

# [Over the Rainbow Press Release ALAMW 2019](#)

By [Alan Woo](#) 2019/01/28

SEATTLE – The Over the Rainbow Booklist committee of the American Library Association’s Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Round Table (ALA-GLBTRT) considered 469 books this year, 284 fiction and 185 nonfiction titles. After careful reading, wide-ranging discussion, and due deliberation, the final Booklist consists of 50 fiction titles in 5 categories (Short Stories, Poetry, Literary and General Interest (combined), Graphic, and Genre (all genres)) and 54 nonfiction titles in 4 categories (Academic, Memoirs/Biographies, History, and General Interest).

With the expansion of queer publishing across the rainbow, we read an incredibly diverse collection of titles from major, independent, and self-publishers. Themes running through books this year include: the pros and cons of visibility; the resilience of individuals telling complex stories in their own voices that blurred lines between queerness and disability, class, ethnicity, race, religion and age; a ‘second phase’ of publishing, past the introduction of issues, that addressed law and medical practices; resilience in the face of oppression and violence; and the effects of history on both individuals and culture, envisioning a future outside current circumstances.

**The top ten fiction and nonfiction titles for the 2018 Over the Rainbow Booklist are:**

*Bingo Love* by Tee Franklin, Image Comics

*David Bowie Made Me Gay* by Darryl W. Bullock, Overlook Press

*Harvey Milk* by Lillian Faderman, Yale University Press

*Her Body and Other Parties* by Carmen Maria Machado, Graywolf Press

*House of Impossible Beauties* by Joseph Cassara, Ecco/Harper/Collins

*Living Out Loud*, Michael Murphy, editor, Routledge

*Mean* by Myriam Gurba, Coffeehouse Books

*Othered* by Randi M. Romo, Sibling Rivalry Press

*So Lucky* by Nicola Griffith, Macmillan

*Trap Door*, Reina Gossett, editor, MIT Press

## **2019 Over the Rainbow Nonfiction Titles**

### **Academic Works**

[\*Black Performance on the Outskirts of the Left\*](#). Malik Gaines. NYU Press, 2017. An academic look at black embodiment and its expression, from the silver screen to the political theater. Gaines observes how radical black performers from W.E.B Du Bois to Sylvester communicate resistance to (and transcendence from) hegemonic understandings of gender, race, and sexuality.

[\*Children of Harvey Milk: How LGBTQ Politicians Changed the World\*](#). Andrew Reynolds. Oxford University Press, 2018. A unique look at how politics affect the LGBTQ community and the LGBTQ politicians that help bring about the changes needed for the community. Reynolds does an excellent job at not only looking at past politicians but current game changers as well.

[\*Circulating Queerness: Before the Gay and Lesbian Novel\*](#). Natasha Hurley. University of Minnesota Press, 2018. A look at the emergence of homosexuality as a genre and the ways in which history and society influenced it prior to and after its exposure.

[\*Darker Side of Slash Fan Fiction: Essays on Power, Consent and the Body\*](#). Ashton Spacey. McFarland, 2018. Research exploring the ever-changing complexities of queer fan fiction as a genre and how marginalized voices are both heard and ignored in the fiction and among slash fan communities; delves into subjects including asexual, disabled, male pregnancy, violence between partners, and dubious consent, to a depth not usually plumbed.

[\*For the Hard Ones: A Lesbian Phenomenology\*](#). tatiana de la tierra. A Midsummer Night's Press, 2018. This provocative, compelling, straight forward Colombian Lesbian perspective is an excellent addition to any academic library. tatiana de la tierra shares her insight into lesbian relationships and the intersectionality with culture with no regrets and no apologies, and we can always use more of that perspective.

[\*Gay Priori: A Queer Critical Legal Studies Approach to Law Reform\*](#). Libby Adler. Duke University Press, 2018. A densely-packed and penetrating study on the reasons behind the priorities of the queer law reform movement and the continuing neglect of those marginalized populations who are most in need (formal equality versus redistribution or equity).

[\*Gay, Inc.: The Nonprofitization of Queer Politics\*](#). Myrl Beam. University of Minnesota Press, 2018. Beam presents case studies arguing that the mainstreaming of queer activism is tied to a nonprofit system that actually reinforces institutionalized inequality.

[\*Gender Ambiguity in the Workplace: Transgender and Gender-Diverse Discrimination\*](#). Alison Ash Fogarty, Lily Zheng. Praeger, 2018. This work addresses what it is like to be a trans-identifying individual in San Francisco. This informational piece allows a reader to understand potential issues that could arise, but focuses more on ways for employers and workplaces to be inclusive to transgender employees.

[\*Growing Up Queer\*](#). Mary Robertson. NYU Press, 2018. Explores a groundbreaking time where children and adolescents are able to identify and explore themselves as the new 'normal'. This informative work investigates how growing up with this open-mindset has intertwined with other parts of development and culture.

[\*LGBTQ Divorce and Relationship Dissolution\*](#). Abbie E. Goldberg, Adam P. Romero, eds. Oxford University Press, 2018. There is a lack in LGBTQ academic study for a basic textbook specifically geared toward covering LGBTQ relationships terminating. This book changes that and covers patterns amongst LGBTQ relationship dissolution giving insight into ways LGBTQ families may handle a variety of issues that may arise during separation. It pulls its information from a variety of essays written by leading experts and is broken into four easy to read segments making it suitable for a classroom text or a single situation reference manual.

