

read with

PRIDE

reading guide

2025

100 great LGBTQ+ reads for ages 0–18



LGBT
IRELAND

For Inclusion
For Equality
For Everyone



children's
books
ireland

every child a reader

Children's Books Ireland is the national charity and arts organisation that champions every child's right to develop a love of reading. Our mission at Children's Books Ireland is to inspire a love of reading in children and young people on the island of Ireland, and to champion equitable access for all to excellent books. We share our expertise and enthusiasm with the adults who guide and influence young readers, and encourage schools and early childhood settings to build a positive culture of reading and reading aloud. We support and promote authors and illustrators and connect them with their audiences through our work.

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Is í **Leabhair Pháistí Éireann** an eagraíocht náisiúnta carthanachta agus ealaíne a chosnaíonn agus a chuireann chun cinn an ceart atá ag gach páiste grá don léitheoireacht a fhás agus a fhorbairt. Tá sé mar aidhm againn grá don léitheoireacht a spreagadh i bpáistí agus daoine óga ar oileán na hÉireann agus cás a dhéanamh maidir le leabhair den scoth a sholáthar go cothrom. Roinnimid ár gcuid saineolais agus ár gcuid díograise leis na daoine fásta a threoraíonn na léitheoirí óga agus a théann i bhfeidhm orthu, agus cuirimid ina luí ar scoileanna agus suíomhanna luath-óige gur fiú cultúr dearfach a chothú maidir leis an léitheoireacht agus an léitheoireacht os ard. Tugaimid tacaíocht d'údair agus do mháistirtheoirí, cuirimid chun cinn iad agus nascaimid iad lena lucht léitheoireachta.

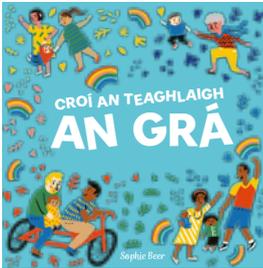


Denotes an Irish author/illustrator/
publisher/údar/maisitheoir/
foilsitheoir as Éirinn



Denotes an Editor's Choice/
Rogha an Eagarthóra

Each review in this guide comes with a suggested age range. These are based on the information provided by the publisher as well as our own judgement of the level for which the language and content is most suitable. In some cases you may see two or more age ranges e.g. 12-14, 15+. In these cases, we feel that the book is suitable for a wider age span. These age ranges are a guide only – it is impossible to accurately predict the correct level for every child. If in doubt, parents/carers and teachers are advised to read the book themselves before deciding whether it is suitable for the child or young person.



SOPHIE BEER aistrithe ag SHANNA NÍ RABHARTAIGH agus GILLIAN NÍ IONMHAIN

CROÍ AN TEAGHLAIGH AN GRÁ

AN GÚM 2023 (CRUA) 24LCH €9.50 ISBN 9781857919899

Leabhar beag ildaithe nua-aimseartha a léiríonn cineálacha éagsúla teaghlach, biodh sin beirt mhamaíthe nó aithreacha, tuismitheoirí aonair, seantuismitheoirí, nó tuismitheoirí ar daoine de dhath iad. Léirítear seo sna pictiúir, a théann in éindí le téacs nach ndéanann tagairt don éagsúlacht seo. Tá abairt amháin ar gach dhá leathanach a deir cad is grá ann. Tá codarsnacht mhór sna dathanna. Oiriúnach mar leabhairín suaimhneach am codlata do theaghlach ar bith le leambh óg – críochnaíonn sé ar ‘Oíche mhaith’ ach d’fhéadfaí é a léamh am ar bith. (Aois 0–2)

Read also: *Mommy, Mama and Me* by Lesléa Newman and Carol Thompson



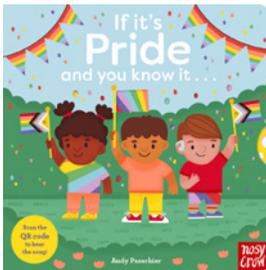
SOPHIE BEER

YOU'RE FABULOUS AS YOU ARE

LITTLE TIGER 2024 (BOARD) 24PP £6.99 ISBN 97818388916114

Whether you are dressed like a rainbow, have short or long hair, are tidy, messy, stumpy or gentle, Sophie Beer's empowering boardbook serves as a reminder that you are simply fabulous as you are! Bright and bold spreads showcase a diverse range of children and their families, who are proud to embrace what makes them uniquely different and share their fabulousness with the whole world. (Age 0–2)

Read also: *Elmer the Elephant* by David McKee



ANDY PASSCHIER

IF IT'S PRIDE AND YOU KNOW IT ...

NOSY CROW 2025 (BOARD) 10PP £7.99 ISBN 9781805132639

Following the tune of *If You're Happy and You Know It* this story highlights fun ways that even the youngest readers can celebrate Pride with their friends and family. From waving a flag to wearing a rainbow, the colourful illustrations depict people of all ages joining in and creating community. Chunky push and pull sliders will keep little fingers busy and the addition of a QR code means that readers can listen and sing along to the song as they turn the pages. A joy to read! (Age 0–2)

Read also: *Pride* by Eric Huang and Amy Phelps



CLAIRE WINSLOW illustrated by RILEY SAMELS

WE ARE THE RAINBOW! THE COLOURS OF PRIDE

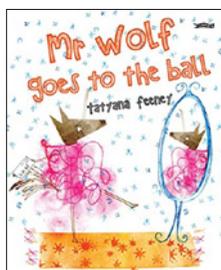
SUNBIRD BOOKS 2022 (BOARD) 20PP \$7.99 ISBN 9781503759923

We Are the Rainbow! is a thoughtful boardbook discussing the values attached to the colours of the Pride flag as they relate to people on spectrums of identity including orientation, gender, race, and ability. The language is simple, and with a constant undercurrent that the reader is a special individual, full of potential to make the world a kind and beautiful place to live. Samel's diversely populated illustrations complement the text by evoking community belonging, the book's overall message is one of profound and heart-warming welcome.

(Non-fiction, Age 0–2)

Read also: *Rainbowsaurus* by Steve Antony





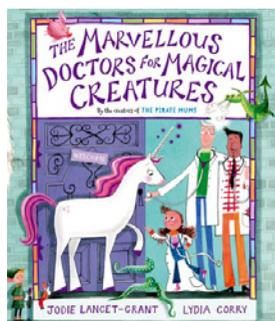
TATYANA FEENEY

MR WOLF GOES TO THE BALL

THE O'BRIEN PRESS 2023 (HBK) 32PP €14.99 ISBN 9781788493345

When Mr Wolf chooses a gown over a tuxedo for the ball, some of his friends react strongly against his outfit. Disheartened by these comments, Mr Wolf is resigned to staying home. But when Sheep supports Mr Wolf in his personal choice, calling out the reactions of the other friends as 'nonsense', Mr Wolf gains a new sense of confidence. Set in the context of the appropriateness of a mister's choice of clothing, this fun and inclusive story is about unconscious bias versus personal choice. (Age 2–4)

Read also: *A Fox Called Herbert* by Margaret Sturton



JODIE LANCET-GRANT illustrated by LYDIA CORRY

THE MARVELLOUS DOCTORS FOR MAGICAL CREATURES

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS 2022 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9780192777836

Ava and her doctor dads are amazing at helping magical creatures when they feel unwell. But when Glitterbug, the unicorn, visits the hospital with a nasty tummy ache, Ava's dads can't figure out what is wrong with her. With a heartwarming message of accepting differences in yourself and others, this story shows a child-friendly view of the tummy aches and worries that go along with the pressure of trying to fit in with everyone else and how great it feels when you can be yourself. (Age 2–4)

