

More LGBTQ+ Recommendations

Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda...Becky Albertalli

I Am J...Cris Beam

Beauty Queens...Libba Bray

How Beautiful the Ordinary...Michael Cart, ed.

Beautiful Music for Ugly Children...Kristin Cronn-Mills

The Miseducation of Cameron Post...Emily M. Danforth

Dreadnought & Sovereign...April Daniels

Down to the Bone...Maya Lazara Dole

If You Could Be Mine...Sara Farizan

Annie On My Mind...Nancy Garden

Symptoms of Being Human...Jeff Garvin

The Difference Between You and Me...Madeleine George

Lily and Dunkin ♦...Donna Gephart

Girl Mans Up...M.E. Girard

Will Grayson, Will Grayson...John Green & David Levithan

Geography Club...Brent Hartinger

Totally Joe ♦...James Howe

Boy Meets Boy ♦...David Levithan

Ash ♦ & Huntress...Malinda Lo

Without Annette...Jane B. Mason

The Big Lie...Julie Mayhew

Not Otherwise Specified...Hannah Moskowitz

Kissing Kate...Lauren Myracle

I'll Give You the Sun...Jandy Nelson

It's Our Prom (So Deal With It)...Julie Ann Peters

The Necessary Hunger...Nina Revoyr

Carry On ♦...Rainbow Rowell

Skim...Mariko & Jillian Tamaki

Honor Girl...Maggie Thrash

Spinning ♦...Tillie Walden

Putting Makeup on the Fat Boy ♦...Bill Wright

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LGBTQ+ Fiction



LGBTQ+ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning. Sometimes you will also see I for intersex, A for asexual, P for pansexual, and a + for the myriad other identity terms that are more specific or haven't been invented yet.

This list of mostly fiction was compiled by Jae, a non-binary queer person with their Sun and Moon in Cancer. This is probably why they love emotional stories that catch them deep in the feels or make their heart sing with joy.

Books that are Middle School grade friendly are denoted with a ♦ symbol

A Teen Reads Guide

Georgia Peaches and Other Forbidden Fruit

By Jaye Robin Brown

Joanna Gordon has been out and proud for years, but when her popular radio evangelist father remarries and decides to move all three of them from Atlanta to the more conservative Rome, Georgia, he asks Jo to do the impossible: to lie low for the rest of her senior year.

Why didn't I start this IMMEDIATELY upon picking it up??? It's so good I was already laughing in solidarity on page one.

Star-Crossed ♦

By Barbara Dee

When Mattie is cast as Romeo in an eighth-grade play, she is confused to find herself increasingly attracted to Gemma, a new classmate who is playing Juliet.

Do you know what it feels like to develop a crush without realizing it's a crush?? And then when your friend points it out to you because it's so obvious, you finally recognize it as a crush and all your bubbly feelings are magnified by the anxiety of anyone finding out??? IF NOT THAT'S OK because this book will make you feel all those feels.

Two Boys Kissing ♦

By David Levithan

A chorus of men who died of AIDS observes and yearns to help a cross-section of today's gay teens who navigate new love, long-term relationships, coming out, self-acceptance, and more in a society that has changed in many ways.

This book so poignantly captures what it is to be a gay teenager in the early 21st century: the need to be seen; feeling like a part of something when you meet other queer people and learn your collective history; feeling desperate and alone if you don't. Levithan is a skilled writer of teenage feelings.

Juliet Takes a Breath

By Gabby Rivera

Juliet Milagros Palante is leaving the Bronx and headed to Portland, Oregon. She just came out to her family and isn't sure if her mom will ever speak to her again. Will Juliet be able to figure out her life over the course of one magical summer? Is that even possible? Or is she running away from all the problems that seem too big to handle?

Very honest, very raw, and very funny with a lot of nuance and detail to the depiction of the varying realms of queer radical feminist community.

None of the Above

By I.W. Gregorio

A groundbreaking story about a teenage girl who discovers she was born intersex... and what happens when her secret is revealed to the entire school. An incredibly compelling and sensitively told novel that explores what it means to be a boy, a girl, or something in between.

This is the only intersex character I have ever encountered that felt authentic, was well researched, and accurately represented without any Very Special Episode vibes. And it's also just a really good book!

Grasshopper Jungle

By Andrew Smith

Austin Szerba narrates the end of humanity as he and his best friend Robby accidentally unleash an army of giant, unstoppable bugs and uncover the secrets of a decades-old experiment gone terribly wrong.

If you like your bisexual love triangle with a side of deeply disturbing dystopia, Andrew Smith has your back.

Unbecoming

By Jenny Downham

Life has just become very complicated for seventeen-year-old Katie; her father walked out a year ago, her mother is stressed out, her brother is a "special needs" teenager, and she is caring for the maternal grandmother she has never met, who is suffering from Alzheimer's--and Katie has a secret of her own.

This was lovely and painful and frustrating and sweet.

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe

By Benjamin Alire Sáenz

Fifteen-year-old Ari Mendoza is an angry loner with a brother in prison, but when he meets Dante and they become friends, Ari starts to ask questions about himself, his parents, and his family that he has never asked before.

If you're looking for a good cry, this emotional book may be the one for you. Keep an eye out for the upcoming sequel.

The Art of Being Normal ♦

By Lisa Williamson

David Piper, always an outsider, forms an unlikely friendship with Leo Denton who, from the first day at his new school wants only to be invisible, but when David's deepest secret gets out, that he wants to be a girl, things get very messy for both of them.

A very sweet British import. Anglophiles take note.

When the Moon Was Ours

By Anna-Marie McLemore

As their deep friendship turns to love, Latina teenager Miel, who grows roses from her wrist, and Italian-Pakistani Samir, a transgender boy, fear their secrets will be exposed by the beautiful Bonner girls, four sisters rumored to be witches.

Magical realism with a multicultural cast? Starring a trans character? And witches?! Get this to the top of your ToBeRead list.

It's Not Like It's a Secret

By Misa Sugiura

Sixteen-year-old Sana Kiyohara has too many secrets. Some are small, like how it bothers her when her friends don't invite her to parties. Some are big, like that fact that her father may be having an affair. And then there's the one that she can barely even admit to herself—the one about how she might have a crush on her best friend.

Sana is thoughtful and introspective, but keeping it all in makes a mess of her life. Grab this if you like complex main characters who sometimes need poetry to speak for them until they learn to speak up for themselves.

Parrotfish ♦

By Ellen Wittlinger

Grady, a transgender high school student, yearns for acceptance by his classmates and family as he struggles to adjust to his new identity as a male.

As one of the earliest novels about a trans teenager, this is little more than a coming out story, but gosh, is it a good one. Grady's internal experience shines through the simplicity of the plot.

Lumberjanes (Comic Book Series) ♦

By Noelle Stevenson, Shannon Watters, et al.

Friendship to the max! At Miss Quinzella Thiskwin Penniquiquil Thistle Crumpet's camp for hardcore lady-types, things are not what they seem. Three-eyed foxes. Secret caves. Anagrams. Luckily, Jo, April, Mal, Molly and Ripley are five rad, butt-kicking best pals determined to have an awesome summer together-- and they're not gonna let a magical quest or an array of supernatural critters get in their way!

Queer girls! Trans girls! Non-binary folk! Deep and loyal friendships! Maximum ridiculousity! And if that doesn't reel you in, surely the constant adventure, shenanigans, and continuously unravelling mystery will. This series is a treasure