[\*Life and Death of Latisha King: A Critical Phenomenology of Transphobia\*](#). Gayle Salamon. NYU Press, 2018. An unflinching look at the 2008 murder of 15-year old Latisha King by her classmate. Salamon thoroughly covers reportage and court documents surrounding the event as she peels apart language and even gesture to expose the inner workings of the "transphobic imaginary" at the heart of violence against the gender-transgressing.

[\*Living Out Loud: An Introduction to LGBTQ History, Society, and Culture\*](#). Michael Murphy, ed. Routledge, 2018. Excellent beginner textbook for any university LGBT centered course. It covers a variety of topics and is well

laid out. The freedom they give to contributors to use whichever acronym fits the situation they are discussing is also unique. You can even find sexual identities not typically discussed like those found in the BDSM and Kink community.

[\*Other, Please Specify\*](#). D’Lane Compton, Tey Meadow, Kristen Schilt, eds. University of California Press, 2018. This text is targeted to those in the field of sociology, but offers important guidance for any researcher. Created by those practicing in the field, the book gives insight on how to work with and research within an often-targeted community.

[\*Post-Borderlandia: Chicana Literature and Gender Variant Critique\*](#). T. Jackie Cuevas. Rutgers University Press, 2018. Running with the theme of intersectionality this year Post-Borderlandia covers gender identity, race, power dynamics and Trans issues and their effects on current Chicana and Chicanx narratives. It’s a powerful addition to feminist, LGBTQ, and Latinx/a/o studies.

[\*Punishing Disease : HIV and the Criminalization of Sickness\*](#). Trevor Hoppe. University of California Press, 2018. This study examines the rise and application of criminal laws, and the public health system support of coercive and punitive responses, to the HIV/AIDS crisis, and gives an overview of how others suffering diseases have been punished historically.

[\*Queering Autoethnography\*](#). Stacy Holman Jones, Anne M. Harris. Routledge, 2018. This work illuminates how autoethnography is a hybridizing of the personal and the theoretical – this short, powerful book connects personal queer experience to oppressive places, institutions, and cultural norms of power to advocate a collective fight for justice.

[\*Semi Queer: Inside the World of Gay, Trans, and Black Truck Drivers\*](#). Anne Balay. University of North Carolina Press, 2018. Offers a look into the world of long-haul trucking. Through oral history interviews, queer and minority trucker drivers share their stories of their daily lives, as well as prejudice and exploitation they have faced in their line of work. It is also an examination of why long-haul trucking holds appeal for some people from these same communities.

[\*Struggling for Ordinary: Media and Transgender Belonging in Everyday Life\*](#). Andre Cavalcante. NYU Press, 2018. Solid research from historical and media rhetoric lenses alongside interviews of people from different eras and age groups in the midwestern United States. He looks at the “tipping point” of transgender identity, the tension between acceptance and queerness, and various solutions for belonging lived by transgender individuals.

[\*Theater of the Ridiculous: A Critical History\*](#). Kelly I. Aliano. McFarland, 2018. A scholarly survey of the movement that highlights the radical possibilities of camp, from the development of the genre to the contemporary theatre scene, with special attention paid to Charles Ludlam, Maria Montez, Jack Smith, and Ethyl Eichelberger.

[\*Trans Kids: Being Gendered in the Twenty-First Century\*](#). Tey Meadow. University of California Press, 2018 This survey gathers firsthand accounts as to what it’s like growing up as the first-generation with affirming families who have gender nonconforming kids.

[\*Transgender Sex Work and Society\*](#). Larry Nuttbrock. Harrington Park Press/Columbia University Press, 2018. Scholarly examinations of topics related to transgender sex workers, in the United States and abroad. Substance use, mental and physical health, crime and violence are some of the topics of study, and several areas needing more research are mentioned.

[Trap Door: Trans Cultural Production and the Politics of Visibility](#). Reina Gossett, ed. MIT Press, 2017. Visibility and its discontents drive this volume of essays on trans life and culture. Art criticism, queer history, political theory, and personal narrative are woven together, often in a single chapter. A multiplicity of voices means that chapters vary in quality, but Trap Door is more than a sum of its parts. The collection contextualizes queer past and envisions radical futures even as its inhabitants struggle with the darkness of the present.

[Turning the Page: Storytelling as Activism in Queer Film and Media](#). David R. Coon. Rutgers University Press, 2018. Introduces three organizations trying to change how queer media is represented in Hollywood and how it is presented to the general public, in order to strengthen every community and motivate for social justice.

## **Biographies and Memoirs**

[Andy Warhol, Publisher](#). Lucy Mulroney. University of Chicago Press, 2018. This work fuses art theory, queer history, and personal poetics as it explores some of Warhol's lesser-known work. Mulroney focuses both on the artistic ingenuity and social impact of the collaborative publishing projects facilitated by Warhol. Warhol's work, often seen in a vacuum, is placed at the intersections of scene, sexuality, and social artmaking.

