

Boston Public Library

We Are Pride

Books about the LGBTQ+ Experience

Booklist for Adults, Teens, and Children | 2020



The We Are Pride Booklist is a list of recent books for all ages concerning the diverse experiences of the LGBTQ+ community and is a part of the Boston Public Library's observance of Pride Month and LGBT History Month.

700 Boylston Street
Copley Square

bpl.org

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CHILDREN

The Best at It

By Maulik Pancholy

Twelve-year-old Rahul, an Indian American boy growing up in Indiana, works to find something he's good at, and questions his sexuality in this funny, semi-autobiographical, middle-grade novel.

J FICTION PANCHOLY M



Hurricane Season

By Nicole Melleby

Eleven-year-old Fig's father is her whole world, and she does her best to hide his mental illness, including from social services. When a new neighbor moves in, she and her father both slowly learn to let other people into their lives in this poignant middle-grade novel.

J FICTION MELLEBY N



It Feels Good to Be Yourself: A Book About Gender Identity

By Theresa Thorn & Noah Grigni (illustrations)

Some people are boys. Some people are girls. Some people are both, neither, or somewhere in between. This inclusive, vibrant picture book gives kids and caregivers alike the vocabulary to talk with each other about gender.

J HQ77.9 .T497 2019



The Midwinter Witch

By Molly Ostertag

In this graphic novel conclusion of the Witch Boy series, Aster decides to defy tradition and enter his family's annual contest for witches, while Ariel struggles to accept her new family's love and explore her relationship with Charlie.

J GRAPHIC MIDWINTER WITCH

My Two Dads and Me/ My Two Moms and Me

By Michael Joosten

These two beautifully illustrated board books celebrate families with same-gender parents as moms, dads, and kids eat breakfast, get dressed, head to the park, and sing good-night lullabies.

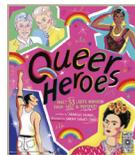
J BOARD JOOSTEN M

Pride Colors

By Robin Stevenson

With adorable photos of babies, toddlers, and families, this rhyming board book gently affirms caregivers' love for their children while introducing the colors of the pride flag and the meaning behind each color.

J BOARD STEVENSO R

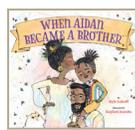


Queer Heroes

By Arabelle Sicardi & Sarah Tanat-Jones (illustrations)

This group biography for kids uses a mix of text and dynamic full-color portraits to celebrate the achievements of fifty-three LGBTQ+ role models throughout history and from all around the world.

J BIOG HQ73.S56 2019



When Aidan Became a Brother



By Kyle Lukoff & Kaylani Juanita (illustrations)

After Aidan realized he was a trans boy, he and his parents fixed the parts of his life that didn't fit anymore. When Mom and Dad announce that they're going to have another baby, Aidan wants to do everything he can to make things right for his new sibling from the very beginning.

J PICTURE LUKOFF K



The Whispers

By Greg Howard

Eleven-year-old Riley always thought his mother's favorite story about magical fairies that grant wishes was made up. But after she disappears, he sets off with his friend Gary to find the Whispers and ask them to bring his mother home.

J FICTION HOWARD G



Zenobia July

By Lisa Bunker

Zenobia July is starting a new life where she's able to live openly as the girl she always knew she was. When someone anonymously posts hateful memes on her school's website, Zenobia knows she's the one with the abilities to solve the mystery.

J FICTION BUNKER L

TEEN

The Afterward

By E.K. Johnston

A not-so-reformed thief and an apprentice knight became famous for saving the world together. But is there room in their post-adventure lives for their new relationship? A tale told in several timelines.

TEEN SCIFI FANTASY JOHNSTON E

Beyond the Black Door

By A.M. Strickland

Soulwalker Kamai finds herself entranced by Vehyn, a mysterious spirit she encounters in the world of dreams, although she struggles to reconcile her infatuation with her lack of physical attraction. As she investigates her mother's tragic death, can she trust that Vehyn is what he seems?

TEEN SCIFI FANTASY STRICKLA A

Brave Face

By Shaun David Hutchinson

"I wasn't depressed because I was gay. I was depressed and gay." In this memoir, Hutchinson shares his difficult journey growing up, which included an attempt to take his own life, and the road to recovery that finally convinced him things do get better.

TEEN RC569 .H88 2019



Cosmoknights

By Hannah Templer

Years after her best friend was taken to serve as a prize princess for a galactic combat sport, Pan is still seething. She joins forces with two lesbian gladiators to destroy the patriarchal games from the inside in this boldly drawn graphic adventure.

