gave writers permission to write about sex, and that has given all of us encouragement to expand our own sexual horizons.”

**Praise for Best Lesbian Erotica:**

“Thought-provoking, unpredictable, and idiosyncratic, like all good sex (and writing) should be.... A brainy girl’s stroke book.” — *HX* magazine

“Powerful, memorable, and potent.” — *Curve*

“Startlingly fresh and relevant. You’ll find real writing here, writing that makes you feel, laugh, sigh, and gasp.” — *Lambda Book Report*

**Praise for Best Gay Erotica:**

“Full of surprises.... What really distinguishes *Best Gay Erotica* from its competitors is the quality of the writing.” — *Bay Area Reporter*

“Literally orgasmic.” — *HX* magazine

“Leaves you hungry for more. Pick up this volume as an introduction to the many and glorious approaches to gay male sexual writing....” — *Gay & Lesbian Review*

**Best Lesbian Erotica 2005**

\$14.95, Trade paper  
288pp, 6 x 9  
ISBN 1-57344-202-X

**Best Gay Erotica 2005**

\$14.95, Trade paper  
272pp, 6 x 9  
ISBN 1-57344-203-8

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