

# FIRE ISLAND

A CENTURY IN THE LIFE OF  
AN AMERICAN PARADISE

JACK PARLETT



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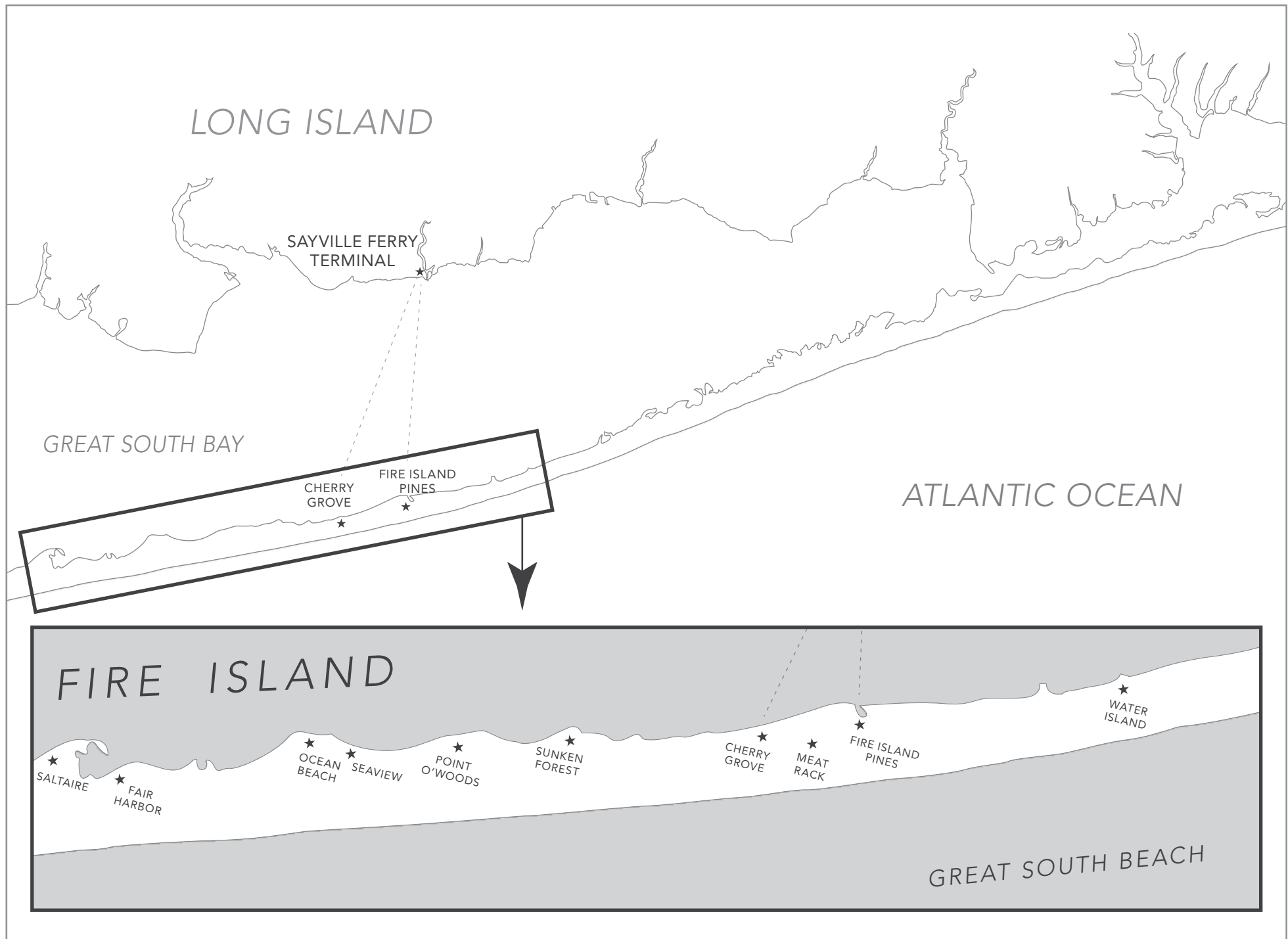
Fire Island

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# APPENDIX:

## *A Fire Island Reading List*

This book began life as a literary history, though as the richness and expansiveness of Fire Island's cultural canon emerged, the project incorporated examples from multiple creative forms. During my research, I have put together a list, comprehensive but not exhaustive, of texts, plays and film works in which Cherry Grove and the Pines feature prominently. I share it here, arranged chronologically and by category, as a resource for casual readers, interested scholars and fellow island enthusiasts.