Read also: *The Pirate Mums* by Jodie Lancet-Grant and Lydia Corry



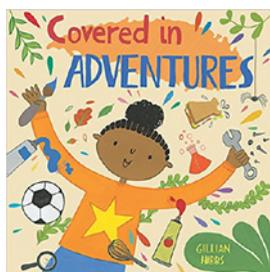
PATRICIA HEGARTY illustrated by RYAN WHEATCROFT

WE ARE FAMILY

LITTLE TIGER 2018 (PBK) 24PP £7.99 ISBN 9781848576438

All families are different – and yet in many ways the same! This book uses a gentle rhyming text to follow eight different families, celebrating their everyday differences as well as the similarities they share. Through illness and health, in celebration and disappointment, families stick together. Even though every family is different, the love is all the same. (Non-fiction, Age 2–4)

Read also: *The Great Big Book of Families* by Mary Hoffman and Ros Asquith



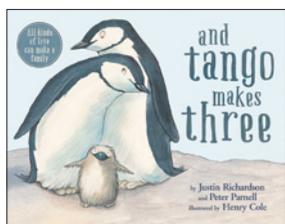
GILLIAN HIBBS

COVERED IN ADVENTURES

CHILD'S PLAY 2021 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781786283474

Sasha's dads want her to get a new jumper as her old one is covered in stains. But where the grown-ups see mess, Sasha sees all the fun she's had with her friends and family. The adventures Sasha shares with her friends are not bound by gender or ability – from building pirate ships and volcanoes to playing football and camping, this is a glorious celebration of childhood. The illustrations are bright and joyful, and celebrate diversity in both family and friendship. (Age 2–4)

Read also: *We Are A Circus* by Nasta and Rosie Fencott

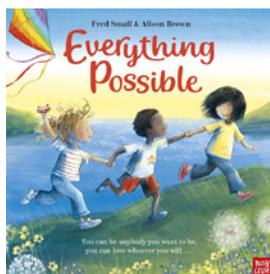


JUSTIN RICHARDSON and PETER PARNELL
illustrated by HENRY COLE
AND TANGO MAKES THREE

SIMON & SCHUSTER 2007 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781847381484

Based on real events at the penguin house at the Central Park Zoo, this is the story of two penguins named Roy and Silo who were a little bit different from the others. But their desire for a family was the same. And with the help of a kindly zookeeper, Roy and Silo got the chance to welcome a baby penguin of their very own. A simple story of love and acceptance. (Age 2–4)

Read also: *Clive and His Babies* by Jessica Spanyol

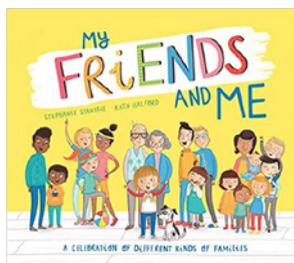


FRED SMALL illustrated by ALISON BROWN
EVERYTHING POSSIBLE 🍀 ⭐

NOSY CROW 2023 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781839948916

Beautifully lyrical this is a book that is a delight to read aloud and is based on the author's classic folk song. Strong and bold, or quiet and kind, this book celebrates all types of children with diverse messages about what boys and girls can be that will inspire and engage readers. With vivid, bright and gentle illustrations the message of the story centers around the idea that children can create their own dreams and make them as big as they want. (Age 2–4)

Read also: *Let's All Say Yes* by Nia Roberts



STEPHANIE STANSBIE illustrated by KATY HALFORD
MY FRIENDS AND ME: A CELEBRATION OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF FAMILIES

LITTLE TIGER 2020 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9781788817318

Some of Jamie's friends have two moms while some have two dads. Some of them have beds in two different houses, while others live on a boat. While all these families might look different, there's some things they all have in common – they are filled with love (and the adults are bad at dancing!). With fun details on every page to amuse readers, this book is sure to entertain while celebrating family love in all its forms. (Age 2–4)

Read also: *Under the Love Umbrella* by Davina Bell and Allison Colpoys

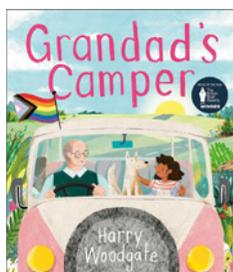


JEANNE WILLIS illustrated by BRIAN FITZGERALD
THE BEAR WHO HAD NOTHING TO WEAR 🍀

SCALLYWAG PRESS 2024 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781915252579

A witty and engaging picturebook about a teddy bear's search for their identity. Readers follow Albie as they use fashion as a form of self-expression. Albie experiments with different styles of dress that appeal to all genders or none. Young children will understand Albie's position as their own physical appearance and personalities often develop and change quite rapidly during their formative years. This enticing picturebook is a thoroughly enjoyable tale with a subtle but important message regarding self-identity – you are your own unique brand. (Age 2–4)

Read also: *Fred Gets Dressed* by Peter Brown

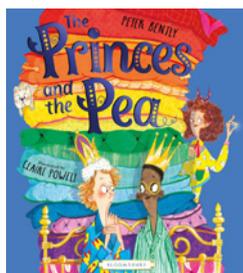


HARRY WOODGATE
GRANDAD'S CAMPER

ANDERSEN PRESS 2022 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781783449927

This beautiful picturebook navigates the grief associated with the loss of a grandparent through a celebration of their life, stories and adventures. Filled with love, *Grandad's Camper* explores elements of the LGBTQ+ experience and family through vibrant, colourful illustrations. Truly, the core of *Grandad's Camper* is a message about how the people we love always stay with us on the journey we call life. Stories like this allow us to cherish their legacy. (Age 2–4)

Read also: *Grandad's Pride* by Harry Woodgate

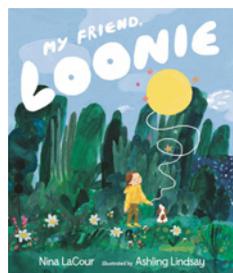


PETER BENTLY illustrated by **CLAIRE POWELL**
THE PRINCES AND THE PEA

BLOOMSBURY CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2025 (HBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781526641953

It's time for Prince Fred to marry and he can only marry a 'proper and perfect princess'. And what do you know? a princess looking for a dry place to stay the night has appeared at the door! Prince Fred comes up with a plan to see if Princess Ardwen is the one – and that's where the hijinks start. A brilliant, fresh retelling of *The Princess and the Pea*, Bently invites the reader into a world where it's always best to follow your heart, investigating and challenging stereotypes along the way. (Age 2–4, 5–8)

Read also: *The Frog's Kiss* by James Mayhew and Toto Martinez



NINA LaCOUR illustrated by **ASHLING LINDSAY**
MY FRIEND, LOONIE 🍀

WALKER BOOKS 2023 (HBK) 32PP £12.99 ISBN 9781529513677

A sweet story about a little girl who loves her wonderful yellow balloon Loonie. They spend all their time together, so, you can imagine how upset she was when Loonie floats away ... This is a book that is simply bursting with love and illustrates how loving families come in many forms, as the little girl's joy and wonder is encouraged by her two loving mothers on every page. LaCour's beautifully bright book perfectly captures the amazing way children can find wonder in almost anything. (Age 2–4, 5–8)

Read also: *Pride Families* by Amie Taylor and Kaspia Clarke



SEAN TAYLOR and **ALEX MORSS** illustrated by **CINYEE CHIU**
AUTUMN FEAST: NATURE'S HARVEST