TEEN GRAPHIC COSMOKNI

 available in audiobook

 available in eBook

 award winner

 graphic novel

 available in audiobook

 available in eBook

 award winner

 graphic novel



Our Dreams at Dusk

By Yuhki Kamatani

Terrified that he's been outed as gay, high schooler Tasuku attempts suicide, but he is stopped by the appearance of the mysterious Someone-san. The community center Someone-san leads him to offers him not only a place to belong, but a vision of a happy future.

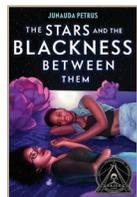
TEEN GRAPHIC OUR DREAMS AT

PET

By Akwaeke Emezi

Jam has been told all her life that there are no monsters anymore. That changes when Pet, a creature made of horns and colors and claws, emerges from one of her mother's paintings. How do you save the world from monsters if no one will admit they exist?

TEEN SCIFI FANTASY EMEZI A



The Stars and the Blackness Between Them

By Junauda Petrus

Told in two distinct voices, this lyrical novel is the story of two black girls, one Trinidadian and one American, finding love and happiness in a world that seems determined to deny them both.

TEEN FICTION PETRUS J

Tell Me How You Really Feel

By Aminah Mae Safi

Years ago, when Sana Khan worked up the courage to ask Rachel Recht out, Rachel assumed it was a prank; beautiful people never ask out nerdy film buffs. But now Rachel's senior film project needs a lead, Sana is the best fit, and they must work through their feelings so the camera can roll.

TEEN FICTION SAFI A

These Witches Don't Burn

By Isabel Sterling

Hannah, a witch who can control the elements, is convinced that the dark magic appearing around her town is the work of a deadly sect of witches. To defeat them, she must team up with an unlikely partner: her dreaded ex-girlfriend.

TEEN FICTION STERLING I



We Set the Dark on Fire

By Tehlor Kay Mejia

At the Medio School for Girls, young women are trained for one of two roles: running a husband's household or raising his children. Will top student Dani Vargas cling to privilege, or will she give up everything she's strived for in pursuit of freedom—and a chance at a forbidden love?

TEEN SCIFI FANTASY MEJIA T



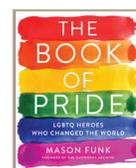
Wilder Girls

By Rory Power

Body horror and claustrophobia define this tale of a school beset by the body-warping Tox. Amidst the outbreak, Hetty will do anything to find her friend Byatt, even break quarantine to brave the wild and warped woods.

TEEN FICTION POWER R

BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR



The Book of Pride: LGBTQ Heroes Who Changed the World

By Mason Funk

In these interviews and photographs, OUTWORDS, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving the stories of LGBTQ+ people, presents inspiring accounts of leaders and activists on the front lines of the movement.

BIOG HQ73.3.U6 F86 2019

Brown White Black: An American Family at the Intersection of Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Religion

By Nishta J. Mehra

Mehra writes candidly about her wife, who is white; her adopted son, who is black; and their experiences dealing with America's rigid ideas of race, gender, and sexuality.

BIOG HQ75.53 .M44 2019



Gender Queer: A Memoir

By Maia Kobabe

Kobabe charts eir journey of self-identity as a nonbinary asexual person. E uses soft lines and muted colors to depict the confusion of adolescent crushes, the coming out process, and the trauma and the fundamental violation of pap smears.

GRAPHIC HQ73 .K63 2019x

How We Fight for Our Lives: A Memoir

By Saeed Jones

Blending poetry and prose, Jones recounts his life as a young black gay man from the South as he fights to carve out a place for himself in his family and his country.

BIOG PS3610.O6279 Z46 2019

How to Be Remy Cameron

By Julian Winters

Remy Cameron is the likable and proud gay guy, admired for his confidence. The only one who may not know Remy that well is Remy himself, who needs to reconcile the labels that people have attached to him with who he really is.

TEEN FICTION WINTERS J

I Wish You All the Best

By Mason Deaver

Thrown out by their parents for coming out as nonbinary, Ben moves in with their sister and finishes high school in a new town. As Ben learns to heal from their trauma, what started as a disaster might become their chance at a happier life.

TEEN FICTION DEAVER M

Kiss Number 8

By Colleen A.F. Venable & Ellen T. Crenshaw (illustrations)

Mads' first seven kisses have been unremarkable at best, but nothing compares to terrible kiss number eight and what follows. Navigating the aftermath, she deals with falling for her BFF and a huge family secret.

