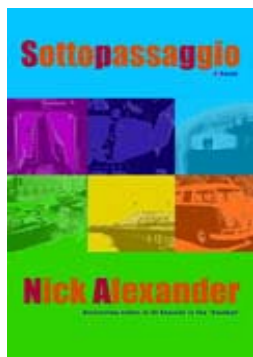




LGBT Reading Group



November/December 2008



The Read... Sottopassaggio

"I don't know how I ended up in Brighton. I'm in a permanent state of surprise about it. Of course I know the events that took place, I remember the accident or rather I remember the last time Steve ever looked into my eyes before the grinding screeching wiped it all out. It all seems so unexpected, so far from how things were supposed to be..."

Mark is recovering from the tragic loss of his lover and is now in Brighton trying to rebuild his life. He meets an interesting and varied selection of new friends and then falls in love with Tom, who unfortunately already has a partner. This book is the second part of Alexander's trilogy.

ISBN: 978-2952489911



The Author... Nick Alexander

Nick Alexander was born in Margate in 1964. He studied in the Midlands and also lived in Cambridge UK before moving to France, where, with the exception of a brief stint in New York he lives today.

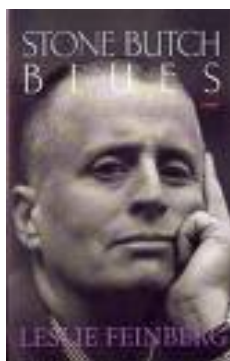
After being refused by - he says - nearly every publisher in the world, Alexander self-published his first novel, *50 Reasons to Say Goodbye* (2004), followed by *Sottopassaggio* (2005) and *Good Thing, Bad Thing* (2006).

50 Reasons to Say Goodbye quickly became a bestseller on the web and is still, four years after publication, frequently listed within the top ten gay novels on Amazon uk.

Our Opinion...

This is a story about a man re-finding life and love after his partner dies in a horrific car pile-up on a French motorway. Enjoying the bountiful scene that Brighton has to offer, our protagonist Mark meets an array of people; the couple who want him to enjoy their S&M dungeon; ex-girlfriend Jenny who is now in an abusive marriage; a paranoid Frenchman and object-of-affection Tom, who already has a boyfriend. Sexually graphic in parts, this book may be preferred by a male audience, but the story of Mark's tragic loss could appeal to all readers regardless. There are a lot of coincidences that plait this story together, but not all of them are entirely believable... maybe that's the point though?

Just a nit-pick... readers noticed a couple of factual errors in this book. For example, he mistakenly attributes a Fleetwood Mac song to Stevie Nicks instead of Christine McVie. In case you're wondering, the title means 'underpass' in Italian. Visit Nick's website at www.nick-alexander.com



What Next? Stone Butch Blues

Woman or man? This internationally acclaimed novel looks at the world through the eyes of Jess, a masculine girl growing up and coming out as a young butch lesbian in the pre-Stonewall gay drag bars of a blue-collar town. This book traces a propulsive journey, powerfully evoking history and politics while portraying an extraordinary protagonist full of longing, vulnerability and working-class grit.

This underground classic takes the reader on a roller-coaster ride of gender transformation and exploration and ultimately speaks to the heart of anyone who has ever suffered or gloried in being different.

ISBN: 978-1555838539



www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/lgbt

☎ 01902 552025 ✉ libraries@wolverhampton.gov.uk