HAPPY YAK 2024 (HBK) 32PP £12.99 ISBN 9780711278653

As two children lounge about in their home, Mama encourages them to come for a walk and explore the world of autumn. They reluctantly do as they're told, but gradually come to be inspired by the fruits, wildlife and changing world of autumn, ending with the family excitedly gathering wild apples to have their autumnal feast of apple flapjacks. Gorgeous illustrations to accompany the fascinating facts on animals, plants and fungi in autumn. No doubt readers will soon be excited to go outside and find their own autumnal discoveries. (Age 2–4, 5–8)

Read also: *Cinder & Ella* by Barbara Slade and Lucia Soto



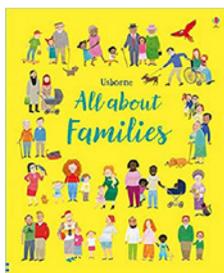
KELLY & ZOEY ALLEN illustrated by TARA O'BRIEN

MY MOMMA ZO

UCLan PUBLISHING 2023 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781915235084

Addressing a big topic such as the transition of a parent can seem overwhelming, but this heartfelt, easy-to-read book makes a good start. Molly shares the story of how unhappy her Momma Zo was when she used to be called Daddy. Since becoming Momma Zo she is much happier and so is everyone else. With colourful illustrations, through Molly's eyes we see what is important about family: that they support and love one another, helping each other through good times and bad. (Age 5–8)

Read also: *My Brother George* by Kelly & Zoey Allen, and Tara O'Brien



FELICITY BROOKS illustrated by MAR FERRERO

ALL ABOUT FAMILIES

USBORNE 2018 (HBK) 32PP £9.99 ISBN 9781474949071

An engaging book highlighting the many variations of family, *All About Families* is an informative resource to encourage awareness, understanding and connection. Blended families, same-sex parents, single-parent families, foster parents, adoptive families and much more all feature. Brooks writes in a clear, simple style, exploring questions such as 'What is a family?' 'How can a family change?' and topics like languages, foods and celebrations. Mar Ferrero's bright, busy illustrations are full of activity and are a true celebration of family diversity. Ideal for every school library. (Non-fiction, Age 5–8)

Read also: *The Family Book* by Todd Parr



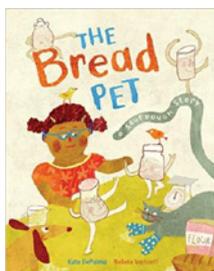
JUNO DAWSON illustrated by LAURA HUGHES

YOU NEED TO CHILL!

FARSHORE 2022 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9780008488284

The children in school are curious about what has happened to our heroine's 'brother Bill': was he eaten by a whale? Taken by aliens to Mars? Why has Bill disappeared? When all the hysteria gets to be too much, everyone simply needs to chill! With a clear and sassy explanation, we learn that Bill now goes by Lily, and as sisters go, she really is the best! A funny and child-friendly way to start a conversation on supporting a loved one exploring their gender identity. (Age 5–8)

Read also: *Pink Trucks* by Sam Clarke and Cory Reid



KATE DePALMA illustrated by NELLEKE VERHOEFF

THE BREAD PET: A SOURDOUGH STORY

BAREFOOT BOOKS 2020 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781646860654

Cora has been gifted some sourdough starter and instructions to keep it growing. The 'bread pet' quickly becomes a very active part of her inclusive home. As her kitchen becomes overwhelmed with starter and surplus loaves, her mum and mama step in to help Cora feed their multi-ethnic community. The rich diversity of Cora's community is affectionately captured with textural illustrations, and Cora's signature cobalt-blue hearing aids, yellow hair clips and light blue glasses add colour and vibrance to each page's gentle and warm palette. (Age 5–8)

Read also: *Aalfred and Aalbert* by Morag Hood

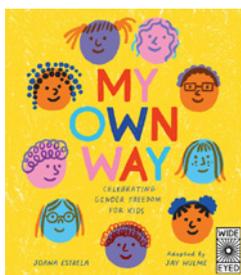


NINA LaCOUR illustrated by **KAYLANI JUANITA**
MAMA AND MUMMY AND ME IN THE MIDDLE

WALKER BOOKS 2023 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781529512519

Something as simple as where to sit can feel tricky when you are used to being in the middle of your mama and mummy. The comforting watercolour aesthetic creates the perfect atmosphere to snuggle up close and to be with loved ones exploring how it is okay to be happy when a parent is home, but also still feel the emptiness of their absence. This book is a wonderful tool to help children to process big emotions like missing a parent while they are away. (Age 5–8)

Read also: *Lulu's Sleepover* by Anna McQuinn and Rosalind Beardshaw



JOANA ESTRELA adapted by **JAY HULME**

MY OWN WAY:
CELEBRATING GENDER FREEDOM FOR KIDS

WIDE EYED EDITIONS 2022 (HBK) 48PP £10.99 ISBN 9780711265844

This book helps to introduce the idea of gender freedom, aiming to show that the perceived stereotype of the world being only pink, or blue isn't true. Best shared in a space where discussion is encouraged, this book highlights the juxtaposition of how we present ourselves to the outside world and how we may feel inside, with the core message of understanding that when it comes to who we are, it's what's in our hearts that matters most. (Non-fiction, Age 5–8)

Read also: *An ABC of Equality* by Chana Ewing and Paulina Morgan



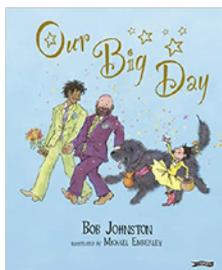
RACHEL GREENER illustrated by **CLARE OWEN**

MAKING A BABY: AN INCLUSIVE GUIDE TO HOW EVERY FAMILY BEGINS 🌟

NOSY CROW 2021 (HBK) 32PP £11.99 ISBN 9781788008013

This book is a perfect starting point to explain how new life can begin, including IUI, IVF, adoption and surrogacy. Using questions ('What is a person's sex?') and conversational, inclusive language ('Isn't it amazing to be able to see a baby growing inside a person's womb!') as well as a glossary, this is an honest, clear introduction to baby-making and birth. Owen's illustrations are emotive and stylish, depicting same-sex families, single parents and diverse ethnicities, religions and abilities. (Non-fiction, Age 5–8)

Read also: *How Families Are Made* by Dr Amir Khan and Donough O'Malley



BOB JOHNSTON illustrated by **MICHAEL EMBERLEY**

OUR BIG DAY 🍀

THE O'BRIEN PRESS 2022 (HBK) 32PP €14.99 ISBN 9781788493147

Uncle David and his partner Simon have lived together with their fluffy dog, Bear, for a long time. They are due to get married. The narrator, David's young niece, explains that, in Ireland, everyone is now allowed to marry the person they love the most. This is since the Irish public voted for marriage equality. There is lots to do, to help Uncle David and Simon prepare for their wedding. This is a celebration of love, of family and of a commitment to marriage equality. (Age 5–8)

Read also: *The Big Day* by Rachel Plummer and Forrest Burdell

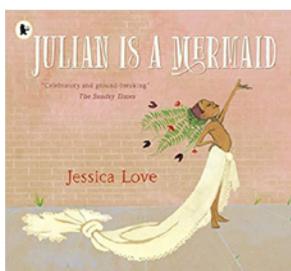


SHIREEN LALJI illustrated by LUCY FLEMING
SO DEVIN WORE A SKIRT

FRANCES LINCOLN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 32PP £7.99
ISBN 9780711298521