A real highlight, and a book to which I and any Fire Island scholar must be indebted, is Esther Newton's majestic anthropological study, *Cherry Grove, Fire Island: Sixty Years in America's First Gay and Lesbian Town* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1993). Along with her essay "Dick(less) Tracy and the Homecoming Queen: Lesbian Power and Representation in Gay Male Cherry Grove" (collected in *Margaret Mead Made Me Gay: Essays*, Duke, 2000), Newton's book is essential reading for anyone interested in the formation of the Grove and the nature of community-building in twentieth-century queer America.

Online, fascinating and engaging work is being done by members of the island's communities. Both the *Cherry Grove Archives*

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*Collection*, chaired by Troy Files, and the *Pines Historical Preservation Society*, created and maintained by Robert Bonnano, hold a wealth of photographs, articles and stories that are shared regularly on their websites and social media pages. Columns about the island by community historians such as Carl Luss and John Bogack can be read in the online editions of the *Fire Island News* and the *Fire Island Star*, respectively.

### A FIRE ISLAND READING LIST

#### NONFICTION

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Alexander Goodman, *A Summer on Fire Island* (Washington, D.C.: Guild Press, 1966)

Jack Nichols, *Welcome to Fire Island: Visions of Cherry Grove and the Pines* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1976)

Edmund White, *States of Desire: Travels in Gay America* (New York: E.P. Dutton, 1980)

Randy Shilts, *And the Band Played On* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1987)

John Jiler, *Dark Wind: A True Account of Hurricane Gloria's Assault on Fire Island* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1993)

Michelangelo Signorile, *Life Outside: The Signorile Report on Gay Men: Sex, Drugs, Muscles and the Passages of Life* (New York: HarperCollins, 1998)

Steve Weinstein, *The Q Guide to Fire Island* (Boston: Alyson Books, 2007)

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Kent Johnson, *A Question Mark Above the Sun: Documents on the Mystery Surrounding a Famous Poem "By" Frank O'Hara* (Buffalo, NY: Starcherone Books, 2012)

### MEMOIR AND ESSAYS

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Andrew Holleran, *Ground Zero* (New York: William Morrow & Co., 1988)

Alan Helms, *Young Man from the Provinces: A Gay Life Before Stonewall* (London: Faber & Faber, 1995)

Felice Picano, *A House on the Ocean, A House on the Bay* (London: Faber & Faber, 1997)

Andrew Tobias, *The Best Little Boy in the World* (New York: Random House, 1998)

William Murray, *Janet, My Mother, and Me* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000)

Marijane Meaker, *Highsmith: A Romance of the 1950's* (San Francisco: Cleis Press, 2003)

Greg Scarnici, *Dungeons & Drag Queens: Fire Island Through the Eyes of Its Worst Drag Queen* (Independently published, 2019)

### FICTION

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John Mosher, *Celibate at Twilight* (New York: Random House, 1940)

Donald Windham, "An Island of Fire," *The Warm Country* (New York: Charles Scribner's Son, 1962)

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Becky Crocker, *Mr. Ladybug* (Los Angeles: Sherbourne Press, 1968)

Marijane Meaker, *Shockproof Sydney Skate* (Boston: Little, Brown, 1972)

Edmund White, *Forgetting Elena* (New York: Random House, 1973)

Patricia Nell Warren, *The Front Runner* (New York: William Morrow & Co., 1974)

William Delligan, *Cherry Grove* (New York: Popular Library, 1976)

*Fire Island Pines* (New York: Popular Library, 1977)

Larry Kramer, *Faggots* (New York: Random House, 1978)

Andrew Holleran, *Dancer from the Dance* (New York: William Morrow & Co., 1978)

“Nipples,” *Christopher Street* 4.4 (December 1979)

Felice Picano, *The Lure* (New York: Delacorte, 1979)

*Late in the Season* (New York: Delacorte, 1981)

