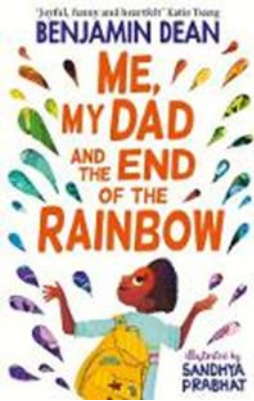


# LGBT+ History Month

Exceptional books, which inspire and celebrate the LGBTQI community, raise awareness and educate society.

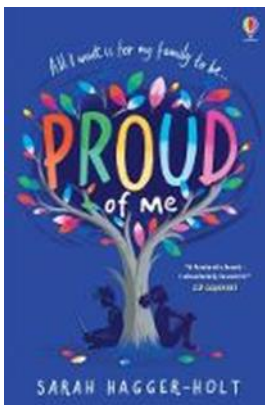
## **Me, My Dad and the End of the Rainbow** by Benjamin Dean 10+



12-year-old Archie Albright is a character who instantly grabs the reader's attention with his natural, chatty narrative voice. His family is splitting up, he doesn't know why, and he knows there is something they are not telling him. After a disastrous parents evening and an overheard conversation, Dad has to finally confess to Archie that he is gay. Archie just wants everyone to be happy again. He desperately wants to understand and to help.

It deals honestly with difficult emotions and conveys a strong message about empathy and tolerance. This is a rewarding, positive and inclusive read and it deserves a place in every school and in every home.

## **Proud of Me** by Sarah Hagger-Holt 10+



An accessible child-centred story about self-acceptance and the importance of opening up to those closest to you. Becky and Josh are almost-twins, with two mums and the same anonymous donor dad. Josh is desperate to find their donor dad and Becky is trying to work out her feelings for Carli, a new American girl at school. Things feel especially difficult when Carli's parents try to get the school's new LGBTQ club banned. Becky and Josh both want their mums to be proud of them, but can they even accept themselves?

A beautifully written and everyday story of LGBTQ family life that's perfect for any children who are just starting secondary school when friendships and relationships with parents can change and feel a bit more complicated.

## **Nothing Ever Happens Here** by Sarah Hagger-Holt 12+



Nothing ever happens in the small town of Littlehaven. Or does it?

12 year old Izzy was lacking confidence before she met her best friend Grace. Now they are inseparable and she can cope. Settled safely into second year of senior school, she even feels brave enough to audition for the school play. Then her father reveals that he is transgender. Suddenly Izzy's world is wobbling. What will this mean for the family's future? What will people say at school? Will things ever be normal again?

This is at once an important support tool for children in similar situations, and a barrier-breaking, empathy-inducing story for all.

**Melissa (Formerly published as George) by Alex Gino 12+**

**MELISSA**

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED AS GEORGE  
ALEX GINO

To the world around her, George is a boy. Her parents, teachers and classmates all know her as a boy. So when the school puts on a production of Charlotte's Web, it seems obvious that George would be reading for the part of Wilbur. But George longs to be Charlotte, the wise and inspiring spider heroine of E. B. White's classic story. George finds strength in Charlotte's character, which gives her the courage to step out of the shadows and show the world who she really is.

George is a relatable character to any child struggling with doubt, a lack of confidence and finding it hard to fit in. It also speaks directly to those dealing with the issues around gender identity.

**The Art of Being Normal by Lisa Williamson 13+**

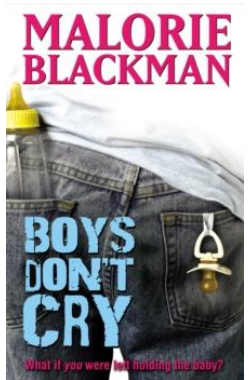


David Piper has always been an outsider, labelled a freak by the school bully. Only his two best friends know the real truth - David wants to be a girl.

Meanwhile, Leo Denton, the new boy in Year 11, is trying to keep a low profile. The two of them couldn't have less in common, but when Leo ends up standing up for David in a fight, an unlikely friendship begins to develop. But things take a difficult turn when the secrets that both Leo and David are struggling to keep buried start coming to light.