Nanabapa's birthday party is imminent, and Devin still hasn't decided on an outfit. But stepping onto the dance floor in front of the whole family in a twirly skirt is a step too far for Devin, who decides to hide the skirt under a ninja costume. But it's getting pretty hot under there ... The tension between Devin's delight at finding a way to be himself and his worry that it might upset his relatives is resolved through a well-balanced dynamic of agency and understanding. (Age 5–8)

Read also: *Timid* by Harry Woodgate

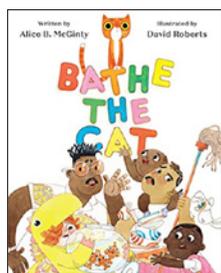


JESSICA LOVE
JULIAN IS A MERMAID

WALKER BOOKS 2019 (PBK) 40PP £7.99 ISBN 9781406386424

Julian and Nana spot some beautiful mermaids on their way home from the pool, which inspires the little boy to play dress-up. But what will Nana think? This incredibly beautiful picturebook, with minimal text and gorgeous illustrations, explores what it means to be yourself and to be loved unconditionally. A story overflowing with charm, tenderness and humour, with glorious illustrations that lift the whole thing to another level. (Age 5–8)

Read also: *Julian at the Wedding* by Jessica Love



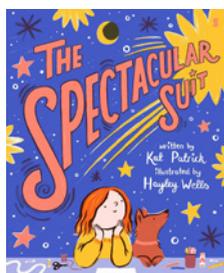
ALICE B. MCGINTY illustrated by DAVID ROBERTS
BATHE THE CAT

CHRONICLE BOOKS 2022 (HBK) 48PP \$17.99 ISBN 9781452142708

An utterly charming romping riot of a book. All busy families will recognise the chaos of family life at chore-time here. The family cat ensures that the 'to-do list' is continually scrambled, giving the creative team behind this book licence to run wild with stylish illustrations and clever rhyming word-play that gets funnier the more frantic the two stressed-out dads become.

In this tale designed for bedtime and reading aloud, the outrageous chaos is eventually wrangled into loving calm, and your young readers will merrily drift into sleep, worn out from all the laughing. (Age 5–8)

Read also: *Confetti* by Dean Atta and Alea Marley

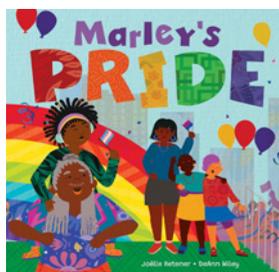


KAT PATRICK illustrated by HAYLEY WELLS
THE SPECTACULAR SUIT

SCRIBE PUBLICATIONS 2023 (PBK) 32PP £8.99 ISBN 9781915590152

Frankie and her family are preparing for her upcoming birthday party, there is just one crucial task remaining, the most important thing in Frankie's opinion: selecting the perfect outfit. As we follow Frankie throughout her dilemma, we witness her family coming together in a moving display of support to help make her dreams come true. Although aimed at younger readers, themes such as self-expression, challenging gender norms and the significance of a reliable support system can resonate with both children and adults alike. (Age 5–8)

Read also: *Nen and the Lonely Fisherman* by Ian Eagleton and James Mayhew



JOËLLE RETENER illustrated by DeANN WILEY
MARLEY'S PRIDE

BAREFOOT BOOKS 2024 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9798888590751

Marley's Pride is a whirlwind of cheer, and a celebration of being transgender, Black and neurodivergent. This story captures Marley, a non-binary child, and their Zaza who is an activist, being honoured with an award for their work for the transgender community. Retener doesn't shy away from acknowledging that Marley finds things like fitting into a binary world hard, however joy radiates through both the writing and the illustrations which depict people of all colours, genders and abilities on the pages. (Age 5–8)

Read also: *The Rainbow Parade* by Shane Jordan and Rick Hendrix

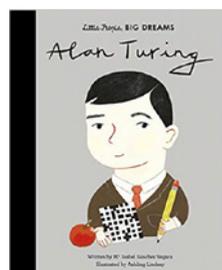


ROBERT TREGONING illustrated by LAURA BRENLLA
THE ROCK FAMILY BAND

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS 2025 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781382054683

In a home filled with big hair, big shoes and non-stop glam rock, Dad shreds on guitar, Pops belts out tunes, Nana plays the tambourine, Liv commands the drums and Bo dazzles on keyboard, meanwhile, Sam prefers the soft, soothing melodies of his flute. But when stage fright strikes at his school recital, Sam realises that his family's wild musical energy might be just what he needs. Tregoning infuses his storytelling with dazzling energy and musicality while Brenlla's illustrations explode with life. A celebration of family and individuality. (Age 5–8)

Read also: *The Dress in the Window* by Robert Tregoning and Pippa Curnick



MARIA ISABEL SÁNCHEZ VEGARA illustrated by ASHLING LINDSAY
LITTLE PEOPLE, BIG DREAMS: ALAN TURING

FRANCES LINCOLN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2020 (HBK) 32PP £9.99 ISBN 9780711246775

Open this book and discover – bit by bit – the biography of the founding father of modern computer science. Inspiring and educational, this book is a great resource for use in the classroom, as it touches on many aspects of the curriculum: threads of STEM, history and LGBTQ+ education are all seamlessly woven into the narrative. The book does well to distil Turing's multifarious life into such a short and breathable word count, and in doing so it reinforces one clear message: dream big, little ones! (Non-fiction, Age 5–8)

Read also: *Little People, Big Dreams: RuPaul* by Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara and Wednesday Holmes

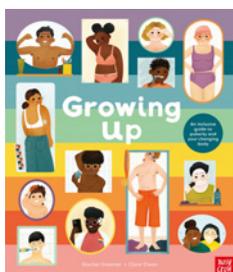


JONATHAN & THOMAS WEST
A KIDS BOOK ABOUT GAY PARENTS

DK CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2025 (HBK) 64PP £12.99 ISBN 9780241743607

Part of a series designed to support conversations around important topics, central to this book is the message that there is no right or wrong way to be a family. The book is autobiographical in nature with the authors sharing various aspects of their family life to highlight the differences and similarities some children may notice between their own family life and those of others. The message that the children of gay parents are wanted and that all families are united by love creates a warm, compassionate book. (Non-fiction, Age 5–8, 8–10)

Read also: *What Makes a Family?* by Molly Potter and Sarah Jennings

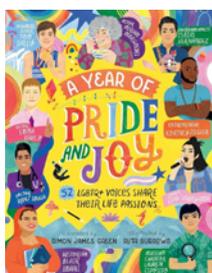


RACHEL GREENER illustrated by CLARE OWEN
GROWING UP: AN INCLUSIVE GUIDE TO PUBERTY AND YOUR CHANGING BODY

NOSY CROW 2023 (HBK) 32PP £12.99 ISBN 97818339947001

Written in line with the UK PSHE curriculum, the tone of this book combined with Clare Owen's colourful illustrations makes it ideal for introducing children to the facts of puberty in an accessible and modern way. Bodily changes, gender identity and periods are all discussed without going into too much scientific detail and an additional reading section with a list of trusted sources is also provided. A must for parents and guardians, this is a gentle, open book which normalises puberty for everyone. (Non-fiction, Age 8–10)

Read also: *All About You and Your Body* by Felicity Brooks and Mar Ferrero



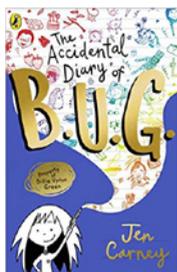
Curated by SIMON JAMES GREEN illustrated by RUTH BURROWS
A YEAR OF PRIDE AND JOY: 52 LGBTQ+ VOICES SHARE THEIR LIFE PASSIONS ★

MAGIC CAT PUBLISHING 2025 (HBK) 112PP £14.99 ISBN 9781915569394

This unique collection is a perfect resource for exploring new hobbies or seeking inspiration to find your passion. With fifty-two diverse, well-known people detailing what brings them joy in life, there's a 'joy' for each week of the year. It's fantastic to have a resource aimed at LGBTQ+ children that introduces them to a variety of interests from people they can identify with and shows them that they belong anywhere their passion takes them.