George Whitmore, *The Confessions of Danny Slocum* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1980)

*Out Here: Fire Island Tales* (unpublished, Beinecke Library, Yale University)

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Ethan Mordden, *I've A Feeling We're Not in Kansas Anymore* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1985)

*Buddies* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1987)

*Everybody Loves You* (St. Martin's Press, 1988)

Christopher Davis, *Joseph and the Old Man* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1986)

*The Valley of the Shadow* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1988)

*The Boys in the Bars* (Stamford, CT: Knights Press, 1989)

Walter Holland, *Fire Island Story* (1988, unpublished, LGBT Community Center Archive, New York)

*Summer of Love* (unpublished, LGBT Community Center Archive, New York)

Allen Barnett, *The Body and Its Dangers* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1991)

Felice Picano, *Like People in History* (New York: Viking, 1995)

Peg Kerr, *The Wild Swans* (New York: Grand Central, 1995)

Andrew Holleran, *In September, the Light Changes* (New York: Hyperion, 1999)

Mario López-Cordero, *Monarch Season* (New York: Riverdale Avenue Books, 2013)



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Edmund White, *Our Young Man* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2016)

Andrew Durbin, *MacArthur Park* (New York: Nightboat Books, 2017)

Larry Kramer, *The Brutality of Fact (The American People: Volume 2)* (New York: Macmillan, 2020)

**POETRY**

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W. H. Auden, "Pleasure Island" (1948), *Collected Poems*, ed. Edward Mendelson (New York: Random House, 1976)

Frank O'Hara, "For James Dean," "Thinking of James Dean," "Four Little Elegies" (1955), "Ode: Salute to the French Negro Poets," "A True Account of Talking to the Sun at Fire Island" (1958), *Collected Poems*, ed. Donald Allen (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1971)

May Swenson, "Fire Island" (1969), *Iconographs* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1970)

Michael Lynch, *These Waves of Dying Friends: Poems* (New York: Contact II, 1989)

Walter Holland, *A Journal of the Plague Years: Poems 1979–1992* (New York: Magic City Press, 1992)

*Translatlantic* (New York: Painted Leaf Press, 2001)

*Circuit* (New York: Chelsea Station Editions, 2010)

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David Groff, *Theory of Devolution* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2002)

*Clay* (Florida: Trio House Press, 2013)

Michael Klein, *The Talking Day* (Little Rock, AR: Sibling Rivalry Press, 2013)

Mark Doty, "King of Fire Island," *Deep Lane* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2015)

Ari Banias, "The Men," *Anybody* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2016)

Sophie Robinson, "fucking up on the rocks," *Rabbit* (Norwich: Boiler House Press, 2019)

Jameson Fitzpatrick, "A True Account of Overhearing Andy Cohen at Fire Island," "Roughly," "White Gays," "The Pines," *Birds in the Tapestry* (New York: Birds, LLC, 2020)

## PLAYS

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George Whitmore, *The Rights*, Network Theatre, New York, January 1980

Terry Miller, *Pines '79: A Romantic Comedy in Two Acts*, Shandol Theatre, New York, October 1981 (play text published by JH Press, 1982)

John Glines, *On Tina Tuna Walk*, Courtyard Playhouse, New York, December 1988

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Terrence McNally, *Lips Together, Teeth Apart*, Manhattan Theatre Club, New York, May 1991 (play text published by The Fireside Theatre, 1992)

Charles Mee, *Fire Island*, 3LD Art & Technology Center, New York, April 2008

Matthew Lopez, *The Inheritance*, Young Vic, London, May 2018 (play text published by Faber & Faber, 2018)

Michael R. Jackson, *A Strange Loop*, Playwrights Horizons, New York, June 2019 (play text published by Theatre Communications Group, 2021)

Jeremy O. Harris [@GaryXXXFisher], *Black Exhibition*, Bushwick Starr, Brooklyn, November 2019

## FILMS AND TELEVISION SERIES

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*Camille* (dir. Jerett Robert Austin, 1950)

*My Hustler* (dir. Andy Warhol, 1965)

*Last Summer* (dir. Frank Perry, 1969)

*Double Exposure* (dir. Peter de Rome, 1969)