Challenging assumptions about what it means to grow up transgender, this is a life-affirming, powerful and heart-warming coming of age story that will show young adult readers that 'being normal' is not always all it's cracked up to be.

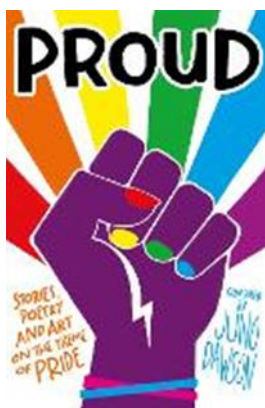
**Boys Don't Cry by Malorie Blackman 13+**



Dante is waiting for the postman. It's 'A' level results day and he has high hopes, but a knock on the door brings an old girlfriend and some news that will change his plans for good. Written from the point of view of two teenaged brothers: Dante, who is looking forward to university and a successful career, unexpectedly finds himself faced with the demands of full time single parenthood, and Adam, who is happy to be gay and makes no secret of it, but ultimately suffers from the intolerance of those around him.

A hard-hitting novel dealing with some of the real issues facing teenagers. This is also a moving story about father-son relationships.

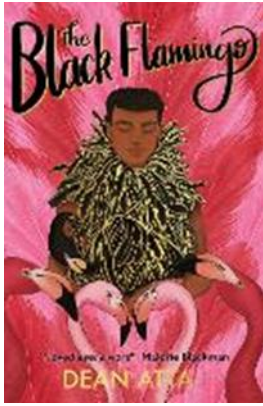
**Proud by Juno Dawson & various 13+**



Compiled by YA author and broadcaster Juno Dawson, this inspiring anthology of illustrated short stories by LGBTQ+ writers shines a light on a kaleidoscopic array of experiences through an equally kaleidoscopic breadth of genres, themes and styles.

These are stories of struggle and trouble, passion and promise, with much wit, warmth, wisdom and support shared along the way.

### **Black Flamingo** by Dean Atta 14+



As a young Barbie-loving boy, mixed race Michael wonders if he's "only half" of everything. He doesn't feel like a whole human being. Dubbed a "queerdo and weirdo" by bullies he leaves London for Brighton University with hope in his heart. But even here Michael feels "like Goldilocks; trying to find a group of people/the perfect fit for me". He doesn't feel black enough for the Caribbean Society, or Greek enough for Hellenic Society, or queer enough for the LGBT Society. Then Michael finally finds a fit at Drag Society where he becomes The Black Flamingo, "someone fabulous, wild and strong. With or without a costume on."

A glorious, life-affirming book exploring the life of a bi-racial gay teenager.

### **Heartstopper** by Alice Osman 14+

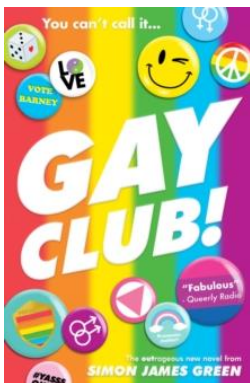


Boys become friends. Boys fall in love. A bestselling LGBTQ+ graphic novel about life, love, and everything that happens in between.

Charlie and Nick are at the same school, but they've never met ... until one day when they're made to sit together. They quickly become friends, and soon Charlie is falling hard for Nick, even though he doesn't think he has a chance. But love works in surprising ways, and Nick is more interested in Charlie than either of them realised.

Heartstopper is about love, friendship, loyalty and mental illness.

### **Gay Club** by Simon James Green 14+



The fight for the presidency is on, and the gloves are coming off!

With just 4 members in the school's LGBTQ+ Society, Barney has a predicted 75% of the vote. He's got big plans for making things better for Greenacre Academy's students. But he's met his match with Bronte: she gets the voting opened up to the entire student body, and the whole school starts paying attention. How low will the ambitious candidates go to win?

Gay Club! wears its activism with pride, and is packed with drama, plot twists and politics.