(Non-fiction, Age 8–10, 10–12, 12–14)

Read also: *Queer Heroes* by Arabelle Sicardi and Sarah Tanat-Jones



JEN CARNEY
THE ACCIDENTAL DIARY OF B.U.G.

PUFFIN 2021 (PBK) 272PP £7.99 ISBN 9780241455449

Enter the world of Billie Upton Green, or B.U.G. as she hates to be known. Reading through her diary gives the reader a Billie-eyed view on life – and it's every bit as hilarious, eye-rolling, sassy and forthright as you'd expect from an opinionated ten-year-old! Adoption and same-sex parents are normal parts of her everyday life, as is Billie's weariness at having to forever explain her family. Other major pluses include: its illustrated diary style, and its the first in a series making it accessible for more reluctant readers. (Age 9–12)

Read also: *The Accidental Diary of B.U.G.: Basically Famous* by Jen Carney



BENJAMIN DEAN illustrated by SANDHYA PRABHAT
THE SECRET SUNSHINE PROJECT

SIMON & SCHUSTER 2023 (PBK) 336PP £7.99 ISBN 9781471199752

When Bea's sister Riley reveals she is attracted to girls, her family attend London Pride together, showing their support. But the family is left struggling as Bea's father passes away shortly after, leading to a move from London to the sleepy village of St Regent's Vale. Spirits are low, but they soon discover that happiness and Pride do not exist in London alone. The representation of LGBTQ+ culture throughout the novel is excellent and offers young readers a beautiful message of acceptance, tolerance and love. (Age 9–12)

Read also: *Me, My Dad and the End of the Rainbow* by Benjamin Dean and Sandhya Prabhat

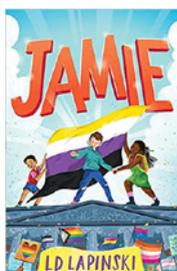


SARAH HAGGER-HOLT
JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE

USBORNE 2023 (PBK) 320PP £7.99 ISBN 9781801315784

Aidan spends most of his time doing his best to blend in. But fitting in is not easy, especially because Aidan has been having confusing feelings about his sexuality. Can you really be gay if you enjoy sports, haven't kissed a boy and aren't like the presenters of *Queer Eye*? Aidan's home life has also become chaotic, as his Mum has agreed to become a surrogate for her friends Justin and Atif. How can Aidan be like everyone else with a family that means he stands out? (Age 9–12)

Read also: *Nothing Ever Happens Here* by Sarah Hagger-Holt



L.D. LAPINSKI
JAMIE

ORION CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2023 (PBK) 272PP £7.99 ISBN 9781510110922

Jamie is non-binary; they are not a boy, and they are not a girl. When forced to make a choice between going to an all-boys or all-girls secondary school, Jamie and their friends fight for their right to attend a school that accepts Jamie as they are. Our protagonist is wonderfully brave and resolute in their convictions as they lead an inspiring protest. A stunning, heartwarming read, this book introduces LGBTQ+ terminology in an accessible manner throughout. (Age 9–12)

Read also: *The Strangeworlds Travel Agency* by L.D. Lapinski



IAN EAGLETON
GLITTER BOY

SCHOLASTIC 2023 (PBK) 368PP £7.99 ISBN 9780702317828

James is coping with a lot: his adored Nan is showing signs of illness, he's facing severe bullying at school and his dad's homophobia means his home life is tough. But James has nothing to be ashamed of and amidst the challenges, there are bright spots – Nan's unwavering love, James' wonderful teacher, Mr Hamilton, his friends Joel and Harriet and of course, James' all-consuming love for Mariah Carey and all things fabulous! A deeply moving, well-observed, and important story of being brave enough to be yourself. (Age 10–12, 12–14)

Read also: *Proud of Me* by Sarah Hagger-Holt



MEG GREHAN
THE LONELY BOOK 🍀

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS 2023 (PBK) 176PP €10.99 ISBN 9781915071446

Annie's mums are the owners of a magic bookshop. Each day a stack of books appears, and somehow, they are exactly the books that customers are looking for. One day, a book turns up in the stack that can't be matched with anyone, leaving the shop's magic anxious and chaotic. This verse novel depicts a young person figuring out their non-binary gender. With sensitivity and kindness, Grehan skilfully depicts the power of communication to provide the essential support to children and young people in this situation. (Age 10–12, 12–14)

Read also: *To Night Owl From Dogfish* by Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer



MEG GREHAN
THE BRIGHTEST STAR 🍀

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 200PP €10.99 ISBN 9781915071804

Stevie's back! Fans of *The Deepest Breath* will delight in an all-new verse novel as a slightly older Stevie and her friends Chloe and Andrew get ready to start secondary school. While there are plenty of opportunities for Stevie and Chloe to explore their identities, Andrew starts to withdraw from their friend group, and Stevie and Chloe have to figure out how to help him find his way back to them. Gorgeous, lyrical, warm and comforting, this novel gently explores the anxieties and excitement that can come with starting secondary school. (Age 10–12, 12–14)

Read also: *The Deepest Breath* by Meg Grehan

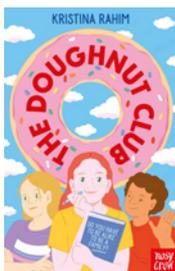


LEAH JOHNSON
ELLIE ENGLE SAVES HERSELF!

SCHOLASTIC 2023 (PBK) 288PP £7.99 ISBN 9780702313462

Ellie has always been happy to fade into the background, letting her best friend and secret crush, Abby, take the spotlight. So when an unlikely earthquake results in her gaining superpowers, she is determined to keep them hidden. Unfortunately, Ellie is thrust unexpectedly into the spotlight when video of her powers blows her cover. Worst of all, with her new-found fame comes a rift with Abby. Perfect for superhero fans, this is a warm story of friendship, family and learning to stand up for yourself. (Age 10–12, 12–14)

Read also: *Murder Most Unladylike: Death in the Spotlight* by Robin Stevens

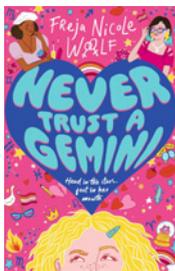


KRISTINA RAHIM
THE DOUGHNUT CLUB ⭐

NOSY CROW 2025 (PBK) 288PP £7.99 ISBN 9781805133667

Twelve-year-old Quinn often feels out of sync with her adventurous family: while her two mothers and younger brother Olly thrive on physical activities, Quinn prefers the solace of her sketchbook. This internal conflict deepens when she learns that she and Olly have sixteen donor siblings, a revelation that propels her on a quest for connection. A heartfelt navigation of the emotional landscape of a donor-conceived child seeking her place in a non-traditional family structure using humour and warmth. Rahim's personal experience as a parent of donor conceived children, makes for a thoughtful narrative. (Age 10–12, 12–14)

