

"SHE'S A HERO. YOU'RE A READER. YOU WERE MEANT FOR EACH OTHER."  
FROM THE FOREWORD BY JANE ESPENSON (*BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER*, *HUSBANDS*)

# The Legend of Bridget Riley



**LEIA WEATHINGTON**

WITH MARCO AIDALA, VANESSA GILLINGS, KELLY McCLELLAN,  
KONSTANTIN POGORELOV AND JASON THOMPSON

# MEET BOLD RILEY!

Gay readers, a lot of whom are unfamiliar with comics, will be coming to comics shops in June due to a gay storyline in Marvel's **Astonishing X-Men** that the company is promoting heavily outside the usual comics press.

**THE LEGEND OF BOLD RILEY** will have broad appeal (men and women, gay and straight) and is easy to recommend to non-comics readers who are familiar with genre favorites like **Buffy the Vampire Slayer**, **Conan the Barbarian** and **Game of Thrones**.

To emphasize that connection, the book includes a foreword by fan favorite TV writer Jane Espenson. The book is perfect for fans of hard-edged adventure who want a bit more wit, stronger female characters, and an indie art sensibility.

This 7"x10" book contains 6 stories written by Leia Weathington and illustrated by different artists. The marquee stories, Jason Thompson's "The Serpent in the Belly", Konstantin Pogorelov's "The Wicked Temple" and Vanessa Gillings' "The Golden Trumpet Tree" cover the gamut from manga to impressionist to lush comics realness, and will surprise and delight readers of all tastes.

**THE LEGEND OF BOLD RILEY** is 232 full color pages, with color maps of Bold Riley's world inside the front and back covers. The cover features a striking metallic ink logo to give the book a regal touch of class.

## AND THERE'S MORE...!

Check out the back of this booklet for more recommendations of gay and transgender books from Northwest Press: from literary erotica to superhero parody to irreverent auto-bio humor to books about and for gay teens and preteens. The anti-bullying title **The Power Within** is a great and inexpensive addition to any comics shop, and features guest pages by Phil Jimenez, Gail Simone, Greg Rucka, Dan Parent and other comics favorites.

Learn more about Bold Riley and other titles at **NorthwestPress.com!**

### THE LEGEND OF BOLD RILEY

- 232 full color pages
- 7"x10"
- Metallic ink on cover
- Foreword by TV writer Jane Espenson
- \$29.99 Cover Price

Order from Diamond:  
Item #**MAY121226**

# FOREWORD

Right now, we are living and creating during an era of change. The old limitations are disappearing quickly. The towering old structures are past their tipping points and they're falling down around us, revealing beautiful new views.

Just as sitcom newlyweds used be—obviously! self-evidently!—male/female sets, so were swashbuckling, damsel-rescuing heroes assumed to be men. These assumptions, like most assumptions, start to seem arbitrary and strange once they're stripped away, and we wonder how we were so blind before. Has there really been no **Legend of Bold Riley** before this? The story feels fresh but also classic, a tone that's reflected in the beautiful artwork. Rilavashana's particular brave heart is new to us, but the role of traveling hero fits her so naturally that it feels as if she must have been a literary friend forever.

I have spent the bulk of my TV writing career on sci-fi and fantasy shows including **Buffy: The Vampire Slayer**, **Battlestar Galactica** and **Once Upon A Time**. But before all that, I was a comedy writer. I was a writer on Ellen DeGeneres's sitcom, **Ellen** during its final, "out," season. We learned there that stories only get better when you open the windows and let the light shine in.

The best thing about **The Legend of Bold Riley** is that it takes its revolution for granted. The story works on its own terms, not simply as a palatalizing agent for a message. Read it as an indulgence, not as a demonstration of your open-mindedness.

She's a hero. You're a reader. You were meant for each other.


## Jane Espenson

Los Angeles, 2012

Jane Espenson had a five-year stint as a writer and producer on **Buffy the Vampire Slayer** and shared a Hugo Award for her writing on the episode "Conversations with Dead People". She was an executive producer on the **Battlestar Galactica** prequel series **Caprica** and has written for HBO's **Game of Thrones** and the fourth season of **Torchwood**.

She is currently working as a consulting producer and writer on ABC's series **Once Upon a Time**, and has co-written and produced her first independent original web series with co-creator Brad Bell, entitled **Husbands**, which can be seen at **HusbandsTheSeries.com**.

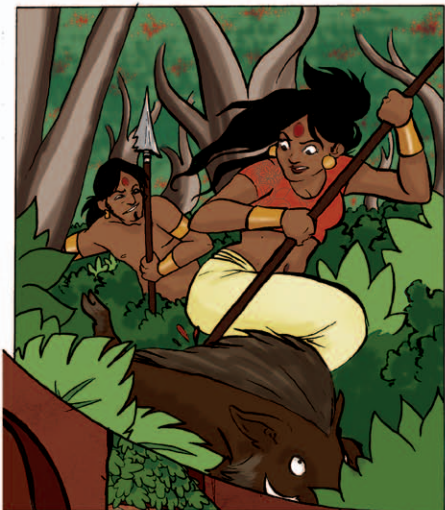
FROM THE PROLOGUE...