### **Wranglestone** by Darren Charlton 14+

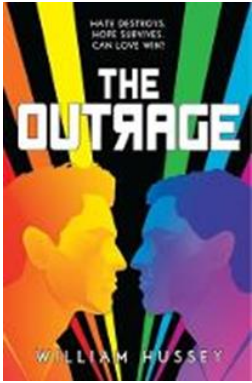


The islands of Lake Wranglestone are a safe haven in a world filled with the Restless Dead. But as the lake freezes over, there's nothing to stop them from crossing the ice.

Peter has never felt at home in a place where practicality and grit are valued above all else. He's nothing like Cooper – the boy he's always watched from afar. But when he's ordered to join Cooper out on the mainland, they find more than just each other.

Set in a world that's become "a walking graveyard", this edge-of-your-seat thriller teems with cinematic chills and the tender love between two teenage boys.

### **The Outrage** by William Hussey 14+



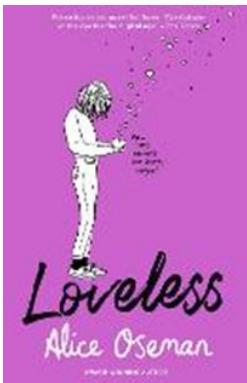
Welcome to England. Here, there are rules for everything. What to say, what to think, who to hate, who to love. Your safety is assured, so long as you follow the rules.

Gabriel is a natural born rule-breaker. And his biggest crime of all? Being gay.

Gabriel's secret must be kept, not only to protect himself, but to protect his boyfriend, Eric. Because Eric's father is the Chief Inspector and the man who poses the biggest threat to both their lives.

A young adult LGBTQ+ version of *The Handmaid's Tale* meets *The Wizard of Oz*.

### **Loveless** by Alice Oseman 14+



It was all sinking in. I'd never had a crush on anyone. No boys, no girls, not a single person I had ever met.

What did that mean? Georgia has never been in love, never kissed anyone, never even had a crush. Georgia starts to question why love seems so easy for other people but not for her. With new terms thrown at her - asexual, aromantic - Georgia is more uncertain about her feelings than ever. Is she destined to remain loveless? Or has she been looking for the wrong thing all along?

A warm and witty story of identity and self-acceptance.

### **Birthday** by Meredith Russo 14+

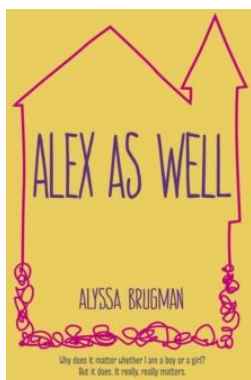


Meet Eric and Morgan. Born on the same day, at the same time, in the same place. They've always shared this one day together, but as they grow up they begin to grow apart. Everyone expects Eric to get a football scholarship, but no one knows he's having second thoughts. Former quarterback Morgan feels utterly alone, as she wrestles with the difficult choice to live as her true self.

Both of them are struggling to be the person they know they are.

Told on one day every year, over six years, this is a story about how change pulls people apart... and how love brings them back together.

### **Alex As Well** by Alyssa Brugman 14+



Why does it matter whether I am a boy or a girl? But it does. It really, really matters. When Alex was born, the doctors described him as "sexually ambiguous", with both male and female reproductive organs. For the last fourteen years his parents have raised Alex as a boy. They dressed him in boys' clothes, sent him to a boys' school and gave him medication to help regulate his hormones. But last night at dinner, Alex made an announcement, three words that would change everything: "I'm a girl". And when Alex sets about changing her life - her wardrobe, her school, her entire identity - no one knows how to react, least of all her parents.

A powerful novel about questioning identity, exploring gender and sexuality and navigating friendships and finding a place to belong.

### **Oranges are not the only Fruit** by *Jeanette Winterson* 16+

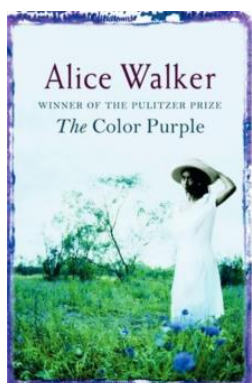


This is the story of Jeanette, adopted and brought up by her mother as one of God's elect.

Zealous and passionate, she seems destined for life as a missionary, but then she falls for one of her converts.

At sixteen, Jeanette decides to leave the church, her home and her family, for the young woman she loves.