[Harvey Milk: His Lives and Death](#). Lillian Faderman. Yale University Press, 2018. Harvey Milk and his legacy has been covered extensively, but this new biography stands out from the crowd. Faderman doesn't lean into hagiography, instead giving a comprehensive and intersectional account of Milk's life and his relevance in the current political moment.

[House of Nutter: The rebel tailor of Savile Row](#). Lance Richardson. Crown Archetype/Penguin Random House, 2018. An interesting look at a brothers' relationship with each other, their careers, and their own sexuality. The photographs scattered throughout were an excellent addition and it gives a neat peek into how mental health was viewed through the lenses of the 50's and 60's.

[Looking for Lorraine: The Radiant and Radical Life of Lorraine Hansberry](#). Imani Perry. Beacon Press, 2018. The book takes its name from Looking for Langston, Isaac Julien's impressionistic film in memorial of Langston Hughes and black queer history. Perry's newest more than lives up to the legacy she has placed it in. This "third-person memoir" illuminates the life and legacy of groundbreaking black lesbian playwright Lorraine Hansberry. Perry combines a wealth of research with poetics and personal experience in this gorgeous and necessary biography.

[Lost Autobiography of Samuel Steward: Recollections of an Extraordinary Twentieth-Century Gay Life](#). Samuel Steward, Jeremy Mulderig, ed. University of Chicago Press, 2018. An absorbing, funny, and astonishing memoir of a man with many talents and many identities: Samuel Steward, university professor; Phil Sparrow, tattoo artist; Ward Stames, John McAndrews, and Donald Bishop, writing ground-breaking essays in the first European gay magazines; Phil Andros, explicit novelist; and a man who lived life to its fullest.

[Mean](#). Myriam Gurba. Coffee House Books, 2017. Michelle Tea meets Helene Cixous in this surrealistic exploration of the spaces between trauma and eros. At turns caustic and vulnerable, Gurba's experimental memoir is a queer Chicana coming-of-age story told from outside time and inside her body. Intense, darkly humorous, and very readable.

[My Butch Career: A Memoir](#). Esther Newton. Duke University Press, 2018. The compelling story of a 'gender outlaw in the making', a ground-breaking figure in LGBT history, and her struggle to find her identity as an openly queer academic in a particularly intense time of homophobic persecution.

[\*No Ashes in the Fire: Coming of Age Black and Free in America\*](#). Darnell L. Moore. Nation Books, 2018.

Intersectionality is a hot topic in the LGBTQ community but few could understand all the many intersections one may possibly encounter in a life. Darnell L. Moore's "No Ashes in the Fire" is a memoir that covers many intersections, being a Black man, queer, and growing up in poverty. It is an inspiring work that covers struggles, triumphs and a path not often traveled and even less often talked about.

[\*Out of Step: A Memoir\*](#). Anthony Moll. Ohio State University Press, 2018. A well-crafted story that explores the unexpected parallels between life in the military during the years of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' and the quest for identity as a bisexual man, in this unwavering, sometimes painful, sometimes funny memoir.

[\*Sinner in Mecca\*](#). Parvez Sharma. BenBella Books, 2017. This work shares the journey of a gay Muslim man traveling to Mecca to perform the hajj in 2010, made even more dangerous since he is also a closeted Sunni Muslim. The author documented the journey on a film of the same name.

[\*Sister Love: The Letters of Audre Lorde and Pat Parker 1974-1989\*](#). Julie R. Enszer. A Midsummer Night's Press, 2018. This work reveals a friendship between two important African American lesbian poets through their letters. The text offers insight into what it is to be a woman of color during this same time period and the micro and regular aggressions endured within the literary community.

[\*To my Trans Sisters\*](#). Charles Craggs, ed. Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2017. A book by trans women and for trans women – a rare and needed perspective in a world of coming-out-stories framed for cis audiences. This series of letters is full of advice, empathy, strength and hope from trans women speaking to their younger selves and to their larger communities. An uplifting and powerful collection centering the experiences of a community all-too-often made invisible.

[\*Tomorrow will be different: Love, loss, and the fight for Trans Equality\*](#). Sarah McBride. Crown Archetype / Penguin Random House, 2018. Sarah is a well-known figure in Washington, D.C and to the Democratic Party. She is an activist and an advocate for Trans rights and visibility. Her memoir shares her experience, looking beyond the privilege she was born with and those she was not, to help others fighting for equality.

[\*Unpunished Vice: A Life of Reading\*](#). Edmund White. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2018. A memoir and book of books wrapped up into one, from one of America's best known "gay novelists," a phrase he also explores in this book. He digs deep into books that have influenced him, stayed with him, or held meaning for him in various parts of his life. He also shares a lot about his life, friends, other writers and lovers (and ex-lovers!), and talks about how much being a gay man in America has changed since his childhood (born in 1940) and how his reading has changed since a recent health scare left him unconscious for three days.

[\*Wild Mares\*](#). Dianna Hunter. University of Minnesota Press, 2018. A memoir about what the author calls the "lesbian land movement" of the 1970s, and her participation in attempts contributing to farm-based "utopian" societies of women only in the rural Midwest. Side commentary on clothing, haircuts, music, depression, and so on bring the reader into the era directly.

