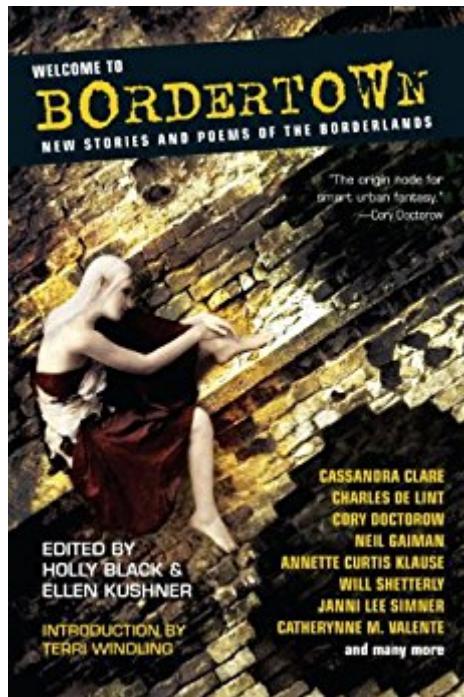


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# Welcome To Bordertown



## **Synopsis**

Bordertown: a city on the border between our human world and the elfin realm. Runaway teens come from both sides of the border to find adventure, to find themselves. Elves play in rock bands and race down the street on spell-powered motorbikes. Human kids recreate themselves in the squats and clubs and artists' studios of Soho. Terri Windling's original Bordertown series was the forerunner of today's urban fantasy, introducing authors that included Charles de Lint, Will Shetterly, Emma Bull, and Ellen Kushner. In this volume of all-new work (including a 15-page graphic story), the original writers are now joined by the generation that grew up dreaming of Bordertown, including acclaimed authors Holly Black, Cassandra Clare, Cory Doctorow, Neil Gaiman, Catherynne M. Valente, and many more. They all meet here on the streets of Bordertown in more than twenty new interconnected songs, poems, and stories. From the Hardcover edition.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Bordertown has been missing from the mortal world for thirteen years, but Ellen Kushner and Holly Black have managed to bring it back to us. "Welcome to Bordertown" picks up exactly where the

last collection left off, bringing back a magical array of authors who have explored the Borderlands before (Charles de Lint, Emma Bull, Patricia McKillip) as well as new arrivals (Tim Pratt, Cory Doctorow, Neil Gaiman). Thirteen years ago, Bordertown vanished from the mortal world. No one knows how or why, but when it reappeared, only thirteen days had passed for those inside. In Terri Windling and Ellen Kushner's opening novella, teenage "fixer" Jim arrives there to find his sister Trish, who ran away to live in Bordertown. But Trish has learned that even magical places have their hardships, even as she befriends a grad student named Anush, whose studies went horribly awry when he was cursed by a cruel elf lady. Some of these stories are by longtime Borderland contributors. Emma Bull's "Incunabulum" is the tale of a young Blood who lost his memory, and must now forge a new one, and Will Shetterly's "The Seven Sages of Elsewhere" is a feud between two bookstores over a rare, magical tome. But many of these authors are new to Bordertown anthologies -- Cory Doctorow, Catherynne Valente, Janni Lee Simner, Christopher Barzak, Annette Curtis Klause, Tim Pratt, Alaya Dawn Johnson, Holly Black and Cassandra Clare.

Featuring stories by Charles de Lint, Ellen Kushner, Stephen R Boyett and Terri Windling (writing as Bellamy Bach), Borderland introduced me not only to a world where Faerie had returned and both human and fey runaways flocked to a crumbling human city where technology and magic were equally wonderful, unpredictable and dangerous (much like the B-town residents themselves), but to the nascent genre of urban fantasy which I had only sampled up to that point. I had done a complete Bordertown series re-read in 2004, but since then the books sat on a shelf, drawing comments, and occasionally being loaned out (don't worry; I have loaner copies of nearly all of them) to visitors. They were constantly referenced, praised, geeked about and like most urban fantasy fans of a certain age, I imagined the stories I would have liked to have told, set in the Borderlands. As Emma Bull and Will Shetterly's B-town novels *Finder*, *Elsewhere*, and *Nevernever* were reprinted for the YA market, I continued touching wood and crossing digits that the original anthologies would be reprinted as well; or at the very least that a "Best Of" collection might emerge. But new stories? I never even dared to dream. Then my dreams came true in February 2009, when editors Ellen Kushner and Holly Black announced they would be returning to Borderlands in a new anthology, *Welcome to Bordertown*, 13 years after the last anthology was published. Needless to say, I was beyond overjoyed. Because the Borderlands anthologies shaped my tastes as a reader, and influenced my life in so many ways since I first picked up the TOR edition of Borderlands in paperback from a university bookstore in 1992.

Bordertown is a place for outsiders, for anyone who has ever felt ostracized. That applies to both its human inhabitants and its magical ones. We humans would call them elves, but they prefer to think of themselves as Truebloods. Runaway teenagers, artsy outsiders, hipster musicians, Harvard students, and anyone else who has ever wanted to get away usually find themselves in B-town, a city on the edge of the World and the Realm, in a place sometimes referred to as the Borderland and at other times just called the Nevernever. It's a place where neither science nor magic can be completely trusted. Jumpstarting a series that began in 1986, WELCOME TO BORDERTOWN is a collection of writings from original Borderland authors, like Charles de Lint and Emma Bull, as well as newer writers who grew up as Borderland readers. Each story and poem here might be written by a different person, but the characters in them inhabit one world and frequent the same bars and bookstores. After 13 days in Bordertown, the Way has opened up again, and newcomers are arriving at full-speed. But, as these newcomers inform those already living in B-town, it's been 13 long years in the World since anyone has been able to find the Way back into Bordertown. Newbies get drinks at the Dancing Ferret and look for their lost siblings, or they try to start new bands, or they go searching high and low to meet real-live vampires. Those who have been in Bordertown for a while go about their daily lives --- which can consist of being held captive by elf nymphomaniac seductresses, fighting with rival business owners, or arguing with their boyfriends and girlfriends. Bordertown is a hub for fantasy lovers, and that applies to the characters in the stories as much as it does the people who will read this book.

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