Perfect Circle
Sean Stewart
July 2004 Book Sense Pick

* “DK—William “Dead” Kennedy, that is—is a haunted man. Literally. He sees dead people with unfinished busi-
ness. Has all his life. Moreover, he is haunted by an ex-wife he can’t get over, and, recently, long-deceased Uncle Billy
has been pestering him for something as yet unidentified. But never mind the dead; things are tough, anyway. DK isn’t exactly a
financial success. Always struggling to close the gap between his hourly wage and the cost of fixing his air conditioner, or of taking his savvy 12-year-old daughter to Six Flags, he has just lost his job at Pet-Co for eat-
ing cat food in front of a customer to make a point. So when a long-lost cousin calls at 2 a.m. to tell him about the ghost in his garage, it looks like a fast way to a much-need-
ed chunk of change. It is just DK’s luck, however, for a sim-
ple plot to thicken like lumpy gravy, and suddenly murder is afoot. Dead funny, a little bit scary, and sometimes warm
and fuzzy, but not too. . . . All-around terrific.”
—Booklist (starred review)

Stephen King meets Ibsen. Trust me.
—Neal Stephenson, The Confusion

Sean Stewart at his spooky, funny, sad, and haunting

A perfect read, exciting, unique, everything here but
the Second Coming, but, Sean Stewart himself is the
prize. What a talent. Write on, my man. Write on.
—Joe Lansdale, Sunset and Sawdust

Needy ghosts, bar fights, concealed weapons, R.E.M.,
and ramen noodles—Perfect Circle is an irreverent
treat —Stewart O’Nan, The Night Country

A ghost story for grown-ups, frightening, funny, and
finally redemptive. It kept me up way past my bed-
time. —Harley Jane Kozak, Dating Dead Men

Fiction/Fantastic Fiction, 5.5” x 8.5”
248 pages
Simultaneous Release:

Free mini-comic, Family Reunion,
written by Sean Stewart and illustrated
by Steve Lieber (www.stevelieber.com)
distributed for free by Small Beer Press
to celebrate the publication of Perfect
Circle. If you would like copies of Family
Reunion, please email Small Beer at
freecomic@lcrw.net.

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Sean Stewart is the author of the
novels The Night Watch, Mockingbird,
Passion Play, Nobody’s Son, Clouds End, and
The New York Times Notable Books
Galveston and Resurrection Man. He
wrote much of the innovative web game
associated with the film A.I. His novels
have received the Aurora, Arthur Ellis,
Sunburst, Canadian Library, and World
Fantasy awards. He lives in Davis, CA,
with his wife and two daughters.
A woman stood behind him—no, no mere woman: a bombshell, a vamp, a va-va-voom—a gypsy queen, a menace from Venus.

trash sex magic
Jennifer Stevenson

An unforgettable debut by a promising author.
—Booklist

This just absolutely rocks. It's lyrical, it's weird and it's sexy in a very funky way.
—Audrey Niffenegger, The Time Traveler’s Wife

“She turned a page and showed him a woodcut, a very tiny woodcut, and when he bent his head to peer at it, the woodcut grew large, turned into a photograph, grew larger still and became a movie. The movie grew and grew until it swallowed him up.

“Inside her movie, the men were changed to dumb beasts. The woman Rae stood on her hind legs and walked among them, touching each one and quieting it, all the while talking to Walter, instructing him. To his embarrassment he realized that everything she pointed to was sex: the long fiery backbones of the men, the black deeps of the river, with its occasional flashes of fish like lightning; all about sex, a sexiness that was bigger than the world itself, so that finally it swallowed the world and knew it through and through.”

I’d scarcely begun when I fell under the author’s spell. —Gene Wolfe, The Knight

A winning, touching, open-eyed love letter—but with trash, sex, and magic too. Unusual and wonderfully done. —John Crowley, The Translator

Jennifer Stevenson’s debut novel Trash Sex Magic is a tender, joyful, raunchy, sprawling, radiant novel about two people who fall in love; two families who have lived in poverty for generations; about magic. Imagine The Metamorphoses or A Midsummer Night’s Dream transported to the woods of Illinois. When a development company clears the meadow across from the river, and tries to drive out the two families, strange things start to happen.