## **General Interest**

[\*After Silence\*](#). Avram Finkelstein. University of California Press, 2017. Finkelstein's latest is billed as "a history of AIDS and its images". More than that, it is a personal history of the minds and bodies behind the groundbreaking visual protest strategies that accompanied 80's AIDS activism. Love for collaborators and the movement drives this book even as we are reminded, in the words of activist art collective Gran Fury, "ART IS NOT ENOUGH".

[\*Calypso\*](#). David Sedaris. Little, Brown and Co., 2018. Fans of David Sedaris will be no stranger to the dark camp sensibilities at play in *Calypso*. What's surprising, though, is a somber tone at play even in his moments of irreverence. Sedaris' reflections on mortality, middle age, and familial loss are delivered with characteristic heart. His wit is still present, if muted, making this volume feel all the more intimate. An unexpended and welcome addition to his oeuvre.

[\*Clinician's Guide to Gender-Affirming Care\*](#). Sand C. Chang, Anneliese A. Singh, Lore M. Dickey. Context Press, 2018. A practical handbook for medical practitioners, including mental health providers. It goes beyond basic definitions to ask clinicians to examine their own biases and misconceptions about transgender and nonconforming clients, and provides example scenarios where care providers handled a medical situation inadequately. Case studies come with suggestions for scripts to navigate similar situations, and reaffirms the importance of the client's needs and desires coming first.

[\*David Bowie Made Me Gay: 100 Years of LGBT Music\*](#). Darryl W. Bullock. Overlook Press, 2017. Well-researched overview of queer musicians who have had a major impact on popular music, bringing to light hidden stories and closely examining queer performative movements, making this a compelling and important work.

[\*Gender: Your Guide\*](#). Lee Airton. Adams Media/Simon & Schuster, 2018. Many things amazing in life are constantly evolving; including language and gender. In today's world a book like *Gender: Your Guide* is an excellent resource for allies looking to understand that evolution. Easily broken into three parts with very clear sections this book is an easy, quick read for anyone trying to learn about gender in today's world.

[\*Little in Love with Everyone: Alison Bechdel's Fun Home\*](#). Genevieve Hudson. Advocate, 2018. The newest in Fiction Advocate's series of books investigating "essential readings of the new canon". This work explores *Fun Home*'s themes of openness and repression. Hudson illuminates Bechdel's highly personal text by placing it in historical and literary context. The author also explores her own personal connection to *Fun Home* and its impact as her roadmap to the world of lesbian literature.

[\*Unbound: Transgender Men and the Remaking of Identity\*](#). Arlene Stein. Pantheon, 2018. This work provides a wide range of experiences from personal accounts of transgender men. The author has also included interviews with friends and family members, making the book useful for family members learning to be supportive. The book maintains a narrow focus – patients from one office, all from the United States, making the medical information (insurance strategies, etc) only useful to those in the states.

## **History**

[\*Boys of Fairy Town\*](#). Jim Elledge. Chicago Review Press, 2018. This work uses patterns of history and individual biography to illuminate the queer history of Chicago from the founding of the city through World War II; aimed at general readers and anyone interested in queer history brought vividly to life.

[\*Ike's Mystery Man: The Secret Lives of Robert Cutler\*](#). Peter Shinkle. Steerford Press, 2018. The searing true story of Robert Cutler, America's first National Security Advisory under President Eisenhower, who helped create the executive order that banned gay people from working in or being a contractor for the federal government while he, himself, was a closeted gay man.

[\*No Sanctuary: Teachers and the School Reform That Brought Gay Rights to the Masses\*](#). Stephen Lane. ForeEdge, 2018. a detailed history of grassroots efforts by teachers and students to reform schools into safe places for queer youth.

[\*Pride: The Unlikely Story of the True Heroes of the Miner's Strike\*](#). Tim Tate. John Blake, 2018. This oral history of the foundation of Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners (LGSM) which helped the families of Welsh miners survive a painful strike in Thatcher's UK, shows the disparate groups overcoming prejudices to show solidarity in the face of aggressive governmental persecution.

[\*Tinderbox: The Untold Story of the Up Stairs Lounge Fire and the Rise of Gay Liberation\*](#). Robert W. Fieseler. Liveright, 2018. This book brings to light a historical event that has long been closeted and pushed to the side that deeply affected the LGBTQ community. Fieseler writes in a journalistic style that does due diligence to bringing the facts of the case to a world that may not of heard of the event before.

[\*Berlin's Third Sex\*](#). Magnus Hirschfeld. Rixdorf Editions, 2017. The work provides views into a German sub-culture during 1904. Well-written and full of inspiring views and a positive look at the culture, this work offers insight into a time LGBT stories are often cast in negative light. This is the first translation into English of this classic work.

[\*Out for Queer Blood\*](#). Clayton Delery. Exposit Books/McFarland, 2017. This history addresses the murder of Fernando Rios, the trial, and the aftermath. Delery touches on a variety of topics including homophobia, the genealogy of the "gay panic defense," and hate crimes law.

[\*Queer City: Gay London from the Romans to the Present Day\*](#). Peter Ackroyd. Abrams Press, 2018. An historic look into two thousand years' worth of queer London history that explores the link between urbanity and non-heterosexuality.

