

BROWN

And my next publisher is Tarpaulin Sky, which is basically one guy, a former student. Small press guy. Here are some of his books. And he has this print magazine. They're beautifully done books. A really interesting list. But you're not going to find them in bookstores. There's so much interesting publishing going on. And so much publishing that I have no interest in at all. So who do we write for, who reads this, how do we access these books? It's a funny thing.

One of the agents I sent my work to said, "I love your work, it's really beautiful but I can't make money. I can't represent it, but you might think of sending it to City Lights." So I sent it to City Lights. This was the early '90s. The editor there was a woman named Amy Scholder, and she said she had been looking for a lesbian writing interesting work for years. There was a lot of lesbian writing around, but it was much more mainstream, traditional storytelling. She was really interested in my formal stuff and the emotional violence. They did like six books of mine, and then they turned this last one down. So then I sent this manuscript to probably four or five different people. I have an agent of record, but I've placed my last books on my own—the books don't make much money. I do read a lot of small presses. And having been involved in this world for thirty-five years, I've met different people, and there's certain lists I really like. Do you guys know Dorothy Press? Phenomenal. Run by Danielle Dutton in Missouri. She publishes two books a year. Most of the books are by women, and it's a beautiful, beautiful list. I sent it to them. I sent it to Hawthorne Books in Portland. Lovely woman there, Rhonda Hughes. And they all had great reasons for rejecting my book. And I'm like, "Makes total sense, let's keep in touch, love you guys!" It doesn't kill me. I've published a bunch of books already, and I'm sixty-three. So I just send it to presses I'm interested in.

NEWELL

The queer lit genre has become almost segregated; in bookstores it has its own section, its own shelf. Do you think it's necessary for it to have its own section, or do you think it can be included in the wider genre of fiction?