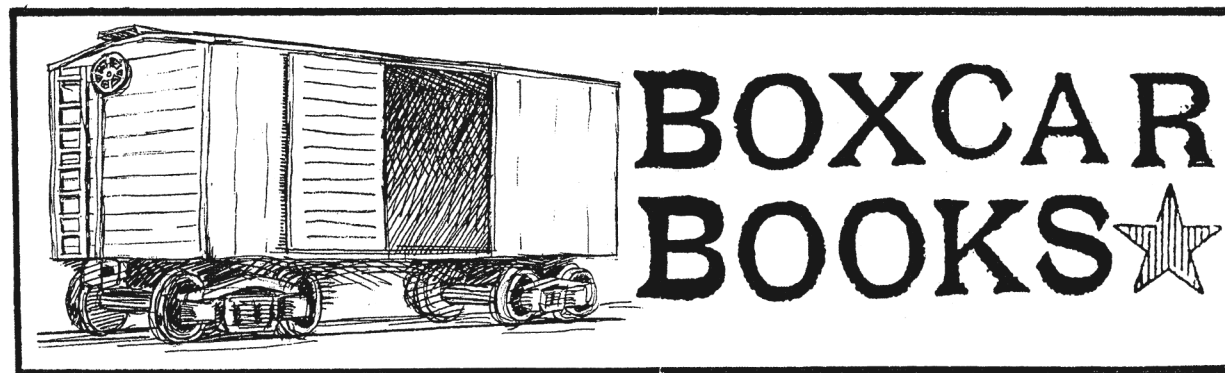


408 EAST 6TH ST.  
BLOOMINGTON, IN 47408  
PHONE: (812) 339-8710  
www.boxcarbooks.org

HOURS: MON-FRI 11a-9p  
SAT 10a-9p SUN 12p-5p

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BLOOMINGTON, IN  
PERMIT NO. 200



Volume 11 Issue 2  
February/March  
2012



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

For the most up-to-date event information, visit our website! New events and changes may have been added since publication of this newsletter.

### Friday, February 17th, 7pm

Author Beth Neff reads from her book *Getting Somewhere*

YA author reads from her new book about four teenage juvenile offenders serving their sentence on a farm.

### Saturday, February 18th, 7pm

Author Brandi Perry reads from her book *A Whisper on the Bayou*

This haunting psychological thriller will keep you guessing all the way to its riveting ending.

### Saturday, February 18th, 7pm

Boxcar's 10 Year Anniversary! at Russian Recording

It's been a decade since Boxcar Books first crawled from the sea, learned to walk upright, and be a community space for all to enjoy. Come celebrate ten years of community involvement, ten years of events, and ten years of new and used books!

### Saturday, February 25th, 7pm

A talk by author, scholar, and activist James Kilgore

James Kilgore will speak on the process of writing political fiction from prison and

also attempt to examine how the politics of race, class and organization in southern Africa might provide lessons for those involved in contemporary social movements in the US.

### Thursday, March 8th, 7pm

Author Nicole Louise Reid reads from her book *So There!*

With the graceful lyricism of a musician's ear for song, the nine stories of *So There!* inhabit the quiet spaces of heartache and the loud spaces of rage.

### Friday, March 9th, 7pm

Author Will Corcoran reads from his book *Three Candles*

Will Corcoran inspires readers as he shares the compelling stories of two young boys, both whom experience life-changing events as 3 year olds.

### Weekly Meetings:

#### The Midwest Pages to Prisoners Project

Now meets at 118 S. Rogers Suite #2. Visit [www.pagestoprisoners.org](http://www.pagestoprisoners.org) or email [mwpp@pagestoprisoners.org](mailto:mwpp@pagestoprisoners.org) for more information.

Mondays: 7-9pm (during school year)  
Thursdays: 7-11pm Sundays: 2-5pm

Book and monetary donations should still be dropped off at Boxcar Books.

**The Bloomington Writing Project at Boxcar Books:** Tuesdays by appointment only. Thursdays walk-ins welcome 3:30pm-6:30pm. Free non-fiction writing help for all community members. Open to the public. Volunteers at the Bloomington Writing Project come from diverse backgrounds, and offer writing consultation on a range of projects. From memoir-writing to application forms, an essay you've been thinking about to a letter to the editor, we're here to help you think through any form of non-fiction writing. Visit: [bloomingtonwritingproject.blogspot.com](http://bloomingtonwritingproject.blogspot.com)

### Monthly Meetings:

2nd Tuesday of Every Month: Deep Roots Animal Sanctuary Vegan Pot Luck. [www.deeprootssanctuary.org](http://www.deeprootssanctuary.org)

Boxcar Books provides a free meeting room and access to other resources for community, activist, literary, and special interest groups. The meeting room is separate from the retail space and may be utilized before, during, and after normal business hours. Please get in touch with us to make our meeting space more active! To reserve the meeting space for your group, please contact: [events@boxcarbooks.org](mailto:events@boxcarbooks.org).