Carmen Dog
Carol Emshwiller

An inspired feminist fable… A wise and funny book.
—The New York Times

In this dangerous and sharp-eyed look at men, women, and the world we live in, everything is changing: women are turning into animals, and animals are turning into women. Pooch, a golden setter, is turning into a beautiful woman—although she still has some of her canine traits: she just can’t shuck that loyalty thing—and her former owner has turned into a snapping turtle. When the turtle tries to take a bite of her own baby, Pooch snatches the baby and runs. Meanwhile, there’s a dangerous wolverine on the loose, men are desperately trying to figure out what’s going on, and Pooch discovers what she really wants: to sing Carmen.

Carmen Dog is the funny feminist classic that inspired writers Pat Murphy and Karen Joy Fowler to create the James Tiptree Jr. Memorial Award. We are very pleased to publish it as the debut title in our new Peapod Press reprint line.

Carol is the most unappreciated great writer we’ve got. Carmen Dog ought to be a classic in the colleges by now… It’s so funny, and it’s so keen.
—Ursula Le Guin

Her fantastic premise allows Emshwiller canny and frequently hilarious insights into the damaging sex-role stereotypes both men and women perpetuate.
—Publishers Weekly

Combines the cruel humor of Candide with the allegorical panache of Animal Farm… a slyng combination of imaginative energy, feminist outrage, and sheer literary muscle.—Entertainment Weekly

This trenchant feminist fantasy-satire mixes elements of Animal Farm, Rhinoceros and The Handmaid’s Tale. . . . Imagination and absurdist humor mark [Carmen Dog] throughout, and Emshwiller is engaging even when most savage about male-female relationships. —Booklist

Carol Emshwiller grew up in Michigan and France. She is the author of the novels Ledoyt, Leaping Man Hill, and The Mount, and four collections of short fiction, The Start of the End of it All, Joy in Our Cause, Verging on the Pertinent, and Report to the Men’s Club. Carol splits her time between New York City, where she teaches fiction writing at the New School, and Bishop, CA.
KALPA IMPERIAL
the greatest empire that never was
Angélica Gorodischer
translated by Ursula K. Le Guin

The dreamy, ancient voice is not unlike Le Guin’s...this collection should appeal to her fans as well as to those of literary fantasy and Latin American fiction.
—Library Journal

Multiple storytellers tell of a fabled nameless empire which has risen and fallen innumerable times. Fairy tales, oral histories, and political commentaries are woven tapestry-style: beggars become emperors, democracies become dictatorships, and history becomes legends and stories.

Kalpa Imperial is more than a simple political allegory or fable. It’s a also celebration of storytelling. Gorodischer and acclaimed poet, writer, and translator Ursula K. Le Guin are a well-matched, sly and delightful team of magician-storytellers.

Buy this Book!—Locus

Trampoline: an anthology
edited by Kelly Link

An original anthology edited by Kelly Link, author of Stranger Things Happen, and co-editor of the zine Lady Churchill’s Rosebud Wristlet.

Trampoline: twenty astounding and surprising stories by Christopher Barzak, Richard Butner, Alan DeNiro, Carol Emshwiller, Jeffrey Ford, Karen Joy Fowler, Greer Gilman, John Gonzalez, Glen Hirshberg, Samantha Hunt, Alex Irvine, Shelley Jackson, Beth Adele Long, Maureen McHugh, Susan Mosser, Ed Park, Christopher Rowe, Dave Shaw, Vandana Singh, and Rosalind Palermo Stevenson.

No unblinking, gloveless reader can resist the stream of associations unleashed by Ford’s story and the rest of Trampoline: influences as disparate as science fiction, magic realism, pulp, and Twilight Zone morality plays.—Village Voice

Fabulous tales—Washington Post

The Mount
Carol Emshwiller

Carol Emshwiller’s “complex and compelling” (School Library Journal) fourth novel, The Mount, received rave reviews and is still being discovered by readers of all ages.

This poetic, funny and above all humane novel deserves to be read and cherished as a fundamental fable for our material-minded times.
—Publisher’s Weekly (starred review)

Charley is fourteen. He wants to be the fastest runner in the world; but he isn’t a runner, he’s a mount. Charley belongs to the alien invaders and lives in a stable.

The Mount is a literary fable, a major science fiction novel, and a coming-of-age novel reminiscent of Holes, The Giver, and John Wyndham’s The Chrysalids. It’s about freedom, loyalty, humanity, and growing up in a world that doesn’t belong to you.

This person needs to be really, really famous.
—Paul Ingram, Prairie Lights

Emshwiller’s prose is beautiful—Laura Miller, Salon

Report to the Men’s Club & Other Stories
Carol Emshwiller

This is Emshwiller’s “surreal, beautiful” (Jane Magazine) first collection since the World Fantasy Award-winning The Start of the End of It All. It was nominated for the Philip K. Dick Award and includes the Nebula Award-winning “Creature.”