Read also: *The Lottery's Plus One* by Emma Donoghue and Caroline Hadilaksono



FREJA NICOLE WOOLF
NEVER TRUST A GEMINI

WALKER BOOKS 2023 (PBK) 320PP £7.99 ISBN 9781529509991

Never Trust a Gemini is a sweet, heartfelt novel about a girl who likes girls. Cat is a normal teenager, so her life is very complicated, with her social life and love life battling for her attention. Cat always has her star bible to comfort her, but now even the stars in the sky seem to hate her. You, the reader, are placed at the centre of Cat's mind, reading all her thoughts, in this easy, enjoyable read, with no boring spots in between! (Age 10–12, 12–14)

Read also: *Blame My Virgo Moon* by Freja Nicole Woolf



RUBY CLYDE

JAY'S GUIDE TO CRUSHING IT

SCHOLASTIC 2023 (PBK) 304PP £8.99 ISBN 9780702325076

When Jay and her family move out of London, Jay's mum is excited about the new start for Jay – a girls-only school, a uniform with a skirt and, most importantly, no skateboarding. Jay pretends this is what she wants too: she can swap her happiness for her mum's, right? But when she meets Mina and Alex, she realises that she's living a lie. This emotional romcom can be read by both teens and their parents and shows the importance of living life on your own terms. (Age 12–14)

Read also: *The List of Things That Will Not Change* by Rebecca Stead



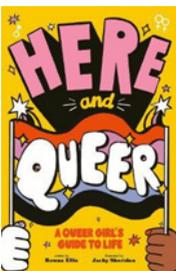
NORA DÅSNES translated by MATT BAGGULEY

CROSS MY HEART AND NEVER LIE

FARSHORE 2024 (PBK) 256PP £10.99 ISBN 9780008653750

Tuva is heading back to school after the summer holidays, but everything is about to change as her best friend has a new boyfriend and no longer wants to build forts in the forest like they used to. Stuck in the middle, Tuva must figure out what she wants for herself. With naturalist themes, the illustrations are sketched in a doodle style with lots of pastel colours reflecting how Tuva is feeling in each diary entry. A story about how friendships evolve, crushes and coming-of-age. (Age 12–14)

Read also: *Clementine* by Tillie Walden and Robert Kirkman



ROWAN ELLIS illustrated by JACKY SHERIDAN

HERE AND QUEER: A QUEER GIRL'S GUIDE TO LIFE

FRANCES LINCOLN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2022 (PBK) 160PP £9.99 ISBN 9780711264731

This book covers multiple aspects of being a queer girl in today's world and is full of illustrations, with an informal yet dynamic layout. Using consistently positive language throughout, the book explains terminology, the use of labels and gender identification concluding with several thinking points aimed at helping the reader to consider the information they have read and articulate their feelings and beliefs. An excellent glossary of terms and phrases used throughout the book, as well as useful UK-based websites for further information are also included.

(Non-fiction, Age 12–14)

Read also: *Rainbow Revolutions* by Jamie Lawson and Eve Lloyd Night



SIMON JAMES GREEN illustrated by MALLORY HEYER

THE BIG ASK

BARRINGTON STOKE 2024 (PBK) 120PP £7.99 ISBN 9781800902428

Geeky, awkward Alfie Parker has always been content to live on the sidelines, avoiding drama. But when Harvey Ledger – a cool, popular football player and Alfie's secret crush – is suddenly dumped by his long-term girlfriend four days before prom, Alfie takes a chance and asks Harvey to be his date. This story addresses the expectations placed on young people, both by society and each other, to conform to certain social and gender norms. The pressure to have everything figured out will be a relatable struggle to many readers in this short, heartwarming story. (Age 12–14)

Read also: *You're The One That I Want* by Simon James Green



SARAH HAGGER-HOLT
THE FIGHTS THAT MAKE US

USBORNE 2024 (PBK) 352PP £7.99 ISBN 9781801315791

Jesse, who has recently come out as non-binary, joins their mother at the funeral of their cousin, Lisa. When Jesse discovers Lisa's diary, they are enthralled with Lisa's secret life in 1980s UK and the protests against Section 28, a law which forbid the 'promotion of homosexuality'. Told from two perspectives over two different time periods, this is an absorbing and fascinating reminder of the heartache and bigotry endured by the LGBTQ+ community in the 80s and the fights that endure today. (Age 12–14)

Read also: *Alex in Wonderland* by Simon James Green



ADIBA JAIGIRDAR
HANI AND ISHU'S GUIDE TO FAKE DATING 🍀

HODDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2021 (PBK) 352PP £7.99 ISBN 9781444962246

Hani and Ishu are nothing alike. They hate it when people expect them to be the same because they are both Bengali. Hani loves socialising; Ishu never stops studying. When Hani comes out to her friends they question her bisexuality. Ishu is desperate to be Head Girl, but she isn't well-liked at school. Unexpectedly, a fake relationship is the solution to both problems. But what happens when you start to fancy your fake girlfriend? Are they actually too different to make a real relationship work? (Age 12–14)

Read also: *The Henna Wars* by Adiba Jaigirdar



RIYADH KHALAF illustrated by **MELISSA McFEETERS**
YAY! YOU'RE GAY! NOW WHAT? 🍀

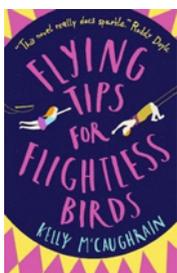
A GAY BOY'S GUIDE TO LIFE

FRANCES LINCOLN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2019 (PBK) 224PP £8.99 ISBN 9781786031914

In this personal, heartfelt go-to guide for young gay men, YouTuber and presenter Riyadh Khalaf shares frank advice about everything from coming out to relationships, as well as interviews with inspirational role models and encouragement for times when you're feeling low. There's a support section for family and friends written by Riyadh's parents and lots of hilarious, embarrassing, inspiring and moving stories from gay boys around the world.

(Non-fiction, Age 12–14)

Read also: *Straight Expectations* by Calum McSwiggan



KELLY MCCAUGHRAN
FLYING TIPS FOR FLIGHTLESS BIRDS 🍀

WALKER BOOKS 2018 (PBK) 384PP £7.99 ISBN 9781406375657

From the high wire of the Big Top to the high wire of teenage sexuality, this warm and funny story of adolescence is a delight to read. It explores family, friendship and first love with an authenticity that is both engaging and emotionally satisfying. Through the eyes of the two main characters – one through very clever use of a blog – we learn the pros and cons of being different and of managing life in the margins. Winner of three KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards. (Age 12–14)

Read also: *The Map That Led to You* by Ella McLeod



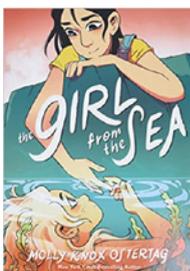
ALICE OSEMAN aistrithe ag EOIN McEVOY

HEARTSTOPPER 2

FUTA FATA 2025 (BOG) 288LCH €12.95 ISBN 9781915684240

Leanann *Heartstopper 2* ar aghaidh le scéal Nick agus Charlie, lánúin sa mheánscoil agus grúpa cairde aiteacha acu. Is ris lúcháireach é an scéal croíúil seo faoi ghrá, cairdeas agus eispéaras an aosa óig LADTA ar shaol na ndéagóirí agus ar an gcéad chaidrimh. Is comhartha dóchais é *Heartstopper 2* do dhéagóirí aiteacha. Taispeánann an scéal dúinn nach bhfuil duine ar bith ar domhain a mhothaíonn ina aonar i ndáiríre ina aonar ar chor ar bith, agus go bhfuil pobal grámhar agus lách ann dóibh i gcónaí. (Aois 12–14)