If you would like to have an article included in our newsletter's Community/Scene Report, or if you've had a change of address but would like to continue receiving our newsletter, send an email with your article ideas and new mailing address to our newsletter editor at: [newsletter@boxcarbooks.org](mailto:newsletter@boxcarbooks.org).

## NEWS

by Caitlin

The New Year has started off with a bang at Boxcar! We've got some new faces around the store, new artwork and projects. Everyone's been keeping busy and not slowing down with textbook season, planning our 10th Anniversary party, and preparing for our upcoming public and collective anti-oppression training workshops, which will be held at Boxcar at the end of January.

Julia Karr dropped by this January for a reading to launch her second book, *TRUTH*. Folks were able to stop by for refreshments, a reading by the author, and a Q & A session. We have some other awesome author events coming up in February and March, so make sure to check out the News & Events on our website for more information.

For those who were not able to attend, we had a great turn out at our annual Naughty or Nice party, which was held on December 16th at the Bluebird. Total, we had around 150 folks attend, and Boxcar and Pages to Prisoners were able to raise \$570! Thanks to everyone who chipped in to help make this happen and for the many nights of snowflake cutting and cotton ball gluing in order to make decorations for our holiday event. The Bloomington Burlesque Brigade's performance was fun

and entertaining; the crowd was quite boisterous during their performances and Jada Bee (aka "Santa") made the night even jollier. Folks were able to get their photos taken at our photo-booth or perform karaoke provided by Darran Mosley, and DJ Ambular later provided the crowd with some funky beats. Overall, it was a great night for Pages and Boxcar. You'd think with having a busy holiday season and with planning a successful Naughty or Nice party, we'd take a breather, but there's still more to be done!

As mentioned before, the collective is participating in an Anti-Oppression Training on Sunday January 29th that we are really excited about. A person from the AORTA collective has agreed to come visit Boxcar to facilitate an all day workshop and training. We hope that by participating in this type of training, we will be able to be more aware of different types of social injustices in order to make Boxcar a safer environment for folks within the group and our community.

Make sure to keep an eye out for more info on our 10th Anniversary party (whew, we made it!) and remember, you can always stop in to volunteer at Pages to Prisoners (118 S. Rogers). For more information on how to get involved at Boxcar or Pages, make sure to check out our website [boxcarbooks.org](http://boxcarbooks.org). Fill out an application to volunteer at Boxcar or Pages, we'd love to hear from you!

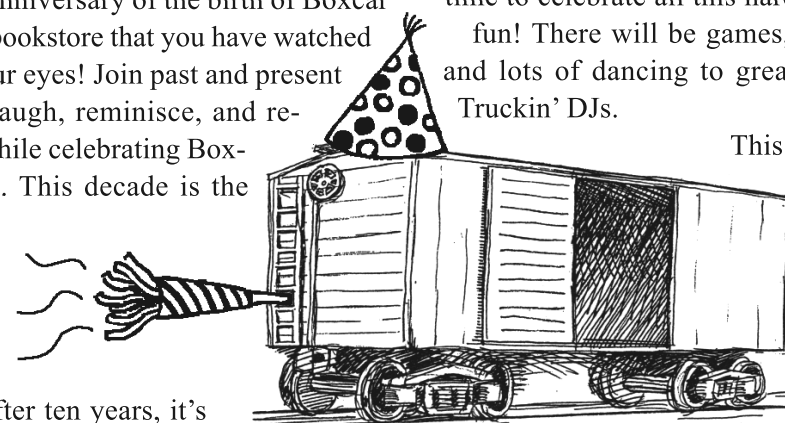
## BOXCAR BOOKS 10TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY!

by Bretagne Byrd

Come celebrate the 10th anniversary of the birth of Boxcar Books, the little radical bookstore that you have watched grow up right before your eyes! Join past and present collective members as we laugh, reminisce, and remember the good ol' days, while celebrating Boxcar's fabulous future ahead. This decade is the proud child of every volunteer and community member who believes in Boxcar and has given time to creating this community space and Boxcar's overall success. After ten years, it's

time to celebrate all this hard work, kick back, and have some fun! There will be games, raffles, an auction, photo-booth, and lots of dancing to great music provided by the Mother Truckin' DJs.