TEEN GRAPHIC KISS NUMBER EIGHT

Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up With Me

By Mariko Tamaki & Rosemary Valero-O'Connell (illustrations)

Laura Dean is Frederica's dream girl—but she maybe isn't the best girlfriend. Even a cryptic spirit medium warns her to break up with Laura, but the break ups never seem to stick, and Frederica begins to worry Laura Dean isn't the real problem.

TEEN GRAPHIC LAURA DEAN KEEPS

Moth & Whisper

By Ted Anderson & Jen Hickman (Illustrations)

The Moth and the Whisper are the greatest thieves in the city, but few know that they disappeared six months ago, because one person has been filling both roles since then: Niki, their talented and uncertain gender-fluid child.

TEEN GRAPHIC MOTH AND WHISPER

 available in audiobook

 available in eBook

 award winner

 graphic novel

In the Dream House

By Carmen Maria Machado

Using a kaleidoscopic blend of narrative tropes, Machado articulates her experiences in an abusive same-sex relationship and how those experiences shaped who she is today.

BIOG PS3613.A2725243 Z46 2019x



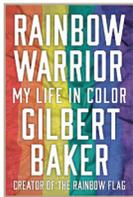
Over the Top: A Raw Journey to Self-Love

By Jonathan Van Ness

It hasn't always been gorgeous for this beacon of positivity and joy on Queer Eye. In

his memoir, Van Ness uncovers the pain and passion it took to become the model of self-love and acceptance that he is today.

BIOG PN2287.V336 A3 2019x



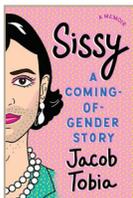
Rainbow Warrior: My Life in Color

By Gilbert Baker

In this posthumously published memoir, the creator of the rainbow flag chronicles his life,

from a repressive childhood in 1950s Kansas, through his blossoming into a visionary artist and social justice activist in 1970s San Francisco.

BIOG HQ75.8.B345 B35 2019



Sissy: A Coming-of-Gender Story

By Jacob Tobia

Through recollections of their glitter-obsessed childhood and struggles against stereotypes, activist, writer, producer,

television host and actor Jacob Tobia invites us to rethink what we know about gender.

BIOG CT275.T69 A3 2019



We Have Always Been Here: A Queer Muslim Memoir

By Samra Habib

As an Ahmadi Muslim in Pakistan, Habib faced the policing of her body and threats of violence against her religion. After moving to Canada as a refugee, Habib encounters racism and homophobia—inspiring her fight for truth and power along the way to self-discovery.

BIOG HQ75.4.H38 A3 2019x

EXPRESSIONS

The Black Condition Ft. Narcissus

By jayy dodd

In a memoir constructed from poems, blx trans femme author jayy dodd documents the beginning of their gender transition and the impact of our current political landscape.

PS3604.O32 B53 2019x

Disintegrate/Dissociate

By Arielle Twist

Exploring grief, trauma, and displacement through her powerful poetry, Twist shares her identity as an Indigenous trans woman and her journey towards a softer path in life.

PR9199.4.T93 A6 2019x

Halal If You Hear Me

Edited by Fatimah Asghar & Safia Elhillo

A collection of poems by female, queer, nonbinary, and trans Muslims that delves into topics such as immigration, racism, religion, queerness, love, and the intersection of identities.

PS591.M5445 H35 2019x

Live Oak, With Moss

By Walt Whitman & Brian Selznick (illustrations)

Whitman's personal poems on his attraction to and affection for other men are brought to light by noted illustrator Selznick in a reassembled and reinterpreted visual narrative that explores the theme of same-sex love.

PS3204 .S45 2019x

Love and Resistance: Out of the Closet, into the Stonewall Era

Edited by Jason Baumann

A collection of photographs from the New York Public Library Archives captures the humanity of the groundbreaking protests of the 1960s and 1970s surrounding the Stonewall Riots.

HQ76.8.U5 L68 2019

Soft Science

By Franny Choi

A series of Turing Test-inspired poems explores queer Asian American femininity, seeking tenderness in a violent world filled with artificial intelligence and automation.

PS3603.H653 A6 2019

The Tradition

By Jericho Brown

This collection of poems revolving around fatherhood, legacy, Blackness, queerness, worship, and trauma, celebrates survival in a world that has normalized evil.

PS3602.R699 A6 2019

We Are Everywhere: Protest, Power, and Pride in the History of Queer Liberation

By Matthew Riemer & Leighton Brown

This visual record of the Queer Liberation Movement presents a history of queer activism from the late 19th century to the Stonewall Riots to today.