...her eyes remained fixed upon the distant horizon.

In her sixteenth year, the trappings of her responsibility to the throne weighed heavy on Rilavashana's shoulders and her unquiet soul became reckless.

She hunted the wildest of game with her brother Satanii from sunup to sundown, when she returned home bloodied.



She sported with the girls until hardly a single heart had been left unbroken within the city walls.



She sipped wine with visiting dignitaries and made their wives blush with ribald tales most unbecoming from the lips of a young princess.

To her father and mother this behavior became most unbearable.

Her father called her before him.

WHAT VEXES YOU SO, MY LITTLE JEWEL? YOU ARE SPITEFUL LIKE A WIFE WITH AN UNFAITHFUL HUSBAND!

WILD, LIKE A NEWLY CAGED BEAST! YOUR MOTHER AND I ARE AT OUR WITS END WITH YOU!



AH, PAPA! IT DOES MY SPIRIT NO GOOD TO MAKE YOU WORRY.

THEN TELL ME WHAT TROUBLES YOU SO?

I AM TORN, PAPA.

MY LOVE FOR HEARTH AND HOME TELLS ME IT IS MY ONLY DUTY TO STAY AND RULE PRAKKALORE, BUT...



BUT?

BUT THAT LOVE CHAINS ME. I HAVE SEEN ALL OF ANKAHLA AND MUCH OF PRAKKALORE...



...YET SOMETHING DRAWS MY MIND EVEN FURTHER FROM OUR OWN KINGDOM. I CRAVE TO SEE THE WIDE WORLD.

I FEAR MY HEART IS NO LONGER HERE.






AH, MY CHILD...

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN YOUR MOTHER WHEN SHE WAS NO OLDER THAN YOU.

WHEN I FIRST MET HER, I THOUGHT NO FORCE ON EARTH COULD TIE HER DOWN TO ANY ONE PLACE


I STILL DO NOT KNOW BY WHAT FORTUNE I CONVINCED HER TO MARRY ME AND STAY HERE IN THE CAPITAL



IT MUST BE YOUR MOTHER'S BLOOD THAT COMPELS YOU SO. IF YOU ARE UNHAPPY HERE, THEN GO AND MAKE YOUR FORTUNE WHERE HEART TAKES YOU.



LEAVE THE AFFAIRS OF STATEHOOD TO YOUR BROTHERS, WHO HAVE NO YEARNING SUCH AS YOURS.



YOU MEAN ABDICATE MY RIGHT TO THE THRONE?

FROM "THE SERPENT  
IN THE BELLY"...





YO000L.  
LITTLE BITCH.  
TELL ME YOUR  
NAME!


THAT WHEN  
I CLIMB INSIDE YOUR  
FLESH AND TAKE  
MY PLACE AS RULER  
OF THIS LAND...

...I MAY MAKE IT  
SYNONYMOUS WITH THE SLURS  
HURLED AT THOSE WHO LAY  
WITH PIGS AND DOGS!




THEY CALL  
ME **BOLD RILEY**.  
BUT IT IS BETTER  
THAT YOU SHOULD  
CALL ME YOUR  
DEATH.






YOU HAVE  
RUINED THE  
HEARTS OF TWO  
WOMEN...

MURDERED  
ANOTHER...




...DESTROYED  
THE TRUST OF  
CONCHENN'S  
PEOPLE...

The serpent's thick fangs struck home...



...but the leather of the merchant's  
daughter's boots were thicker still,  
and his teeth caught and stuck fast!



...AND  
IT IS TIME  
FOR YOU  
TO PAY FOR  
THOSE  
CRIMES.

So saying, Riley brought down her sword and chopped the wretched serpent neatly in half.



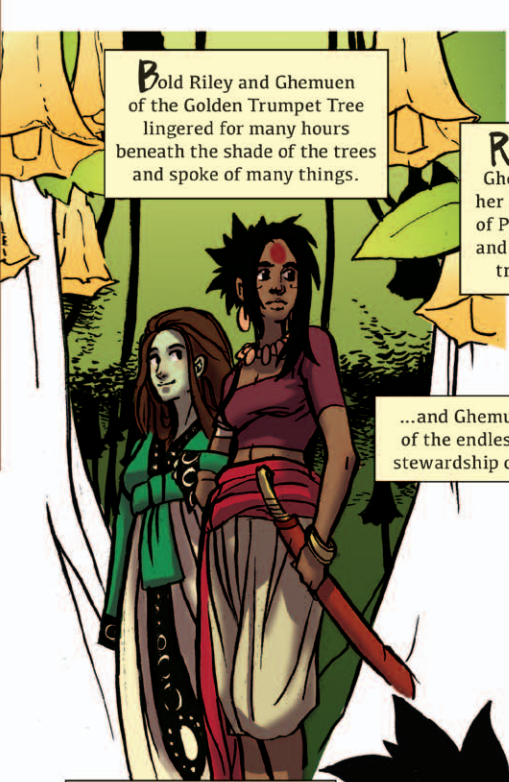
FROM "THE GOLDEN TRUMPET TREE"...