This once in a lifetime celebration will be held at Russian Recording on February 18th starting at 7PM. So put on those party outfits and come to dance, sing, and be jolly with us—we would not be here without you!



FEATURED ARTIST FOR FEBRUARY:  
**CASSIE J. SNEIDER**

Cassie J. Snieder is the author of the book *Fine Fine Music*. She wanted to be an artist when she was a little kid, but then she decided to be a Mad Scientist instead, then a Cowboy, then eventually settled on being an Unemployable Writer. She started making zines after illustrating a letter to a friend, which she



**THE SNOW, THE COLD**

A prose piece by Richard Wehrenberg, Jr.

December is a month of transformation for me. January too. They mean snow. They mean cold. They signify the incipience of the ending of the circle that is a year. Again, we have ridden the circumference of its course. I try to measure what the accumulation of events in the context of a year mean, what they stand for and constitute and the scale breaks, the ruler snaps.

Last January (2011), I was sitting in Buckeye Donuts in Columbus, Ohio and overheard a man tell another man that he wasn't sure if he was going to make it through the winter. Both men had conventional winter hats on and were blowing breath into hands recently relinquished of their gloves. The man who was listening at first assured the man who was speaking first that, indeed, they would make it through the winter—with some beer and football and a little getting-together, yes—they would make it through. For whatever reason, his

was sending along with a Whitesnake 1988 Tour shirt. This letter became her first zine, *Tour '88*, which started a snow-ball effect of re-learning how to draw, doing readings all over the country, and eventually having a real book. Her illustrations have been called, "amateurish," "juvenile," and "hilarious." She lives in Oakland, California with Pugsley J. Snieder.

FEATURED ARTIST FOR MARCH:  
**SARAH TOBIAS**

My name is Sarah Tobias and I am an undergraduate student in my final semester at Indiana University. I am earning my Bachelor's degree in Art History, and I intend to pursue a Master's in Library Science. My interest in art came at a very young age, while I was staring at landscape paintings in my home, and much like Alice in *Through the Looking Glass*, I would find myself within the world of the landscape.

Landscapes, urban and rural, are what I often find myself photographing, and this body of work is no exception. When I look

words stayed with me that day. Out of every conversation you overhear, most get sent to (what I like to believe is) the equivalent of a trashcan on a computer—recoverable, but (probably, eventually, inevitably) forgotten. Not like *yeah, man, we got it bad. Winter...* And not that I find savior-like warmth in beer and football. Far from it. But there is something to be said about the snow, the cold.

We cold-snow-blessed Midwesterners of a certain latitude get something that those non-snow-cold-blessed don't. An endurance. A promise. Some combination of sadness/fatalism amalgamated with joy/carefully-calculated will. We have to get through something. There are distinct obstacles to our days. We use moments of time to tie a scarf, shovel a sidewalk, pull on gloves, or blow breath in our hands—moments that we might otherwise use doing other things. We take time. That's what December directs me to reflect on. Time. We slow down. What we assume about traveling through our days gets deconstructed. We follow our breath and feel warmth so much more fully.

In our hibernation of sorts we have



at a photograph of a place, I want to be able to experience it as my own, to have the freedom of taking in the scene that the artist has framed and to have that scene be pure and unobstructed. I often try to keep the human element out of my photos for this reason. Allowing a place to be viewed in this way creates a bubble: a safe, serene and beautiful place to dive into and discover for yourself.

dreams that tell us who we will be when it's time to wake up. And we do wake up—in March or April or May—changed inexorably, punctuated by the seasons of the Midwest.

**VOLUNTEER PROFILE:  
MORGAN**

Interview write-up by Bretagne Byrd

Meet Morgan, a new Boxcar Collective Member!

Morgan grew up in a used/counter culture bookstore, so Boxcar Books was a natural setting for her to spend her time in. You might find our newest member in the Art or Graphic Novels sections of the store, but Poetry is the genre that Morgan feels at home with, since she is currently a third year MFA student in poetry and is working on her thesis. Right now, Morgan fills most of her time with teaching, working on her thesis, and watching ridiculously cute videos online of kittens. Stop in and say a warm welcome to Morgan!