HQ76.3.U5 R495 2019

NONFICTION

The Children of Harvey Milk: How LGBTQ Politicians Changed the World

By Andrew Reynolds

Based on in-depth interviews with more than fifty politicians, Reynolds tells the epic stories of courageous people around the world who came forward to make their voices heard in the struggle for equal rights.

HQ76.5 .R49 2019

Cruising: An Intimate History of a Radical Pastime

By Alex Espinoza

From Greek antiquity to Grindr, Espinoza examines the political and cultural forces behind the radical pastime of cruising, combining historical research with his own personal experience.

HQ76.115 .E875 2019x

The Hub of the Gay Universe: An LGBTQ History of Boston, Provincetown, and Beyond

By Russ Lopez

From the Trans Day of Remembrance to same-sex marriage, Boston and Provincetown have been at the forefront of the battle for LGBTQ+ rights. This work by a local author traces LGBTQ+ history in the Bay State.

HQ73.3.M4 L67 2019x

Life Isn't Binary: On Being Both, Beyond, and In-Between

By Alex Iantaffi & Meg-John Barker

Challenging society's rigid ways of thinking, Iantaffi and Barker demonstrate the limitations of binary thinking regarding our relationships, well-being, identity, and more.

HQ1075 I26 2019x

 available in audiobook

 available in eBook

 award winner

 graphic novel

Queer X Design: 50 Years of Signs, Symbols, Banners, Logos, and Graphic Art of LGBTQ

By Andy Campbell

Campbell showcases five decades of LGBTQ+ community history in this accessible collection of iconic posters, logos, and graphic art spanning the 1970s to the present.

N8217.E6 C36 2019x

Real Queer America: LGBT Stories from Red States

By Samantha Allen

Journalist Allen retraces her journey from a Mormon missionary in Utah to a trans woman living happily in rural Florida. As she crosses the heartland of America, Allen explores queer community and the ways it forms everywhere queer people live.

HQ76.3.U52 M533 2019x

The Stonewall Reader

Edited by Jason Baumann

Published to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, this anthology chronicles the tumultuous fight for LGBTQ+ rights in the 1960s and the activists who spearheaded it.

HQ76.8.U5 S77 2019x

When Brooklyn Was Queer: A History

By Hugh Ryan

A vibrant exploration of the forgotten LGBTQ+ history of Brooklyn, featuring drag kings of the late 1800s, a WWII gay Nazi spy scandal, and the queer women who worked at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

HQ73.3.U6 R83 2019

FICTION

Black Leopard, Red Wolf

By Marlon James

Tracker, a skilled hunter, is hired to find a missing boy along with a hodgepodge group of helpers in this fantastical tale that draws from African history and mythology.

SCIFI FANTASY JAMES M

Bury the Lede

By Gaby Dunn

College student Madison, an intern at The Boston Lede, meets Dahlia Kennedy for the first time at a murder scene. But when Dahlia is arrested for the crime, she won't talk to any other reporter except Madison.

GRAPHIC BURY THE LEDE

Cantoras

By Carolina De Robertis

In 1977 Uruguay, five cantoras, women who "sing," discover an uninhabited cape which they claim as their sanctuary. Away from the city they call home, where homosexuality is a dangerous transgression, they find comfort and family in each other.

FICTION DEROBER T

Gideon the Ninth

By Tamsyn Muir

Indentured servant and reluctant cavalier Gideon Nav must join Harrowhark, her House's necromancer, on her quest to become the Emperor God's newest immortal servant.

SCIFI FANTASY MUIR T

Leading Men

By Christopher Castellani

At a glittering party thrown by Truman Capote in Portofino in 1953, Tennessee Williams and his longtime lover Frank Merlo meet Anja Blomgren, a mysteriously taciturn aspiring actress. The encounter will forever alter their lives.

FICTION CASTELLA C

The Long Call

By Ann Cleeves

When a body is found on the beach, the case calls Matthew—now a detective and married to his husband, Jonathan—back into the strict evangelical community he thought he had left behind.

MYSTERY CLEEVES A

Lot: Stories

By Bryan Washington

The son of a Black mother and a Latino father comes of age in Houston: working at his family's restaurant, weathering his brother's blows, resenting his older sister's absence and discovering he likes boys.

FICTION WASHINGT B



The Luminous Dead

By Caitlin Starling

Gyre Price lied her way into a caving expedition, assuming that she'd get a skilled surface team to monitor her descent. Instead, she gets the cold and enigmatic Em, who prioritizes the mission over Gyre's safety.

SCIFI FANTASY STARLING C



Mostly Dead Things

By Kristen Arnett

After her father's suicide, Jessa's family begins falling apart. While her mother turns towards obscene art featuring taxidermied animals, her brother, jilted by his wife (Jessa's secret lover), withdraws leaving Jessa to pull the family together.