Read also: *Heartstopper* le Alice Oseman agus Eoin McEvoy



MOLLY KNOX OSTERTAG

THE GIRL FROM THE SEA

SCHOLASTIC 2021 (PBK) 256PP £10.99 ISBN 9781338540574

A fresh graphic novel take on the age-old magical mermaid/selkie story. When Morgan kisses the strange girl in the water who saves her from drowning, Keltie is able to join Morgan on land. As she comes to terms with her identity, first love, coming out and friendships all come into play. Clever use of illustrated group texts figure prominently, showing true-to-life teenage friend group dynamics, and serve to highlight the collision of Morgan's two lives – the one her friends know and her new secret one. (Age 12–14)

Read also: *Phantom Hearts* by Rosie Talbot and Sarah Maxwell



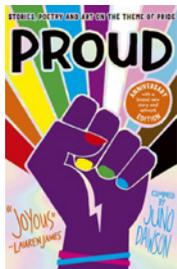
HARI CONNER

I SHALL NEVER FALL IN LOVE

SIMON & SCHUSTER 2024 (PBK) 288PP £12.99 ISBN 9781398526709

Life is changing for childhood friends Eleanor, Charlotte and George. Instead of spending their days having fun outdoors, they must start looking for husbands. But Eleanor is struggling to fall in love with a man, Charlotte has fallen for the wrong man, and George prefers men's fashion to their company. Can they find their own happiness despite society's rigid expectations? A modern re-telling of Jane Austen's classic *Emma* marrying bold, expressive illustrations with lively dialogue and loveable characters, this is a graphic novel that warms the heart. (Age 12–14, 15+)

Read also: *Mismatched* by Anne Camlin, Isadora Zeferino and Jess Lome



edited by JUNO DAWSON illustrated by VARIOUS

PROUD: STORIES, POETRY AND ART ON THE THEME OF PRIDE

LITTLE TIGER 2024 (PBK) 384PP £8.99 ISBN 9781788957021

Written and illustrated by popular LGBTQ+ authors, this is an updated edition of a 2019 publication. As the foreword by Juno Dawson mentions, the climate for young LGBTQ+ people is not always welcoming, this collection reaffirms the message that queer youth are deserving of fiction and poetry that reflects their lives. Queer joy, pride and self-acceptance radiates through this collection of stories which are perfect for teens or allies who would like to learn a bit more about identities, pronouns and the barriers faced by LGBTQ+ people. (Age 12–14, 15+)

Read also: *The Book of Non-Binary Joy* by Ben Pechey

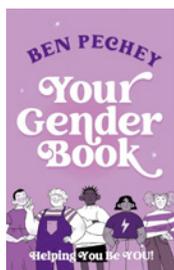


THEO PARISH
HOMEBODY ★

MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2024 (PBK) 224PP £14.99 ISBN 9781035017621

A delicate, warm, and thoughtful exploration of the author's journey towards their transgender identity. Using the clever metaphor of home, Theo's exploration of their feelings and development into their true self is done with care, kindness and beautiful honesty. Charmingly illustrated in pastel blue, pink and lavender, the images allow the reader a real sense of connection with Theo as they move through adolescence into adulthood. An important read that could help to start conversations, and encourage empathy, kindness and acceptance. (Age 12–14, 15+)

Read also: *They* edited by Charlie Castelletti



BEN PECHEY
YOUR GENDER BOOK: HELPING YOU BE YOU!

JESSICA KINGSLEY PUBLISHERS 2023 (PBK) 176PP £14.99 ISBN 9781839976100

Guiding the reader in a kind and authentic voice, Pechey has written a sweet and informative book using accessible examples and personal anecdotes to give their advice and insights to those in need of information about exploring their gender. This book is written to be interactive, giving the reader time to reflect on their own lived experiences, or to navigate the world in different contexts. A fun and engaging way to explore or simply find out more about gender. (Non-fiction, Age 12–14, 15+)

Read also: *All the Things They Said We Couldn't Have: Stories of Trans Joy* by T.C. Oakes-Monger and Flatboy



ANNA ZOE QUIRKE
SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF

LITTLE TIGER 2024 (PBK) 416PP £8.99 ISBN 9781788956901

Leading a newly formed activist group in their small-town secondary school, Imogen and their friends hope to create an event marking Pride in their town for the first time. Unlike a lot of LGBTQ+ coming-of-age stories, we don't find our main character struggling from one traumatic event to the next. Instead, Imogen's resolve to make improvements to the world around them becomes the focal point of the story. Written from multiple perspectives, Quirke makes a lot of room for laughter in this warm, funny, and fast-moving story. (Age 12–14, 15+)

Read also: *Unbecoming* by Jenny Downham



VARIOUS
FAITHFULLY QUEER 🍀

SHOUTOUT 2025 shoutout.ie

A practical and comforting new resource from ShoutOut, *Faithfully Queer* aims to show the connection that can exist between being a person of faith with an LGBTQ+ identity. With personal stories from people from a variety of backgrounds and LGBTQ+ identities, each reflection on identity and faith is an enlightening testimony for readers of religious and non-religious beliefs. In addition to a glossary and further resources, of particular use is the 'advice column' which offers support on common questions surrounding faith, sexuality and gender. (Non-fiction, Age 12–14, 15+)

Read also: *A Kids Book About Queer Mental Health* by Brian Feminella



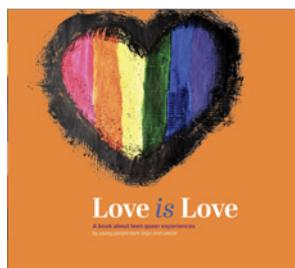
VARIOUS

HIDE & SEEK: AN ANTHOLOGY OF THE INNER CHILD

FAERIE PRESS 2024 (PBK) 74PP £10.99 ISBN 9781399988414

The first publication from a brand-new Belfast-based publishing house, Faerie Press aims to lift LGBTQ+ voices in Northern Ireland with *Hide & Seek* charting the seasons through the eyes of the inner child of the contributors. Varying from poetry to short prose, this collection reminds the reader of what it is to be a child. The wisdom the stories presented in uncomplicated words and images give a sense of the lived experiences of the authors who are aged between 16–24 years. A beautiful collection. (Age 12–14, 15+)

Read also: *Kickflip Vol. 1* by L.D. Lapinski and Logan Hanning



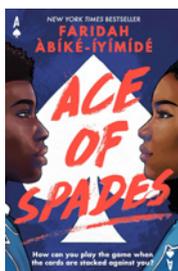
VARIOUS

LOVE IS LOVE: A BOOK ABOUT TEEN QUEER EXPERIENCES BY YOUNG PEOPLE FROM SLIGO AND LEITRIM

KIDS' OWN PUBLISHING 2022 (PBK) 32PP €12.00 ISBN 9781902432342

Full of colour, personality, and a wonderful representation of the young queer community. Twelve teenagers from Sligo and Leitrim share their personal experiences and feelings on themes including coming out, bullying, pronouns, family, and gender identity. Written in their own words and accompanied by a selection of vibrant artworks, this book not only offers a chance to listen to teenagers in the queer community, but allows them to explain these issues in their own words and gain valuable insight into what supports they need. (Non-fiction, Age 12–14, 15+)