SUCH SMALL FAVORS! MY NAME IS GHEMLIEN, STEWARD OF THE GOLDEN TRUMPET TREE.


A LOVELY NAME TO MATCH A LOVELY FACE! THEY CALL ME BOLD RILEY.

THEN WILL YOU WALK WITH ME FOR A WHILE, BOLD RILEY?

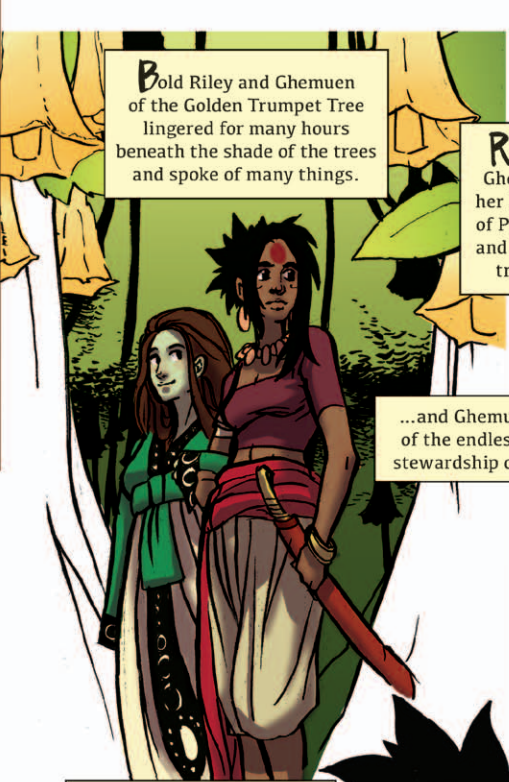
I WILL SHOW YOU MY LANDS AND WE MAY DISCUSS HOW YOU WILL REPAY YOUR DEBT TO ME, HM?




**B**old Riley and Ghemuen of the Golden Trumpet Tree lingered for many hours beneath the shade of the trees and spoke of many things.




**R**iley told Ghemuen of her homeland of Prakkalore and her many travels...



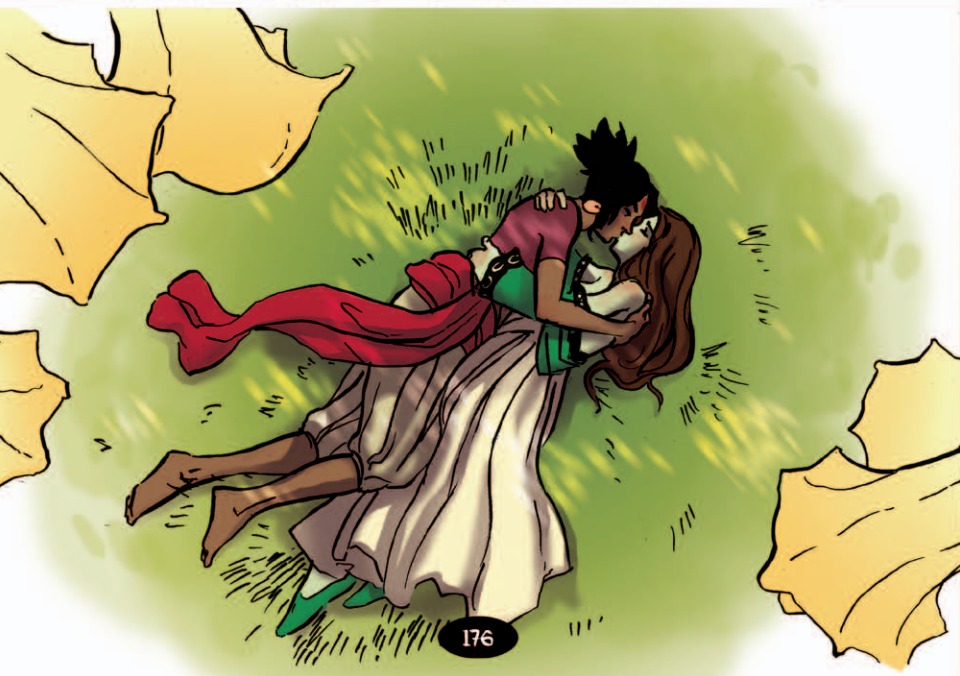
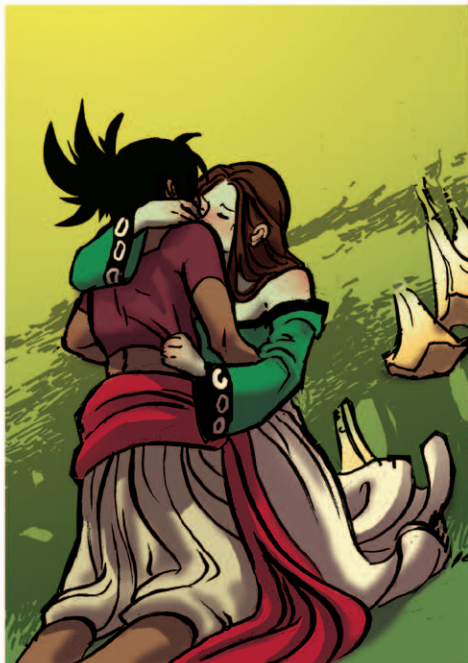
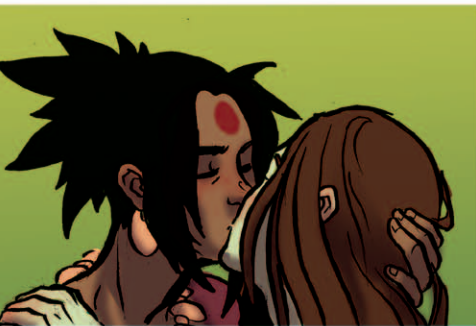
...and Ghemuen told Riley of the endless days of her stewardship of the Grove...




