



#### THE COHEN/CLARK FAMILY

From left to right, Rory Cohen, Tye Clark, Shane Clark, and Mathew Clark. Two and a half years ago, when Tye was thirteen, he was diagnosed by a therapist as “transgendered”: a boy trapped in a girl’s body. Despite having been teased constantly early on as a “he-she,” Tye decided to publicly announce the diagnosis at an assembly of his public school classmates. “I’m still Tye; I’m just in a different spot now,” he said. “I’m a guy.”

#### LOOK BOTH WAYS: Bisexual Politics

By Jennifer Baumgardner. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007

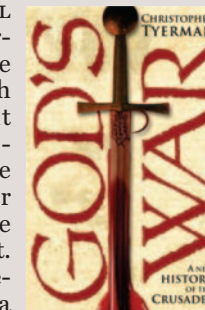
REINVENTING THE *PERSONAL IS THE POLITICAL* narrative that’s been the staple of feminist writing since the 1960s, in *Look Both Ways* social critic Jennifer Baumgardner turns her discerning eye to bisexuality. Contending that increasing numbers of women are coming out of the closet of single-gender relations to embrace their own diversified desires, *Look Both Ways* documents an emerging sexual consciousness that builds on the feminist dream of a better world. According to Baumgardner, bisexuality is the hallmark of contemporary feminism. We couldn’t agree with her more.



#### GOD’S WAR: A New History of the Crusades

Christopher Tyerman. Oxford University Press, 2006

IF THERE IS ONE THEOLOGICAL word associated with the War on Terror, it’s *crusade*. At a time when the word is commonly invoked by both Americans to describe their fight against “Islamofascism,” and jihadists to pejoratively characterize Western colonialism, Christopher Tyerman’s mammoth history of the Crusades could not be more relevant. Arguing that the era spanning the period of 1096 to 1500 was fuelled by a culture for whom war was an expression of worship, social discipline, and Christian charity, *God’s War* raises the unsettling question of whether we are indeed living through an equally dark and primitive moment in history.



#### THE UNCOMFORTABLE DEAD

By Paco Ignacio Taibo II and Subcomandante Marcos. Akashic Books, 2006

AS LATIN AMERICA CONTINUES TO turn Left, Mexico’s increasing levels of social strife take on newer and more complex interpretations—particularly when read through the prism of its highly politicized cadre of fiction writers. Penned by legendary revolutionary intellectual Subcomandante Marcos and novelist/historian Paco Ignacio Taibo II, this experimental murder mystery frames the Mexican search for social justice in stunningly clear relief. Moving from Chiapas to Mexico City, *The Uncomfortable Dead* reads like a Rough Guide gone terribly wrong—in all the right political ways. Highly recommended.



#### VISION ON FIRE: Emma Goldman on the Spanish Revolution

Edited by David Porter. AK Press, 2006

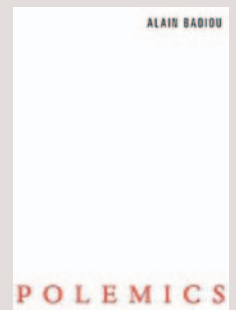
IT SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE that seventy years later, the Spanish Civil War remains a subject of intense debate. Rightly called “the most thoroughgoing social revolution in history” by *Vision on Fire* editor David Porter, the conflict witnessed the most comprehensive political achievements by workers to create an anarchist society. Who better to interpret these events than Emma Goldman, who made repeated trips to Spain to document this struggle. Seamlessly weaving together radical polemics and reportage suited for first-time readers of the subject, *Vision on Fire* is a perfect introduction to Goldman’s renowned work.



#### POLEMICS

By Alain Badiou. Verso Books, 2006

BY ANY STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION, French moral philosopher Alain Badiou ought to be as popular a public intellectual as Slavoj Žižek. Though Badiou is a profoundly insightful and sophisticated Marxist in the tradition of Louis Althusser, perhaps the problem lies in the fact that despite his explicit engagements with politics, his English-language publications have been limited to high theory. With *Polemics*, however, Badiou breaks his own mold, grappling with the realm of what he calls “metapolitics,” while taking to task public misconceptions of the Iraq wars, Kosovo, and China’s Cultural Revolution. Stunning.



#### SCREWED: The Undeclared War on the Middle Class

By Thom Hartmann. Berrett-Koehler, 2006

THE MAJOR DEFICIT IN MOST LITERATURE on neo-liberalism is its tendency to overlook the consequence of such economisms for Americans. Though speaking in a language entirely distinct from such work, Thom Hartmann’s *Screwed* is perhaps the only popular analysis of this ideology’s transformation of American civil society. Focusing on the tragic plight of the country’s rapidly shrinking middle class, the charismatic talk show host mounts an entirely convincing attack on the ruthlessness of laissez-faire economics and the threat it poses to democratic politics.

