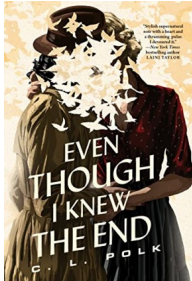




Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians



Even Though I Knew The End
By C. L. Polk
Discussed July 2023

Cast

- Helen Brandt, a magical private investigator, a warlock (expelled by the Brotherhood of the Compass)
- Teddy Brandt, Helen's younger brother, an Initiate of the Brotherhood of the Compass
- Edith Jarosky, Helen's lover, a sound engineer at WMAQ radio station
- Marlowe, a demon who hires Helen to find the White City Vampire
- Haraniel, an angel who is hosted by Edith

Discussion Questions

- Did you enjoy the book? Why or why not?
- Did you find Polk's novelette to be a well-written example of hard-boiled detective fiction? (Examples: Dashiell Hammett's *The Maltese Falcon*, or the "Philip Marlowe" stories of Raymond Chandler)
 - Is Helen Brandt a realistic lesbian version of the typical hard-boiled detective? Is she effectively female – or is she just "a guy in a dress"?
 - Does the novelette include examples of the stereotypical female gender roles of noir fiction: the girl-next-door (ordinary, approachable, innocent; honest; naturally sweet), the femme fatale, and the good-bad girl?
- What did you think about the Queer content of the story (the interpersonal relationship between Helen and Edith, and the sociological/historical depiction of lesbian life in 1940s Chicago)?
- The novelette is a mixture of Mystery and Dark Fantasy. Did this combination work for you?
- How does it compare with last month's graphic novel, *Sins of the Black Flamingo*?

- How did the supernatural/mythical aspects of the novelette contribute to your enjoyment of the storyline? Did Helen Brandt's mystical/magical detection procedures "make sense" for you?
- Were you satisfied by the ending?
- Have you read any other works by C.L Polk? Based on this novelette, would you consider reading other works by Polk?