[\*Lesbian South\*](#). Jaime Harker. University of North Carolina Press, 2018. A chronicle of the Women in Print movement through its participants and their connections to liberation movements and the American south. Harker links celebrated authors, underground publishers, feminist figures, and readers both in and out of the closet. Well-researched, illuminating and enjoyable.

## **2019 Over The Rainbow Fiction Titles**

### **Genre Fiction**

[\*Alice Isn't Dead\*](#). Joseph Fink. Harper Perennial, 2018. Keisha lives happily with her wife Alice until the day Alice disappears, presumed dead. After months of grieving, Keisha sees Alice in the background of a news report and takes matters into her own hands, becoming a long-haul truck driver, searching for her missing wife. Along the way, she stumbles across a secret American history, an inhuman serial killer, and a supernatural war being waged along the interstate highway system. This novel based on Fink's podcast of the same name takes a haunting look at the liminal spaces along the open road, affirming the power of love in every mile.

[\*Cabin at the End of the World\*](#). Paul Tremblay. William Morrow, 2018. Creepy and violent, Tremblay's apocalyptic horror story features Eric and Andrew and their daughter Wen in a terrifying home invasion that forces the couple to make some horrific decisions in order to survive.

[\*God Game: A Dan Sharp Mystery\*](#). Jeffrey Round. Dundurn, 2018. Private detective Dan Sharp has been hired to find the gambling-addicted husband of an aide in the Ontario legislature in Round's fifth Dan Sharp mystery.

Braving political intrigue and scandal, Sharp finds he has gone too deep into the seedy underbelly of Ontario's political deal-making and government shenanigans. During the course of the investigation, Sharp's life is further complicated by planning a graduation trip for his son to the West Coast and his own wedding to Nick, a Toronto cop. Round's writing transforms Canadian politics into a fast-paced, thrilling page-turner.

[\*Lamb Will Slaughter the Lion\*](#). Margaret Killjoy. Tor, 2017. While the apocalypse seems to draw close, Killjoy has already explored how an anarchist utopian might thrive, a group of marginalized outsiders with different races, genders, and sexual identities. When their protective demon familiar begins to destroy them, they band together even more tightly to try and survive. This is a quick and delightfully creepy read for sci-fi fans.

[\*Sodom Road Exit\*](#). Amber Dawn. Arsenal Pulp Press, 2018. Haunted by the 90's? Starla returning home to live with her mother after incurring significant university debt. That's not the only thing haunting her though – as she finds herself drawn to the Crystal Beach amusement park, rediscovering a high school friend who becomes her girlfriend, and a ghost with a need to be seen.

[\*Trick Roller\*](#). Cordelia Kingsbridge. Riptide, 2018. The second book in the Seven of Spades series, Trick Roller is a gripping mystery that explores the new relationship between Levi and Dominic and the thrilling exploits of a serial killer who is not yet done with them.

[\*Unkindness of Ghosts\*](#). River Solomon. Akashic Books, 2017. This Lambda Literary Award finalist crafts a challenging, oppressive world on a spaceship carrying the last of humanity into space. Dark-skinned and hyper-intelligent Aster, a resident of the lower decks, works as a healer under her upper deck friend Theo (the Surgeon of the ship), until she notices a mysterious illness suffered by the Sovereign of the ship. Then Aster and Theo (indeed, the whole ship) are plunged into a sinister mystery that they could never have imagined. This antebellum space opera is told with a queer, neuro-atypical slant: Aster and Theo are both gender-variant and neurodivergent and utterly brilliant.

[\*Whisper of Bones: A Jane Lawless Mystery\*](#). Ellen Hart. Minotaur Books/Macmillan, 2018. Minneapolis PI Jane Lawless goes on a journey to discover a family secret in this twenty-fifth entry in the series. Britt Ickles, visiting genomics professor, remembers playing with her cousin Timmy the last time she visited her mom's family; however, as an adult when she visits her aunts, they tell her that there was no Timmy. Naturally, Jane is intrigued. She rents a room at the aunts' home and begins investigating all the inhabitants. Mysterious things begin to happen. With an interesting plot, nice misdirection, and unique characters, Hart writes an enthralling cozy mystery to entertain readers.

[\*Witchmark\*](#). C.L. Polk. Tor.com/Macmillan, 2018. The first book in The Kingston Cycle is an Edwardian fantasy in which we are introduced to a class based magical network filled with political machinations that our main character Miles Singer has done his best to try to escape. But you can't run away from fate or angels. This story is filled with mystery, romance, magic, fantasy, and a touch of science.

## **Graphic Narrative**

[\*Bingo Love\*](#). Tee Franklin. Image Comics, 2018. Hazel and Mari are teenagers when they first meet in the early 1960s. When their friendship blossoms into something more, they are forced apart by their families and society. Decades later at a bingo hall, the two find each other again and finally embark on the life of which they had been robbed. A graphic novel that will warm your heart.



[Gumballs](#). Erin Nations. Top Shelf Productions, 2018. Nations created an autobiographical graphic novel with his unique square headed style of characters, exploring what it meant to grow up as an identical twin in a set of triplets, and how his life and body shifted when he started his gender confirmation journey. This collection is really fun and accessible, a great overview of one man's trans experience.