**BOOK REVIEW**

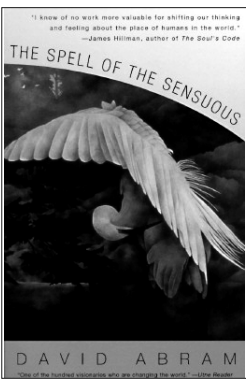
by Sara Waters

*The Spell of the Sensuous*  
by David Abram

I have a good friend, let's call him Ted. Ted spent a good deal of time working on Natural Building projects in Utah to learn techniques and materials appropriate for the best construction, insulation, and harmony with a given space's natural geography. This practice of re-imaging our human relationship to the natural world led my friend towards a dire need to understand the natural world, first and foremost through understanding our relationship to animals.

In our culture today, human relationships with animals are mostly spoken about by ethical vegetarianism or veganism, and often by animal liberation activists and earth liberation activists. What I find striking about Abram's work is that the ultimate goal, in Abram's mind, is to observe animals and our innate connection to them with a fine tooth comb. Abram brings in accounts of his time in Indonesia studying magic, which spirals into a full-blown, accidental investigation into the spirituality of animals, and ultimately, a love song of observations of animal behaviors and patterns. The book takes on a subject matter that challenges the readers' concept of humanity, while simultaneously teaching the reader humility through observation of those animals and beings that have lived long before civilization. Abram's thoughts revolve around indigenous world communities, groups such as the Great Plains Native Americans, Australian cultures, and Asian cultures.

I highly suggest this manual for its careful and artistic preservation of how spirituality functions in cultures which are based on earth religions, but also as a call to the modern American reader who may feel a deep longing to unearth the desire for a reciprocal relationship with the natural world. This work has been influential to me as I have begun my spiritual/wilderness awareness process, and I hope the beauty of this book is influential to you too, dear reader.

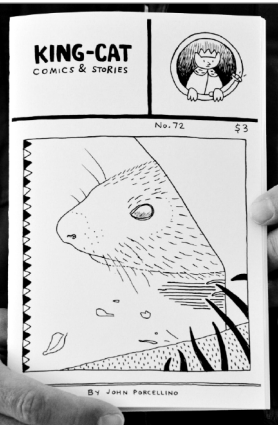


**COMIC REVIEW**

by Penina Gal

*King-Cat #72*  
by John Porcellino

King-Cat is always a solid read, and this new issue is no exception. John P.'s comics are simple in their aesthetic and effective at expressing the feelings of moments of his life through brief glimpses. There's a lot of sadness in the earlier stories here, but it's leveled by a search for hope and is interspersed with some fun stuff, like a trip to the past with "LSD Story" and the latest top 40 list (always something new to find out there). The mood of the comics picks up a bit in the second half, as John gets his life back together. And there's a really fun story about rescuing a bat at the end! You can't go wrong.



SCENE REPORT:  
**INSTANT GRATIFICATION**  
**MONTHLY MOVIE CHALLENGE**

A little over 2 years ago, a TV show that I was working on with local buds Matthew Tobey, David Woodruff, Dave Walter, and Lewis & Addison Rogers decided to do an episode where we all made short films based on the theme "King for a Day". The success of this was inspiring. We were all excited to make more short films based on specific themes, and more people wanted to get involved.

So the Challenge expanded to include anyone who wanted to participate. There is a theme given each month, and folks make short films as loosely or strictly based on the theme as they want. Then, all the films are screened here in town at various locations. It's been really exciting to see non-filmmakers creating amazing short films, as well as more knowledgeable folks getting the motivation needed to produce and work on their films. People write, shoot, and edit their movies within the month, and get to screen them right away! It's also meant to be fun. Low pressure. It's not supposed to be your master work, just something short and quickly inspired. It can be dramatic, funny, scary, thoughtful, whatever. Just make SOMETHING!

The Gadabout Film Festival just celebrated its 10th Anniversary. Throughout our time, we've seen the growth of DIY-style filmmaking, with the increase of outlets on the internet. Our goal has always been to inspire folks to make films, in the same way that the DIY music scene makes people realize that they can make music themselves. Most people often feel this strong desire to support independent artists, authors, musicians, etc. But when it comes to films, \$8-10 is still being spent to see a movie at the AMC. We'd love to see a culture of indie/DIY filmmakers and media makers collaborating, sharing content, supporting and inspiring each other. In a small way, we get to see this each month at our screenings. So grab a camera (iphone, digital camera, laptop webcam, DSLR, mini-DV.... anything), and write a quick story, shoot and edit your movie, and bring it along to one of our upcoming screenings.



For more info, contact Eric Ayotte by email at [gadaboutfilmfest@gmail.com](mailto:gadaboutfilmfest@gmail.com) Join us on facebook: Instant Gratification Monthly Movie Challenge January's Theme: "Incognito" Due: Feb. 5th