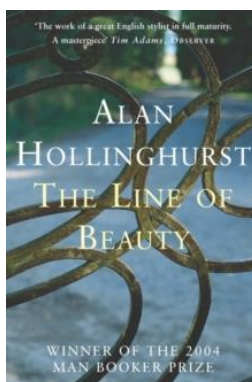
### **The Color Purple** by *Alice Walker* 16+



Set in the deep American south between the wars, this is the classic tale of Celie, a young black girl born into poverty and segregation. Raped repeatedly by the man she calls 'father', she has two children taken away from her, is separated from her beloved sister Nettie and is trapped into an ugly marriage. Then she meets the glamorous Shug Avery, singer and magic-maker - a woman who has taken charge of her own destiny.

Gradually Celie discovers the power and joy of her own spirit, freeing her from her past and reuniting her with those she loves.

### **The Line of Beauty** by *Alan Hollinghurst* 16+



Winner of the 2004 Man Booker Prize, Alan Hollinghurst's *The Line of Beauty* is a classic novel about class, politics and sexuality in Margaret Thatcher's 1980s Britain.

It is the summer of 1983, and young Nick Guest, an innocent in the matters of politics and money, has moved into an attic room in the Notting Hill home of the Feddens: Gerald, an ambitious new Tory MP, his wealthy wife Rachel, and their children Toby and Catherine. Nick had idolized Toby at Oxford, but in his London life it will be the troubled Catherine who becomes his friend and his uneasy responsibility.

### **On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous** by *Ocean Vuong* 16+



This is a letter from a son to a mother who cannot read.

Written when the speaker, Little Dog, is in his late twenties, the letter unearths a family's history that began before he was born.

It tells of Vietnam, of the lasting impact of war, and of his family's struggle to forge a new future. And it serves as a doorway into parts of Little Dog's life his mother has never known - episodes of bewilderment, fear and passion - all the while moving closer to an unforgettable revelation.

## Non-Fiction

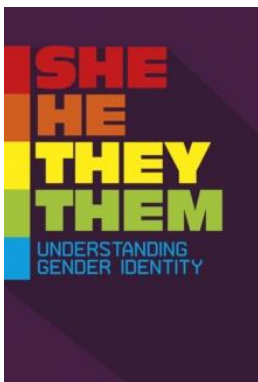
### **Have Pride: An inspirational history of the LGBTQ+ movement** by *Stella Caldwell*



Authoritative, comprehensive and fascinating progress through the ups, and downs of LGBTQ+ history.

It details the struggles and successes of LGBTQ+ movements around the world, looking at decriminalisation, the Stonewall riots and their legacy, global Pride movements, the HIV/AIDS crisis and equal marriage.

### **She He They Them: Understanding Gender Identity** by *Rebecca Stanborough*



She/he/they/them. Why do we use gender pronouns? And why do some people wish to be referred to as "they"?

What is gender identity all about? Students will learn to understand these terms and the reasons behind them.

They will also learn how to deal with questions they may have about gender identity.

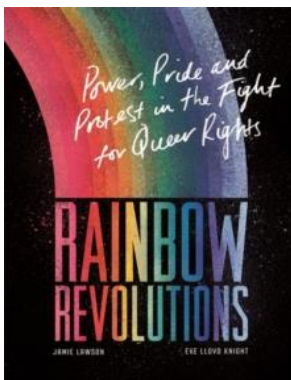
### **What's the T?** by *Juno Dawson*



Discover what it means to be a young transgender and/or non-binary person in the twenty-first century in this frank and funny guide for 14+ teens.

What's the T? tackles the complex realities of growing up trans with honesty and humour. It sets out to answer all the possible questions that anyone feeling body dysmorphia or anybody supporting a friend or family member with similar anxieties, could come up with and many misconceptions are firmly laid to rest.

### **Rainbow Revolutions: Power, pride and protest in the fight for queer rights** by *Jamie Lawson*



From the impassioned speeches of bold activists Karl Ulrichs and Audre Lorde to the birth of Pride and queer pop culture, Rainbow Revolutions charts the dramatic rise of the LGBTQ+ rights movement, and celebrates the courageous individuals who stood up and demanded recognition.