A daring, eccentric, and welcome observer of darkly human ways emerges from these 19 motley tales.
—Kirkus Reviews

Emshwiller lends her elegant wit to...a collection of 19 fantastic short fictions treating the war between the sexes...brim-full of wry insights into male-female relationships.—Publishers Weekly
Stranger Things Happen
Kelly Link

At their best, her stories have the vibrancy, the buzzing resonance and the oddly insistent quality of dreams.
—New York Times Book Review

Kelly Link’s (“a writer to watch”—Kirkus) debut collection is now in its fourth printing. She writes about beauty pageant contestants, cannibals, girl detectives, magicians, and amnesiacs. Stranger Things Happen was selected by Salon and The Village Voice as a Book of the Year and contains Tiptree, Nebula, and World Fantasy Award-winning stories.

The exact best and strangest and funniest short story writer on earth that you have never heard of.
—Jonathan Lethem

Funny, moving, tender, brave and dangerous.
—Neil Gaiman

Lovers of short fiction should fall over themselves getting out the door to find a copy.
—Washington Post Book World

Meet Me in the Moon Room
Ray Vukcevich

Weird, wonderful stories of men, women, teleportation, wind-up cats, and brown paper bags. Vukcevich’s loopy, fun-house mirror take on everyday life belongs to the same absurdist school of work as that of George Saunders, David Sedaris, Ken Kalfus, and Victor Pelevin.

Ray Vukcevich is a master of the last line. . . . Often it’s a perfect line of dialogue that opens up the whole story.
—The Review of Contemporary Fiction

The 33 brief stories . . . defy categorization or genre.
—Hartford Courant

Inventive and entertaining, these stories yield more emotional truth than much more comparatively realistic fiction.”
—Publishers Weekly

Horses Blow Up Dog City & Other Stories
Richard Butner

Butner’s meticulous prose lays a cool surface over some twisty terrain. Understated and profound, deft and smooth, these stories sneak up on you and then don’t let go.
—Karen Joy Fowler, The Jane Austen Book Club

Gorgeous, heartfelt stories that are completely his own, each propelled by an inner logic that may or may not match consensus reality, each ringing utterly true.
—Lewis Shiner, Say Goodbye

THE ROSE IN TWELVE PETALS
Theodora Goss

Beautiful stories from one of the best writers to begin publishing in recent years. Goss’s stories are rich, deep, and above categorization.

OTHER CITIES
Benjamin Rosenbaum

“14 gems, expertly cut.”—Jeffrey Ford

BITTERSWEET CREEK
Christopher Rowe

“Smart, sleek, scary little book”—Terry Bisson

FOREIGNERS, AND OTHER FAMILIAR FACES
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Judith Berman

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Alex Irvine

“An excellent introduction”
—Charles DeLint, F&SF
Lady Churchill’s Rosebud Wristlet

Collecting fiction, nonfiction, & poetry twice a year. Past contributors have included: Nalo Hopkinson, Jeffrey Ford, Jan Lars Jensen, Ursula Pflug, Karen Joy Fowler, Leslie What, & many more. Fiction, poetry, and nonfiction from LCRW has been reprinted in The Year’s Best Fantasy & Horror, The Best of the Rest, and the Zine Yearbook. Stories from LCRW have been finalists for the Nebula and World Fantasy and have won the Gaylactic Spectrum Award.

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“tiny but celebrated” —Washington Post

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Since 1996 Gavin J. Grant and Kelly Link (that’s us) have published a twice-yearly literary zine, Lady Churchill’s Rosebud Wristlet. In 2001 we started Small Beer Press to publish story collections and novels by excellent, off-beat writers such as Ray Vukcevich. Later this year we publish the debut title in our Peapod Classics line, Carol Emshwiller’s transgressive (and funny) classic feminist novel Carmen Dog. Next in line after that are two novels by one of our favorite writers (obviously) Sean Stewart and Naomi Mitchison’s indescribably rich and wonderful novel Travel Light. (If you have any recommendations for this line, please email us.)

We still publish our zine (up to #14 now; subscribe at the chocolate level and we send you a [good] chocolate bar with each issue) and publish chapbooks (usually two per year), and we attend quite a few trade and literary shows and love to go to bookshops, and literary festivals. Maybe we’ll see you there?

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Back cover image: “Eyes” by Maria Daniels (Perfect Circle).