[Lie and How We Told It](#). Tommi Parrish. Fantagraphics, 2018. In this beautifully-rendered graphic novel, old friends Cleary and Tim run into each other at the grocery store one day and reconnect. Over the course of a night, they discuss the choices that they made and the paths each has traveled since they parted. With subtlety and dexterity, Parrish weaves an honest tale, brimming with struggle and self-realization over one's sexuality and being true to one's self.

[My Brother's Husband Volume 2](#). Genoroh Tagame. Pantheon, 2018. At its heart, this is the story of a man coming to terms with the unquestioned cultural assumptions about sexuality he's harbored all his life and rediscovering the meaning of family, for his own and his daughter's sake. The genius of Tagame's art lies in its ability to suggest without insistence that Yaichi's real journey of discovery has just begun. A joyous and hopeful work.

[Sugar Town](#). Hazel Newlevant. Newlevant Comix, 2018. This fun and colorful graphic novel jubilantly celebrates bisexuality, queer love, and polyamorous relationships. There's good information about how to make polyamory successful but the story doesn't get pedantic or weighed down. Topics like sex work, jealousy, and domination add to a sweetly romantic story.

## **Literary and General Interest**

[Bastarda](#). Trifonia Melibea Obono. Feminist Press, 2018. Seventeen-year-old Okomo lives in the tribal town of Ayá Esang in Equatorial Guinea with her grandparents. From the beginning, we learn that Okomo's mother is dead, that her father is a scoundrel, and that she is illegitimate because her father did not pay a dowry before sleeping with her mother. She deals with cultural and familial strictures and personal abuse but fights for her life and love. Obono is the first woman writer from Equatorial Guinea to be translated into English. Her novel brings a refreshing take on the coming-of-age story and on feminist and queer culture in Central Africa.

[Book of Hats](#). Dov Zeller. Tiny Golem Press, 2018. In this mystical epic, Ida is a trans boy coming of age during the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century surrounded by her family's hat-making business. (Although it's obvious Ida is trans, the pronoun used throughout is she.) When the truth about Ida begins to unravel, she escapes to New York where she falls in with fellow queers who help create the community and family she is seeking.

[Boy at the Edge of the World](#). David K. Yeh. Guernica Editions, 2018. In this dramedy we follow the romantic adventures of Daniel from coming out to his best friend Karen in high school to university in Toronto and the city's queer culture. Filled with diverse characters on the universal pursuit of love and intimacy.

[The Daddies](#). Kimberly Dark. Brill, 2018. A multi-faceted rich exploration of masculinity, patriarchy, and domination from a lesbian perspective. This work is part novel, part memoir, and part social analysis all combined—a surprising and challenging read.

[Drapetomania: or, the narrative of Cyrus Tyler and Abednego Tyler, lovers](#). John R. Gordon. Team Angelica Publishing, 2018. When Abednego, a house-servant, is sold away, his lover Cyrus, a field-hand, realizes that he

must go after him in this thrilling tale of the love between gay slaves in captivity set in the 1860's. *Drapetomania* is a groundbreaking tale of black freedom and devotion.

[Great Believers](#). Rebecca Makkai. Viking, 2018. A saga that begins in 1980s Chicago with Yale, a young gay man about to discover the art find of the century while all his friends around him die of AIDS, including his friend Nico. Reaching forward into present day Paris, Nico's younger sister Fiona desperately tries to rescue her estranged daughter from a cult, and winds up meeting a photographer who documented the AIDS crisis in Chicago. Two spectacular stories intertwine to teach the lessons of love, friendship, community, and family.

[Heart's Invisible Furies](#). John Boyne. Hogarth/Penguin Random House, 2018. A tour de force about one man's struggle to accept his sexuality in Ireland's homophobic society throughout much of the modern era. The story begins in 1945. Cyril Avery is adopted by an eccentric Dublin couple, who always told him that he was not a real Avery. Cyril's life is told in seven-year intervals. With equal parts sadness and humor, Boyne conveys to the reader the hardship and toll that repression can bring when a people are not able to be true to themselves.

[House of Impossible Beauties](#). Joseph Cassara. Ecco/HarperCollins, 2018. For fans of the FX show *Pose* or the documentary *Paris Is Burning*, Cassara lovingly documents the NYC ball scene of the 1980s when queer people of color were able to compete in a vicious and loving environment of fierce queens with even fiercer support. Tough issues like AIDS and racism are addressed head on as the vivid characters navigate love, life, and loss with their wigs tightly secured and their lipstick unsmudged.

[Into?: A Novel](#). North Morgan. Flatiron Books, 2018. Morgan paints an insipid and shallow portrait of a sex, drug, and alcohol-addicted subculture of young gay musclemen. Obsessed with image and social media, each chapter is a groundhog's day of hook-ups and gym selfies with a side of delusion and childish narcissistic temper tantrums. A wonderfully satirical portrayal of a privileged and selfish – but very visible – segment of the gay community.

[Jonny Appleseed](#). Joshua Whitehead. Arsenal Pulp Press, 2018. Finalist: Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction. Longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize. Jonny Appleseed, a young Two-Spirit/Indigiqueer, must return to the reservation that he grew up on to attend his stepfather's funeral. The resulting narrative is a soaring, chaotic, stream of consciousness spanning Jonny's memories of growing up gay on the rez, remembrances of his kokum (grandmother), his work webcamming, falling in love with one of his best friends, and struggling to build a life in Winnipeg. Whitehead's vivid, startling prose paints a picture of Jonny's struggles to reconcile the pieces of his life in this startling debut novel.

