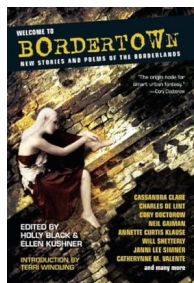




Lambda Sci-Fi
DC Area Gaylaxians



Welcome to Bordertown

Edited by Ellen Kushner and Holly Black

Discussed July 2012

Discussion Questions

- Did you like the book?
- The *Bordertown* series was originally published in the '80s and '90s, with a thirteen year gap between the last anthology (*The Essential Bordertown*) and *Welcome to Bordertown*. Did you feel the 13 day/year gap within the context of the book itself worked?
 - a) If you were a new reader, did you feel that *Welcome to Bordertown* worked well as an introduction to the series and world? Did you feel it gave enough information to help orient you?
 - b) If you were an existing reader, did you feel that *Welcome to Bordertown* worked as something welcoming to those already familiar with the setting?
 - c) A common theme in *Welcome to Bordertown* is a character arriving to Bordertown for the first time. Did you like this theme or not?
- What was your favorite *Welcome to Bordertown* story? Why?
- What was your least favorite *Welcome to Bordertown* story? Why?
- Did you read the poetry?
- Many of the original *Bordertown* authors contributed to *Welcome to Bordertown* (Charles de Lint, Emma Bull, Will Shetterly, Ellen Kushner, Terri Windling, Steven Brust, Delia Sherman). How did you feel that their contributions compared to the new guard of writers?
- Several *Welcome to Bordertown* stories had LGBT content ("Our Stars, Our Selves," "Ours is the Prettiest," "We Do Not Come in Peace"). How did you feel about the characters and stories?
- Would you want to read more *Bordertown* material (either older anthologies or novels, or future anthologies/novels)?

Story Synopses

- "Bordertown Basics" — A brief primer on the set-up and geography of Bordertown
- Ellen Kushner and Terri Windling: "Welcome to Bordertown" — Jimmy goes in search of his fantasy-novel-loving sister Trish when the Border re-opens after 13 years, while Trish discovers the reality of life on the Border.
- Cory Doctorow: "Shannon's Law" — Shannon Klod attempts to bring the internet to Bordertown... and through the Border into the Realm.
- Catherynne M. Valente: "A Voice Like a Hole" — Runaway Fig wants to be a hero, not an extra.
- Emma Bull: "Incunabulum" — Page loses his memory when crossing from the Realm to Bordertown, but is it worth regaining what he's lost?
- Alaya Dawn Johnson: "A Prince of Thirteen Days" — Peya believes she's going to fall in love and lose her virginity in 13 days, with the help of a local statue.
- Will Shetterly: "The Sages of Elsewhere" — Wolfboy discovers that the used book business isn't all it's cracked up to be.
- Janni Lee Simner: "Crossings" — Miranda and Analise are looking to marry a vampire and a werewolf and find the reality of the Bordertown.
- Sara Ryan (Writer) and Dylan Meconis (Illustrator): "Fair Trade" — When the court orders Abby to be given to the custody of her mother, it didn't understand that her mother lived in Bordertown.
- Tim Pratt: "Our Stars, Our Selves" — Allie learns that wishing on a star isn't always as simple as it sounds.
- Annette Curtis Klause: "Elf Blood" — Lizzie the vampire knows everything will be better if she can just drink some elf blood.
- Nalo Hopkinson: "Ours Is the Prettiest" — Bordertown meets the Caribbean.
- Christopher Barzak: "We Do Not Come in Peace" — Marius tries to help a young stray adjust to Bordertown, but ends up helping him a little too well.
- Holly Black and Cassandra Clare: "The Rowan Gentleman" — A murder plunges Ashley into the mystery of the Rowan Gentleman.
- Charles de Lint: "A Tangle of Green Men" — Joey Green loses meaning in his life without his wife and her dream of visiting Bordertown.

Poems

- Patricia A. McKillip: "Cruel Sister"
- Amal El-Mohtar: "Stairs in Her Hair"
- Steven Brust: "Run Back Across the Border"
- Jane Yolen: "Soulja Grrrl: A Long Line Rap"
- Jane Yolen: "Night Song for a Halfie"
- Delia Sherman: "The Wall"
- Jane Yolen: "A Borderland Jump-Rope Rhyme"
- Neil Gaiman: "The Song of the Song"

Bordertown Material

Anthologies:

- *Borderland* edited by Terri Windling and Mark Alan Arnold (1986)
- *Bordertown* edited by Terri Windling and Mark Alan Arnold (1986)
- *Life on the Border* edited by Terri Windling (1991)
- *The Essential Bordertown: A Traveler's Guide to the Edge of Faerie* edited by Terri Windling and Delia Sherman (1998)
- *Welcome to Bordertown* edited by Holly Black and Ellen Kushner (2011)

Novels:

- *Elsewhere* by Will Shetterly (1991)
- *NeverNever* by Will Shetterly (1993)
- *Finder* by Emma Bull (1994)