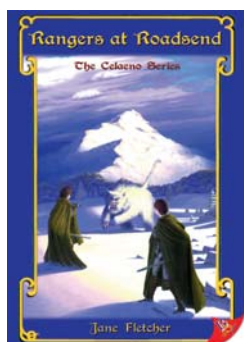


Book Review: September 2005

by Kathi Isserman (reviewer at [IGW](#))



Rangers at Roadsend, **The Celaeno Series**

Jane Fletcher

ISBN: 1-933110-28-7

Trade paper, 312 pp, \$15.95

June, 2005

Lesbian Speculative Fiction/Mystery

Bold Strokes Books, Inc.

www.boldstrokesbooks.com

Independent Gay Writer

Ronald L. Donaghue

Editor-in-Chief

Rangers at Roadsend is an absorbing tale of intrigue, murder and romance.

We are drawn into this story by the secrets of Sgt. Chip Coppelli and Private Katryn Nagata. Katryn is transferred to Chip's squadron under mysterious circumstances and together the two must track down rogue criminals. They learn that the crimes are part of a deeper conspiracy that involves the so-called good citizens of Landfall, Chip's former home where there are unpleasant memories for her. To succeed in this mission as Rangers, they must trust each other, but both have too many secrets. In the course of unraveling the conspiracy plot, Chip develops an emotional attachment to Katryn, but knows that as her superior, it must remain as unrequited love.

In *Rangers at Roadsend*, Fletcher skillfully cultivates a back story in the middle of their journey to expand on the past and secrets of Katryn. As Katryn's history is told through this back story, we discover a hero rather than a dishonest loathsome Ranger. We learn of Katryn's struggles and how valiantly she faced them against all odds and with no believers. When Fletcher seamlessly moves us back to the main plot, Chip becomes her champion, and a romantic subplot flows naturally from this. These two characters are expertly crafted into unlikely heroes that we, as the reader, must root for.

In *Rangers at Roadsend* Fletcher not only gives us powerful characters, but she surprises us with an unexpected ending to the murder conspiracy plot, pushing the story in one direction only to have that direction reversed more than once. This is one thrill ride the reader will not want to get off.

(While *Rangers at Roadsend* was published in the United States after *The Walls of Westernfort*, it is not a sequel. The Celaeno Series is not a chronological series but does share the same characters.)

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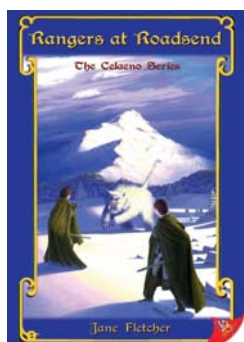
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Book Review: December 2005

by Cheri Rosenberg (reviewer at [MBR](#))



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James A. Cox
Editor-in-Chief

Rangers at Roadsend, a murder mystery reminiscent of Agatha Christie, has crossed many genres including speculative fiction, fantasy, romance, and adventure. The story is an incredible *whodunit* that has something for everyone. Jane Fletcher, winner of the Golden Crown Literary Award 2005 for *Walls at Westernfort*, has created an intelligent and compelling story where the reader easily gets drawn into the fascinating world of Celaeno, becomes totally absorbed in the well-designed plot, and finds herself completely enamored with the multi-faceted characters.

Sergeant Chip Coppelli, of C Patrol, a Ranger at Fort Krowe, is the heroine in a land where women roam and rule the earth. A truly admirable character, Chip is a fearless leader who strives to keep the inhabitants of Celaeno safe from lawbreakers and wild beasts. When rumors abound about Chip's new recruit, Private Katryn Nagata, Chip will stop at nothing to discover the truth concerning these allegations. She intends to find out why Katryn, a militia sergeant of Woodside, was transferred to her squadron in Landfall as a private, especially since she is older than the average new recruit and proves to be an accomplished markswoman with a bow and arrow, indicative of a person of higher rank. It doesn't help that the attractive woman immediately captures Chip's attention and affection. Against the advice of her best friend, Sergeant Kim Ramon of B Patrol, Chip falls in love with Katryn despite the suspicions that surround her. Added to the mystery of Katryn's past actions, Chip has a few secrets of her own, further complicating the plot.

Besides the rich prose, a distinction that sets Fletcher above the norm, is the clever interweaving of clues-the reader has fun trying to solve the murder. Fletcher takes special care so that the reader doesn't discover the killer too soon. Even with meticulously laid out clues, there are no plot holes to contradict the explanation of how the unpopular, hated Sergeant Ellis was murdered. All the bases are covered leaving no other person a viable candidate.

Rangers at Roadsend will captivate and delight readers of all tastes, even those who say they are not fond of speculative fiction, including fantasy. Fletcher writes an engaging and believable tale with humor, metaphors, and honesty. It's not just the story that is compelling, but the way the author writes it that grabs the reader's attention. Fletcher is able to convey volumes of emotion in a single sentence, for instance, p. 92, "Katryn's company was the most enjoyable torment she [Chip] had ever know." Her descriptions are vivid yet succinct as on p. 78, "As ever, the market was crowded. Sounds, smells, and gaudy colors fought in a riot for the senses." Her humor is evident as on p. 79, "I'm trying to work out what 'Chip' is short for." "It's not short for anything. It's a small fried piece of potato." Fletcher uses excellent metaphors throughout the text including how Chip feels about the romantic aspect of her life. The readers learns about Chip's track record with women when Katryn throws up in the gutter, and she thinks, "it was a pretty good summing-up of her love life in general"[p.89].

A five-star novel, *Rangers at Roadsend* will have you riveted, all the while fantasizing about living in a society where women are the master of the Universe...the rulers of the world. Jane Fletcher, an amazing talent, gifted storyteller, and extraordinary plot developer, is one of the best authors of contemporary fiction today-in all genres. *Rangers at Roadsend* will convince you of that.

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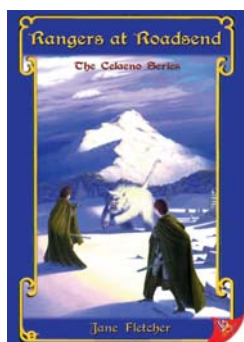
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Book Review: April 2006

by Kelly Brennan (reviewer at WomanSpace Magazine)



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Lesbian Fantasy Romance

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**WomanSpace
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Sergeant Chip Coppelli is less than pleased about the new Ranger who has been transferred into her patrol...Private Katryn Nagata must have committed some egregious offense to warrant a transfer...

...Rangers at Roadsend is part of Jane Fletcher's Celaeno series. The Celaeno series is set on a primitive world where the technology is roughly equal to our own Iron Age, and the culture is dominated by a dogmatic religion steeped in tradition and superstition that serves to divide the worthy from the unworthy. The climate is harsh, the terrain is rugged, and civilization is primitive. The Celaeno books are captivating, well-written stories in the fantasy genre that are built around women's struggles against themselves, one another, society, and nature.

Excerpt of review in the WomanSpace magazine.



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