*The Fire Island Kids* (dir. Peter de Rome, 1970)

*Sticks and Stones* (dir. Stan Lopresto, 1970)

*Boys in the Sand* (dir. Wakefield Poole, 1971)

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*Fire Island* (dir. Derek Jarman, 1974)

*A Very Natural Thing* (dir. Christopher Larkin, 1974)

*Boys in the Sand II* (dir. Wakefield Poole, 1984)

*Parting Glances* (dir. Bill Sherwood, 1986)

*Longtime Companion* (dir. Norman Rene, 1989)

*Fire Island* (Bravo TV, 1999)

*When Ocean Meets Sky* (dir. Crayton Robey, 2003)

*The Normal Heart* (HBO, dir. Ryan Murphy, 2014)

*Cherry Grove Stories* (dir. Michael Fisher, 2018)

*Fire Island* (Logo TV, 2017)

*Last Ferry* (dir. Jaki Bradley, 2019)

*Fire Island* (dir. Andrew Ahn, 2022)

A fuller list of films, including adult and pornographic works, can be found in Sam Ashby's "List of Films Shot on Fire Island, New York," *Failed States*, 1 (September 2017)

## DOCUMENTARY FILMS

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*When Ocean Meets Sky* (dir. Crayton Robey, 2003)

*The Panzi Invasion* (dir. Parker Sargent, 2016)

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*SNAP—Year of a Queen* (dir. Parker Sargent, 2018)

*Cherry Grove Stories* (dir. Michael Fisher, 2018)

*Grove Girls* (dir. Parker Sargent, 2019)

**VISUAL ART AND ARCHITECTURE**

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David Morgan, *Beach* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2000)

Christopher Bascom Rawlins, *Fire Island Modernist: Horace Gifford and the Architecture of Seduction* (New York: Metropolis Books, 2013)

Tom Bianchi, *Fire Island Pines: Polaroids: 1975–1983* (Bologna: Damiani, 2013)

Lorraine H. Michels, *The Invasion of the Pines: 40 Years of Fun, Frolic and Fantasy, 1976–2015* (independently published, 2015)

Susan Kravitz, *Mascara, Mirth & Mayhem: Independence Day on Fire Island* (New York: KMW Studio, 2016)

Alex Geana, *Fire Island* (New York: Glitterati, 2019)

Jarett Earnest, ed., *The Young and the Evil: Queer Modernism in New York 1930–1955* (New York: David Zwirner, 2020)

*Talking to the Sun at Fire Island* (New York: BOFFO, 2019)

koitz, *Gay Fire Island: It's Good to Be Us* (koitz, 2020)

Matthew Leifheit, *Tò Die Alive* (Bologna: Damiani, 2022)

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### **LOCAL/COMMUNITY HISTORIES**

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Charles Dickerson, *A History of the Sayville Community, Including Bayport, Bohemia, West Sayville, Oakdale, and Fire Island* (Sayville Rotary Club, 1975)

Madeleine C. Johnson, *Fire Island: 1650s–1980s* (Point O’Woods Historical Society, 1983)

Lee E. Koppelman and Seth Forman, *The Fire Island National Seashore: A History* (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2008)

Shoshanna McCollum, *Fire Island: Beach Resort and National Seashore* (Mount Pleasant, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2012)

Lorraine H. Michels, *Celebrating the Heart of Cherry Grove: The Community House 1948–2013* (Independently published, 2013)

Christopher Verga, *Saving Fire Island from Robert Moses: The Fight for a National Seashore* (Mount Pleasant, SC: History Press, 2019)

Robert Bonnano, *Beach: Fire Island 79* (Fire Island Pines Historical Preservation Society, 2019)

### **ACADEMIC CHAPTERS AND ARTICLES**

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James Miller, “Dante on Fire Island: Reinventing Heaven in the AIDS Elegy,” in *Writing AIDS: Gay Literature, Language and Analysis*, ed. Timothy F. Murphy and Suzanne Poirier (New York: Columbia University Press, 1993)

David Bergman, “Beauty and the Beach: Representing Fire Island,” in *Public Sex/Gay Space*, ed. William Leap (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999)

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Jerry Yung-Ching Chang, "The Pornethnography of 'Boys in the Sand': Fetishisms of Race and Class in the 1970s Gay Fire Island Pines," *Women's Studies Quarterly*, 43.3/4 (Fall/Winter 2015)

Jack Parlett, "The Boys on the Beach: Andrew Holleran's Fire Island," in *Narrating and Constructing the Beach: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, ed. Carina Breidenbach et al. (De Gruyter, 2020)

# NOTES

## INTRODUCTION: WRITTEN IN THE SAND

16 “We shall have everything...”: Frank O’Hara, “Ode to Joy,” *The Collected Poems of Frank O’Hara*, ed. Donald Allen, p. 281.