[Less](#). Andrew Sean Greer. Lee Boudreaux Books/Little Brown/Hachette, 2017. How should you go about avoiding your problems? Arthur Less, a middle-aged writer who receives an invitation to the wedding of his young ex-boyfriend runs away from them. He has accepted every award and invitation to speak, no matter how obscure the destination. He'll do anything to make himself unavailable for the next year. He travels from San Francisco to New York, Mexico, Italy, Germany, Morocco, India, and Japan. Naturally, things don't go according to plan and hilarity ensues. Figuring out who is actually telling the story is one of the most fun parts of this 2018 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel.

[My Ex-Life](#). Stephen McCauley. Flatiron Books/McMillan, 2018. Gay fifty-something David Hedges is suffering a mid-life crisis of sorts. He has a successful career in San Francisco but he was recently dumped by his boyfriend and his rent-controlled apartment is up for sale. When he receives an unexpected email from his ex-wife describing her high school daughter Mandy's poor decisions, David decides to head east to New England to

help them. During this process, the pair rediscover a strong friendship. Witty and topical, McCauley's prose is fun and light-hearted. "All couples start off as Romeo and Juliet and end up as Laurel and Hardy."

[\*So Lucky\*](#). Nicola Griffith. Macmillan, 2018. Mara Tagarelli's life is seemingly perfect until in the space of a week, her wife leaves her, she is diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and she loses her job. At first, when everything begins to feel threatening and terrifying and Mara feels utterly helpless, she assumes it is simply the vulnerability of the new illness. When other MS survivors begin to turn up on the news, murdered in their own homes, she realizes that the threats are unshakably real. How does anyone defend themselves when their own body can't be trusted? Griffith's work is equal parts mystery, horror, and disability narrative.

[\*Sparsholt Affair\*](#). Alan Hollinghurst. Knopf, 2018. A tale of honesty and being true to oneself, this novel tackles themes of lust, sex, and societal expectations in post-WWII Great Britain. In 1940, David Sparsholt, a dashing, first-year engineering student at Oxford, has an affair with a man, causing a scandal. David's son, Johnny, lives with the aftermath of his father's sordid past. Johnny is an artist and trying to live honestly as a gay man in the homophobic Britain of the 1960s. The consequences of his choices affect all parties involved and expose the cultural and sexual revolutions that have happened in the twentieth century in Britain.

[\*Speak No Evil\*](#). Uzodinma Iweala. Harper, 2018. The story focuses upon two privileged teenagers from different backgrounds and experiences. A gay African American, Niru and his friendship with a white heterosexual female, Meredith. We see how shame and silence lead to a tragic event with devastating consequences that change lives forever.

[\*Stray City\*](#). Chelsey Johnson. Custom House/William Morrow, 2018. Andrea Morales is a dedicated member of Portland's thriving 1990s queer scene whose life is utterly changed when she sleeps with a man, gets pregnant, and decides to keep the baby. This warm and heartfelt debut goes back and forth in time between the late 1990s and 2009, showcasing the evolving queer community in Portland as well as the ways in which Andrea grows and builds a life with her chosen family and young daughter.

[\*Tin Man\*](#). Sarah Winman. Penguin Random House/GP Putnam's Sons, 2018. Ellis and Michael are childhood friends who eventually become lovers. As adults, Ellis marries Annie and the three share an unbreakable bond, until Michael vanishes from their lives. This beautifully written tale of friendship and love will break your heart into a million pieces.

[\*White Houses\*](#). Amy Bloom. Penguin Random House, 2018. Bloom's latest novel recreates the clandestine romance between Eleanor Roosevelt and journalist Lorena "Hick" Hickock. Told in reminiscences after their relationship has ended shortly after FDR died, Hick's bittersweet narrative conveys to the reader the depth of her continued feelings for Eleanor. Poignant tales of the two together will tug at the heartstrings. The juxtaposition of the relationship between Eleanor and Hick and the world-changing events happening around them are very well-played, driving the narrative forward, but ultimately cause the women's relationship to end. It's all about the journey, not the destination.

## Poetry

[\*Black Queer Hoe\*](#). Britteney Black Rose Kapri. Haymarket, 2018. Sit up and pay attention to this in-your-face no-apologies collection of poetry from a proud Black woman. Based out of Chicago, Kapri is a teacher, an award-winning writer, and an outspoken activist for the Black, Queer, and sex-positive communities. This fiery debut trumpets the arrival of an electric new voice.

[\*Carnival of Affection\*](#). Philip F. Clark. Sibling Rivalry Press, 2018. In this collection of poetry, everyday experiences in the life of a gay man are elevated in lyrical exploration. Clark makes the ordinary trials of a life something utterly new.

[\*Full-Metal Indigiqueer\*](#). Joshua Whitehead. Talonbooks, 2017. This collection of queer poetry borrows from myriad influences from the past and present, ranging from Shakespeare to Lana Del Rey. Whitehead deconstructs to decolonize, bringing the lives of two-spirit/indigiqueer youth into sharp focus and giving them a new space.