FICTION ARNETT K

On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous

By Ocean Vuong

A letter from a son to his mother explores the impact of the Vietnam War on their family history. Secure in the knowledge she will never read it, he reveals parts of his life that she has never known.

FICTION VUONG O

A People's History of Heaven

By Mathangi Subramanian

Five young women, including a transgender Christian convert and an outspoken queer rebel, grow up together in "Heaven," a Bangalore slum that must confront the threat of demolition.

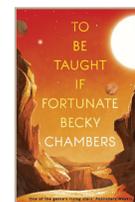
FICTION SUBRAMAN M

The Secrets We Kept

By Lara Prescott

At the height of the Cold War, two secretaries are pulled out of the typing pool at the CIA. Their mission: to smuggle Doctor Zhivago out of the USSR and help the novel make its way into print around the world.

FICTION PRESCOTT L



To Be Taught, If Fortunate

By Becky Chambers

Ariadne, an astronaut on a voyage between worlds, transforms her body for each new environment. Meanwhile, back on Earth, society changes dramatically as her mission progresses.

SCIFI FANTASY CHAMBERS B

-  available in audiobook
-  available in eBook
-  award winner
-  graphic novel

Willa & Hesper

By Amy Feltman

Two young women fall in love, and then fall apart. From Tbilisi to the war sites of Germany, they discover what can break and what can mend when you look to the past to understand your present.

FICTION FELTMAN A

ROMANCE AND EROTICA

American Dreamer

By Adriana Herrera

Nesto Vasquez has six months to make his Afro-Caribbean food truck a success in upstate New York—the last thing he needs is a distraction. But the handsome local librarian might offer a kind of happiness not measured in dollars and cents.

Available in digital format only

The Lady's Guide to Celestial Mechanics

By Olivia Waite

In the wake of her father's death and her lover's marriage, astronomer Lucy Muchelney seizes the scientific opportunity of a lifetime and runs off to London, where she finds solace and support from the widowed Catherine St. Day.

FICTION WAITE O

Lord of the Last Heartbeat: A Fantasy Romance

By May Peterson

In an opulent fantasy world, an opera singer with the ability to steal thoughts turns for help to a mysterious lord haunted by his wife's ghost and a terrible curse. Will they find love and freedom together, or only another cage?

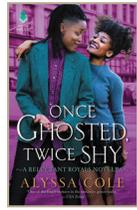
Available in digital format only

Mrs. Martin's Incomparable Adventure

By Courtney Milan

A seventy-three-year-old widow and a sixty-nine-year-old spinster hatch a plan to ruin the life of the Terrible Nephew who has gravely inconvenienced them both... and they might just fall in love along the way.

Available in digital format only



Once Ghosted, Twice Shy



By Alyssa Cole

When Likotsi runs into the ex who ghosted her on a stalled train, the thought of closure has her agreeing to one last whirlwind tour of NYC. Unfortunately, spending more time with Fabiola isn't helping Likotsi get over her.

ROMANCE COLE A

Raze

By Roan Parrish

Felix has spent his life looking after his younger siblings, while Huey's identity revolves around his work as a sober sponsor. Will two longtime caretakers be able to let someone else take care of them for a change?

Available in digital format only



Red, White & Royal Blue



By Casey McQuiston

After a royal wedding disaster, Alex Claremont-Diaz, the son of the first woman President of the United States, must fake

a friendship with Prince Henry of England to prevent an international scandal.

FICTION MCQUISTO C

Reverb

By Anna Zabo

When an attack by a stalker lands rockstar Mish Sullivan in the hospital, her band puts their foot down. David, the martial arts expert hired as her bodyguard, is more than capable of keeping Mish safe... if their blazing sexual attraction doesn't distract them both.

Available in digital format only

Tea / Coffee

By Matthew Metzger

When John bumps into Chris in a coffee shop, their instant attraction is overwhelming. Can they overcome John's fear of commitment and Chris' family's disapproval in order to find a place in each other's worlds?

Available in digital format only

Xeni: A Marriage of Inconvenience

By Rebekah Weatherspoon

Xeni is blindsided by the condition of her inheritance: she has to marry her aunt's protégé, a shy bagpipe-playing Scot. They find they have more in common than they expected—including their bisexuality—but family drama threatens to derail their wedded bliss.

ROMANCE WEATHERS R



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Cover photography: June 14, 2014. Boston, MA. Boston Pride Parade and Festival. Boston Pride Committee. © 2014 Marilyn Humphries