17 “took half...”: Jameson Fitzpatrick, “A True Account of Overhearing Andy Cohen at Fire Island,” *Pricks in the Tapestry* (New York: Birds, LLC, 2020), p. 17.

17 “my favourite...”: Sophie Robinson, “fucking up on the rocks”, *Rabbit* (Norwich: Boiler House Press, 2018), p. 75.

17 “gay life is stories...in the telling”: Ethan Mordden, *I’ve a Feeling We’re Not in Kansas Anymore* (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1985), n.p.

20 “madness, for hot nights...”: Holleran, *Dancer from the Dance* (London: Penguin, 1990 [1978]), pp. 206–7

23 a “stock theme...”: Henning Bech, *When Men Meet: Homosexuality and Modernity*, trans. Teresa Mesquit and Tim Davies (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1997), p. 37.

“All paradises...”: Toni Morrison, conversation with Elizabeth Farnsworth, *PBS NewsHour*, March 9, 1998.

24 “too white...”: Esther Newton, “Dick(less) Tracy and the Homecoming Queen: Lesbian Power and Representation in Gay Male Cherry Grove”, in *Margaret Mead Made Me Gay: Essays* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2000), p. 85.



PART ONE: ORIGIN (1882–1938)

CHAPTER 1: A SPIT OF LAND

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29 “wampum...”: Madeleine C. Johnson, *Fire Island: 1650s–1980s* (Point O’Woods: Point O’Woods Historical Society, 1983), p. 14.

30 “seemed to be providing...”: Cindy S. Aron, *Working at Play: A History of Vacations in the United States* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999), p. 79.

30 “Long Island is destined...”: *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, August 29, 1880, p. 4.

31 “black cherry trees...”: Esther Newton, *Cherry Grove, Fire Island: Sixty Years in America’s First Gay and Lesbian Town* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2014 [1993]), p. 16.

“a brief flash... Fire Island”: Walt Whitman, *Complete Prose Works* (Philadelphia: David Mackay, 1892), p. 160.

31 “thirty or forty...”: Whitman, “A Week at West Hills,” *New York Tribune*, August 4, 1881.

“south side—the Great South Bay...”: Whitman, “Long Island Is a Great Place!”, *Brooklyn Daily Times*, July 30, 1857, p. 2.

32 “adhesiveness...”: Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*, ed. Michael Moon (New York: Norton Critical Editions, 2002), p. 657.

32 “proto-cruising moments...encounters...”: Michael D. Snediker, “Whitman on the Verge: Or the Desires of Solitude,” *Arizona Quarterly* 61.3 (Autumn 2005), p. 28.

33 “little black-eyed...”: Whitman, *Daybooks and Notebooks*, ed. William White, 3 vols. (New York: New York University Press, 1977), vol. 1, pp. 229–30.

34 “I have nothing...”: See Michele Mendelssohn, *Making Oscar Wilde* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018), p. 65.

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"I took him up...": "The Aesthetic Singer Visits the Good Gray Poet," *The Philadelphia Press*, January 19, 1882, p. 8.

35 "The kiss...": Wilde quoted in *Oscar Wilde* (London: Penguin Books, 1988), pp.163–4.

36 "first-class Summer...": "The Charms of Long Beach," *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, August 12, 1882, p. 6.

"surprising number of ladies...": *The New Brunswick Daily Times*, 21 July, 1882, p. 2.

"one of the most beautiful...": Charles Dickerson, "A Century at the Grove," *Fire Island News*, July 19, 1969, p. 8.

