Queer Reads Booklist: Fall 2020

Some Assembly Required: The Not-So-Secret Life of a Transgender Teen by Arin Andrews (5)

- Memoir
- Seventeen-year-old Arin Andrews shares all the hilarious, painful, and poignant details of undergoing gender reassignment as a high school student in this winning memoir. Some Assembly Required is a true coming-of-age story about knocking down obstacles and embracing family, friendship, and first love. But more than that, it is a reminder that self-acceptance does not come ready-made with a manual and spare parts. Rather, some assembly is always required.

Queer: A Graphic History by Meg-John Barker and Jules Scheele (11)

- Graphic novel, Nonfiction
- Activist-academic Meg-John Barker and cartoonist Julia Scheele illuminate the histories of queer thought and LGBTQ+ action in this groundbreaking non-fiction graphic novel. From identity politics and gender roles to privilege and exclusion, Queer explores how we came to view sex, gender and sexuality in the ways that we do; how these ideas get tangled up with our culture and our understanding of biology, psychology and sexology; and how these views have been disputed and challenged.

Gender Outlaws: The Next Generation edited by Kate Bornstein and S. Bear Bergman (11)

- Anthology, Nonfiction
- In Gender Outlaws, Bornstein, together with writer, raconteur, and theater artist S. Bear Bergman, collects and contextualizes the work of this generation's trans and genderqueer forward thinkers — new voices from the stage, on the streets, in the workplace, in the bedroom, and on the pages and websites of the world's most respected mainstream news sources. Gender Outlaws includes essays, commentary, comic art, and conversations from a diverse group of trans-spectrum people who live and believe in barrier-breaking lives.

When I Grow Up I Want to Be a List of Further Possibilities by Chen Chen (4)

- Poetry
- In this ferocious and tender debut, Chen Chen investigates inherited forms of love and family—the strained relationship between a mother and son, the cost of necessary goodbyes—all from Asian American, immigrant, and queer perspectives. Holding all accountable, this collection fully embraces the loss, grief, and abundant joy that come with charting one’s own path in identity, life, and love.

Freshwater by Akwaeke Emezi (14)

- Fiction
- An extraordinary debut novel, Freshwater explores the surreal experience of having a fractured self. It centers around a young Nigerian woman, Ada, who develops separate
selves within her as a result of being born "with one foot on the other side." Unsettling, heartwrenching, dark, and powerful, *Freshwater* is a sharp evocation of a rare way of experiencing the world, one that illuminates how we all construct our identities.

_Tales of the Lavender Menace: A Memoir of Liberation_ by Karla Jay (10)

- Memoir
- Karla Jay's memoir of an age whose tumultuous social and political movements fundamentally reshaped American culture takes readers from her early days in the 1968 Columbia University student riots to her post-college involvement in New York radical women's groups and the New York Gay Liberation Front. In Southern California in the early '70s, she continued in the battle for gay civil rights and helped to organize the takeover of The Ladies' Home Journal and an "ogle-in" — where women staked out Wall Street and whistled at the men.

_Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals Around the World_ edited by Robyn Ochs and Sarah E. Rowley (5)

- Anthology, Nonfiction
- _Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals Around the World_, edited by Robyn Ochs and Sarah Rowley, is the broadest single collection of bisexual literature available today. _Getting Bi_ collects 220 essays from around the world that explore bisexual identity. Topics include coming out, relationships, politics, community, and more.

_Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe_ by Benjamin Alire Saenz (11)

- Fiction
- Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship--the kind that changes lives and lasts a lifetime. And it is through this friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves and the kind of people they want to be.

_dc Talk’s Jesus Freak_ by Will Stockton and D. Gilson (13)

- Nonfiction
- Late in the Reagan years, three young men at Jerry Falwell's Liberty University formed the Christian rap group dc Talk. The trio put out a series of records that quickly secured their place at the forefront of contemporary Christian music. But, with their fourth studio album Jesus Freak (1995), dc Talk staked a powerful claim on the worldly market of alternative music, becoming an evangelical group with secular selling power. Written by two queer scholars with evangelical pasts, _Jesus Freak_ explores the importance of a multifarious album with complex ideas about race, sexuality, gender, and politics—an album where dc Talk wonders, “What will people do when they hear that I'm a Jesus
freak?” and evangelical fans stake a claim for Christ-like coolness in a secular musical world.