...and the good people who lived outside of it's borders in the nation of Qeifen.



**S**oon the shadows lengthened and Riley drew the lovely Ghemuen under a branch heavy with blossoms.





Riley did not fully understand the feeling that spread through her bones then. The almost unbearable heaviness that anchored her to the ground there beside her lover.

There was no question that could struggle to her lips. There was only peace...

...only peace.

Afterward, Rilavashana SanParite, called Bold Riley, slept. Her soul settled for the first time in her life.

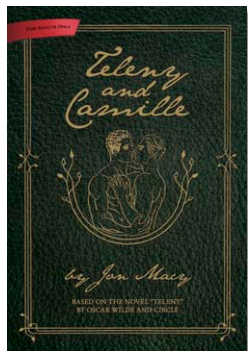


# MORE TERRIFIC LGBT COMICS FOR EVERY AUDIENCE, FROM NORTHWEST PRESS!

## TELENY AND CAMILLE by Jon Macy

B&W, 240 pages, \$29.99. **Adults only. SEP101088**

Adapted from the "first gay novel", the 1893 erotic novel **Teleny** attributed to Oscar Wilde and his circle. Winner of the 2011 Lambda Literary Award for Gay Erotica.



## GLAMAZONIA: THE UNCANNY SUPER-TRANNY

by Justin Hall and friends.

Color, 136 pages, \$24.99.

**Mature readers. OCT101093**

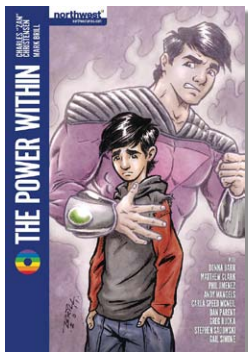
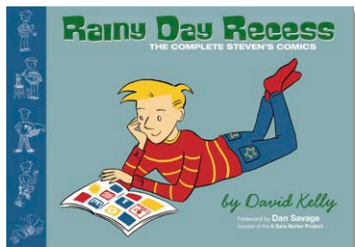
An irreverent superhero parody starring a fabulous transgender superheroine behaving badly and coming out on top. 2011 Lambda Literary Award Finalist for Transgender Fiction.

## RAINY DAY RECESS: THE COMPLETE STEVEN'S COMICS

by David Kelly. B&W, 120 pages, \$19.99.

Ages 10 and up. **JAN111273**

Collects the entire Xeric-winning series in one volume with bonus strips, illustrations and new material created especially for this edition.



## THE POWER WITHIN

by Charles "Zan" Christensen and Mark Brill with special guests. 32 pages, \$4.99. Ages 10 and up. **JUL111189**

This anti-bullying book that earned its creators a spot on **OUT Magazine's** "OUT 100" for 2011 includes contributions by Phil Jimenez, Gail Simone, Dan Parent, Greg Rucka and more!

## A WASTE OF TIME

by Rick Worley.

B&W, 136 Pages, \$19.99.

**Mature readers. JUL111189**

This semi-autobiographical collection about a surly, boy-obsessed bunny is poignant, raunchy and damn funny, as if **Calvin and Hobbes** had been created by a gay Robert Crumb.