37 "A map of the world...": Oscar Wilde, "The Soul of Man Under Socialism", in *The Soul of Man Under Socialism and Other Essays* (New York: Harper & Row, 1970) p. 246.

"the first homosexual...": Rodwell quoted in "Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop," *NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project*, online.

"incanting lines": Jack Nichols, *Welcome to Fire Island* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1976), p. 42.

38 "Declaration...": Newton, *Cherry Grove*, p. 239.

## CHAPTER 2: CHOSEN FAMILIES

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39 "rollicking hilarity...": Charles M. Bayer, "Fire Island Is Sad Over Jail Delay", *New York Times*, July 28, 1935, Section 2, p. 1.

40 "welcome deficits...": Newton, *Cherry Grove*, p. 22.

41 "relatively innocent time...": William Murray, *Janet, My Mother & Me: A Memoir of Growing Up with Janet Flanner and Natalia Danesi Murray* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000), pp. 31–2.

42 "so-called meat rack...": *ibid.*, p. 33.

42 “a Kodak picture...”: Janet Flanner, *Darlinghissima: Letters to a Friend*, ed. Natalia Danesi Murray (New York: Random House, 1985), p. 486.

“demolished...”: Murray, *Janet, My Mother & Me*, p. 97.

43 “keeps house...”: John Mosher, “Beachcombers,” *The New Yorker*, May 27, 1939, p. 20.

44 “those everlasting cocktails...”: *ibid.*, p. 21

45 “sweet, vain, pouting...”: Midge Decter, “The Boys on the Beach,” *Commentary*, September 1980.

“Militant homosexuality...”: “To the Editor,” *Commentary*, December 1980.

“became the most...”: George Chauncey, *Gay New York: The Making of the Gay Male World, 1890–1940* (London: Flamingo, 1995), p. 229.

46 “existence of these early...”: Brian Stack and Peter Boag, “George Chauncey’s *Gay New York*: A View from 25 Years Later,” *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 18 (2019), p. 122.

47 “larger lexicon...”: See Chauncey, *Gay New York*.

“is one of the clearest...”: Newton, *Cherry Grove*, p. 21.

48 “present apathy...”: J. Edgar Hoover quoted in Michael Bronski, *A Queer History of the United States* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2011), p. 124.

“so that it could...”: *ibid.*

“long-standing public image...”: Chauncey, *Gay New York*, pp. 359–60.

“the ‘family’...”: Newton, *Cherry Grove*, p. 19.

49 “She was not...”: *Suffolk County News*, September 23, 1938, p. 3.

50 “The hurricane...”: Newton, *Cherry Grove*, p. 26.

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“frightened straights...”: John Jiler, *Dark Wind: A True Account of Hurricane Gloria’s Assault on Fire Island* (St. Martin’s Press, 1993), p. 138.

51 “Fire Island School...”: Oral history interview with Paul Cadmus, March 22–May 5, 1988. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

“just to check...”: *ibid.*

52 “manic merriment...”: Murray, *Janet, My Mother & Me*, pp. 27–8.

“might have been invented...”: Claude Lévi-Strauss, *Tristes Tropiques*, trans. John Weightman and Doreen Weightman (London: Penguin, 2011 [1976]), p. 163.

## PART TWO: ENCLAVE (1939–1969)

### CHAPTER 3: TWO PEOPLE

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58 “In the summer...”: For an account of these years, see Donald Windham, “St. Luke’s Place,” Box 23, p. 6, MSS 424, Donald Windham and Sandy Campbell Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

59 “Born in 1920...”: This account of Windham’s early life is drawn from Bruce Kellner, *Donald Windham: A Bio-Bibliography* (New York: Greenwood Press, 1991), pp. xix–xi.

60 “during a cruise...”: Donald Windham, “St. Luke’s Place,” p. 15.

61 “I meant to get...”: Quoted in Tennessee Williams, *Notebooks*, ed. Margaret Bradham Thornton (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006), p. 414.

“When one of these...”: Windham (ed.), *Tennessee Williams’ Letters to Donald Windham 1940–1965* (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1977), p. 139.

“the atmosphere...”: Tennessee Williams to James Laughlin, June 9, 1944, *The Luck of Friendship: The Letters of Tennessee Williams and James Laughlin*, ed. Peggy L. Fox and Thomas Keith (New York: W.W. Norton, 2018), p. 42.