[\*Junk\*](#). Tommy Pico. Tin House Books, 2018. A full-length love poem/break-up poem about stuff: the detritus of a relationship; of consumerism and pop culture; of loss of identity as an indigenous person; even of Chili Cheese Fritos in a constantly shifting barrage of enjambed couplets. Pico uses Junk as a collective term, similar to a junk shop of old things awaiting their next purpose. It's transgressive, fast-paced, and a constant blending of the somber and the flippant.

[\*Lord of the Butterflies\*](#). Andrea Gibson. Buttonpoetry, 2018. Gibson's fifth collection takes a nuanced look at gender, grief, love, and the personal as political. Gibson tackles every subject (a wide litany: Lyme disease, a family member's drug addiction, gun violence, mental illness, falling in love, and figuring out their identity as genderqueer just to name a few) with love. *Lord of the Butterflies* is a celebration of queer community and indefatigable hope. Though the poems are best read aloud (Gibson is a performance poet), they come through clearly on the page.

[\*Not Everything Thrown Starts a Revolution\*](#). Stephen S. Mills. Sibling Rivalry Press, 2018. Collection of queer poetry explores parallels through time through interwoven haunting narratives from the 18th and 21st centuries. Mills brings the current life and struggles of a 21st century gay man in parallel with the struggles of agrarian life and incarceration.

[\*Not Here\*](#). Hieu Minh Nguyen. Coffee House Press, 2018. There are aching confrontations of family, trauma, and history in this collection of poetry from a queer Vietnamese American exploring desire and loneliness. Nguyen imagines himself a monster in his concise even prose that is at once shocking and clear.

[\*On My Way to Liberation\*](#). H. Melt. Haymarket Books, 2018. This chapbook of poetry follows the realities of a gender-nonconforming body moving through the world. Melt, a proud and openly trans writer, writes about being misgendered in queer spaces and their family's home, creating conscious spaces for trans people, and their grandfather's liberation from Dachau. Melt's simple, matter-of-fact poems advocate for a larger world of trans literature and shed light on their experiences.

[\*Othered\*](#). Randi M. Romo. Sibling Rivalry Press, 2018. Romo shares her history of growing up a Mexican American girl with special mention of growing up in the South and the idiosyncratic use of language in that region. She celebrates the lives of lost friends and in her poem "I Am" explains both who she is and how she is labeled by others.

[\*Prayers for My 17th Chromosome\*](#). Amir Rabiya. Sibling Rivalry Press, 2017. Rabiya's prose poems are easy to read as they describe their journey from being a young girl into non-binary adulthood and self. Their rhapsodic explanation of the experience of chronic illness and living with pain invites understanding and empathy.

[Rummage – poems](#). Ife-Chudeni A Oputa. Little A/Amazon Publishing, 2017. Read Oputa’s poems aloud for the full resonance. She writes loving paeans to the ordinary that require a pause between each, to let her words roll through your mind. Her collection has 4 sections, each taking you through a different cycle of girlhood.

[Subject to Change: Trans Poetry & Conversation](#). H. Melt, ed. Sibling Rivalry Press, 2018. An anthology of the work of five unapologetically trans poets: Joshua Jennifer Espinoza, Christopher Soto, Beyza Ozer, Cameron Awkward-Rich, and Kay Ulanday Barrett. A selection of poems by each poet is paired with an interview with editor H. Melt discussing their work, identities, and lives. This collection encompasses a wide variety of themes and poetics: a selection of clear, talented voices examining what it means to be trans.

[Touched](#). Luther Hughes. Sibling Rivalry Press. 2018. This collection of poetry takes an unflinching look at the black body, exploring both tenderness and bruising. Hughes uplifts the body, examining it with detailed care.

## Short Stories

[Her Body and Other Parties](#). Carmen Maria Machado. Graywolf Press, 2017. Machado’s 8 short stories weave between the ordinary and the surreal, exploring disgust, delight, and all varieties of queerness. Her characters are both flawed and fantastic, impossible to forget. Her retelling of a classic ghost story is insidious, the reader both knows what will happen and is shocked by it.

[London: Skin and Bones](#). Ian Young. Squares and Rebels, 2017. Collection of colorful short stories featuring gay skinheads and scoundrels of the Finsbury Park blue collar area of North London in the 1980’s.

[Merry Spinster](#). Mallory Ortberg. Holt, 2018. Delightfully dark collection of fairy tales retold, swapping genders, changing roles, and playing irreverently with the classic stories. Both feminist and witty, Ortberg subverts and shifts tales like “The Little Mermaid” and “Beauty and the Beast” for adults-only.

[Night Beast](#). Ruth Joffe. Grove Press/Black Cat, 2018. Debut collection exploring the lives of queer women in a variety of fantasy, speculative, and realistic settings. A filmmaker waits for her soulmate as a timer counts down, until one day, suddenly, it begins to speed up. Actors in an avant-garde television show wake up together every weekend to begin their show, confusing television with real life. These doomed and unsettling stories are haunting in their simplicity.

[Two Moons: Stories](#). Krystal A. Smith. BLF Press, 2018. Speculative fiction collection of stories. They are ethereal, transcend time, space, and being in whimsical journeys.