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“Audrey Hartman...”: *Cherry Grove Stories*.

“an entire section...”: These events are detailed in Windham, “Fire Island,” Box 25, MSS 424.

63 “She is such...”: *Tennessee Williams’ Letters to Donald Windham*, p. 233.

“are simply written...they will decay”: E. M. Forster, “Introduction,” in *ibid.*, n.p.

64 “servants are...entirely left out”: Windham, “An Island of Fire,” in *The Warm Country* (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1962), pp. 147–9.

65 “The Carrington House...”: National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, “Carrington House,” United States Department of the National Interior, National Park Service, online.

66 “cute little...”: Laura Durkin, “A Special Home Restored,” *Newsday*, August 25, 1982, n.p.

“heated phone call...”: Donald Windham, *Lost Friendships: A Memoir of Truman Capote, Tennessee Williams, and Others* (New York: William Morrow, 1987), p. 157.

67 “Stories about...”: *ibid.*, pp. 38–9.

68 “People disappearing...”: Windham, June 26, 1988: *The First Pages of a Memoir* (Verona: Officina Bodoni, 1992), p. 19.

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“What happened...”: *ibid.*

## CHAPTER 4: BODY FASCISM

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72 “The ‘body fascist’...”: Mickey Weems, *The Fierce Tribe: Masculine Identity and Performance in the Circuit* (Logan: Utah State University Press, 2008), p. 37.

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74 “He bought a house...”: Newton, *Cherry Grove*, p. 47.

“had no use...”: Christopher Isherwood, *Christopher and His Kind* (New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1976), p. 81.

75 “the most famous...”: Quoted in *ibid.*

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“manly mesomorph...”: Auden, “Behold the Manly Mesomorph,” *Collected Poems*, ed. Edward Mendelson (New York: Random House, 1976), p. 436.

“aged very quickly...”: Richard R. Bozorth, *Auden's Games of Knowledge: Poetry and the Meanings of Homosexuality* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2001), p. 240.

“I am really too...”: W. H. Auden to James and Tania Stern, May 27, 1947, MSS Auden, W. H. Auden Papers, Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature, New York Public Library. W. H. Auden's letters are quoted here with the permission of the Estate of W. H. Auden.

77 “Bassett's Roost...”: Nicholas Jenkins, “Some Letters from Auden to the Sterns,” in “*In Solitude for Company*”: *W.H. Auden After 1940*, ed. Katherine Bucknell and Nicholas Jenkins, p. 57.

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“tar-paper-covered...”: Newton, *Cherry Grove*, p. 47.

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78 “Richard Avedon...”: For an account of Avedon’s time in Cherry Grove, see Philip Geffer, *What Becomes a Legend Most: A Biography of Richard Avedon* (New York: Harper Collins, 2020), pp. 106–15.

79 “I grow old...”: T.S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock,” *The Waste Land and Other Poems* (London: Faber & Faber, 1999 [1940]), p. 7.

“I arrived...”: W. H. Auden to Rhoda Jaffe, August 3, 1946, MSS Auden, New York Public Library.

“unwashed dishes...”: Christopher Isherwood, *Lost Years* (New York: Harper Collins, 2000), p. 129.

80 “It’s the wrong blond...”: Dorothy J. Farnan, *Auden in Love* (New York: New American Library, 1985), p. 21.

81 “Neither of them...”: Isherwood, *Lost Years*, p. 129.

“At night...”, *ibid.*

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82 “earthy...analysing herself”: Farnan, *Auden in Love*, pp. 119–20.

“I’m so looking...”: Auden to Rhoda Jaffe, 1946, MSS Auden, New York Public Library.

“real man in bed...”: Farnan, *Auden in Love*, p. 120.

“affair with a woman...”: Auden quoted in *ibid.*, pp. 123–4.

83 “ash-blond vegetable rinse...”: *ibid.*, p. 123.

“I am at a loss...”: Quoted in Jenkins, “Some Letters,” p. 99.

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“if the intellectual life...”: Maurice Cranston, “Poet’s Retreat,” *John O’London’s Weekly*, February 6, 1948, p. 50.

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