Read also: *Gender Explorers* by Juno Roche



FARIDAH ÀBÍKÉ-ÍYÍMÍDÉ

ACE OF SPADES

USBORNE 2021 (PBK) 480PP £8.99 ISBN 9781474967532

A first-rate thriller, *Ace of Spades* tells of two queer Black students in a predominantly white school, who find themselves cruelly targeted by the anonymous scandalmonger Ace. Supported by credible characterisation and dialogue, this gripping story is full of unexpected twists and unnerving revelations, taking private-school social lives, sex and secrets beyond the classroom and into a wider world of shocking privilege, political manipulation and institutional racism. A story that takes the reader to fresh and unexpected places. (Age 15+)

Read also: *And They Were Roommates* by Page Powers



BECKY ALBERTALLI

IMOGEN, OBVIOUSLY

HARPER FIRE 2023 (PBK) 432PP £8.99 ISBN 9780008607333

When Imogen meets best friend Lili's cool new college friends, she tries to show she is the biggest ally to the queer community. However, Lili has led her friends to think Imogen and she dated in the past, making them assume Imogen is bisexual. Confronted with the idea that she may actually be bisexual, is Imogen really an ally or is she part of the community? Imogen's self-discovery provides a space for teens to feel validated about their sexuality and gender expression. (Age 15+)

Read also: *Leah on the Offbeat* by Becky Albertalli



DEAN ATTA
I CAN'T EVEN THINK STRAIGHT

HODDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 368PP £8.99 ISBN 9781444960969

Kai has officially accepted his sexuality and is ready to be out and proud – and hoping to do so alongside his friend Matt. However, Matt is not ready to come out – therein lies the conflict as Kai is forced to remain closeted by association. The importance of lived experience is at the forefront here with a focus on cultural and ethnic norms regarding acceptance of sexuality and identity. A heartfelt verse novel that raises a lot of contemporary issues prevalent for LGBTQ+ youths growing up today. (Age 15+)

Read also: *Only on the Weekends* by Dean Atta



VICTORIA BARRON
**AMAZING ACE, AWESOME ARO:
AN ILLUSTRATED EXPLORATION**

JESSICA KINGSLEY PUBLISHING 2023 (HBK) 96PP £12.99 ISBN 9781839977145

For a young person exploring their sexual and romantic attractions, this book is a comprehensive guide to explore the ace and aro communities. Offering accessible but accurate information, it is easy to dip in and out of, with terminology, history, culture, visibility, attitudes and split attraction dealt with throughout. The interactive elements such as the flow charts and tables also offer opportunity for reflection and discovery. Suitable for a 15+ readership, this is also a good resource for those working with younger LGBTQ+ people. (Non-fiction, Age 15+)

Read also: *I Am Ace: Advice on Living Your Best Asexual Life* by Cody Daigle-Orians

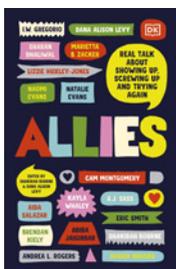


KALYNN BAYRON
CINDERELLA IS DEAD

BLOOMSBURY YA 2020 (PBK) 400PP £8.99 ISBN 9781526621979

Sophia knows she must attend the King's Ball and secure a husband. She must be like Cinderella. Failing to do so could prove deadly. Yet, she yearns for the power of choice. She defiantly escapes and teams up with the fearless redhead Constance in a search for the truth behind Cinderella's twisted tale. In this feminist retelling, Bayron offers a dark but ultimately hopeful new spin on a classic. Read for an inclusive and compelling tale of resistance, deftly exploring oppression, unrealistic ideals and queerness. (Age 15+)

Read also: *Gentlest of Wild Things* by Sarah Underwood



edited by SHAKIRAH BOURNE and DANA ALISON LEVY
ALLIES

DK BOOKS 2021 (PBK) 240PP £12.99 ISBN 9780241505953

This collection of deeply personal essays from a wide variety of young adult authors drills down into the meaning of allyship and examines practical ways to bolster those who need our support. The essays encourage readers to question their own biases concerning race, disability and sexuality, and to use their own power and platforms to amplify the voices of others or support them. *Allies* acknowledges that we live in an imperfect world, but it offers hope that we can create a more equitable one. (Non-fiction, Age 15+)

Read also: *Can Everyone Please Calm Down? A Guide to 21st Century Sexuality* by Mae Martin



TANYA BYRNE
IN THE SHALLOWS

HODDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2024 (PBK) 384PP £9.99 ISBN 9781444956009

When Nico reappears after going missing with no memory of what happened before, Mara looks at this as a new start – because Nico doesn't need to know what happened before, right? This sapphic romance mystery is beautifully written, with incredibly descriptive language that creates an atmosphere where the reader falls in love alongside Mara and can experience her longing when she loses Nico. While based around a romantic relationship, this book also depicts the defensiveness and protection that a good friend can provide. (Age 15+)

Read also: *Afterlove* by Tanya Byrne

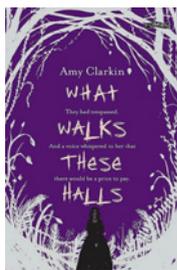


KACEN CALLENDER
FELIX EVER AFTER

FABER & FABER 2021 (PBK) 368PP £7.99 ISBN 9780571368013

This is a truly honest story following Felix Love, a boy who feels like he never really fits in, being Black, queer and transgender alongside attending a prestigious school and coming from a working-class family. Between receiving transphobic messages, his father struggling to accept his transition and his mother fleeing, Felix is also confronted with the complexities of gender labels. Callender bravely questions definitions of gender while also challenging the reader to never assume about people's private lives. This story is raw, open and breathtakingly real. (Age 15+)

Read also: *The Black Flamingo* by Dean Atta

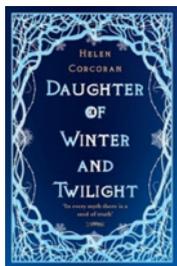


AMY CLARKIN
WHAT WALKS THESE HALLS 🍀

THE O'BRIEN PRESS 2023 (PBK) 384PP €12.99 ISBN 9781788493734

Drenched in the unknown history one could find in any old, abandoned house in Ireland, this story follows a team of young paranormal investigators as they battle their own fears, yearning to confront the horrors living within the confines of Hyacinth House. This chilling tale will leave the reader with goosebumps, but they will not be able to put it down, as the more our main characters learn about themselves and their relationships, the deeper we all go into the dark halls calling them. (Age 15+)

Read also: *Who Watches This Place* by Amy Clarkin

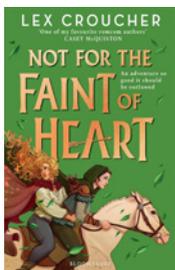


HELEN CORCORAN
DAUGHTER OF WINTER AND TWILIGHT 🍀

THE O'BRIEN PRESS 2023 (PBK) 576PP €14.99 ISBN 9781788493703

Things are not going well for Emri. Initially a young royal struggling with her role in court diplomacy, she is forced by an old goddess to go on a dangerous quest in order to avoid a terrible fate. A stand-alone sequel to *Queen of Coin and Whispers*, this story continues the political intrigue of the original and adds a touch of spooky magic to create a terrific adventure with wicked traps and a memorably creepy setting. Perfect for fans and newcomers alike. (Age 15+)

Read also: *Queen of Coin and Whispers* by Helen Corcoran



LEX CROUCHER
NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART

BLOOMSBURY YA 2024 (PBK) 400PP £8.99 ISBN 9781526651846

Clem is a healer with a pendant for experimental cures who is kidnapped by a band of Merry Men directed by captain Mariel – Robin Hood's granddaughter. Learning from the empathy with which Clem approaches her healing and perhaps falling a little bit in love, Mariel reflects on the ways in which her father has strayed from her grandfather's ideals. A fun take on light fantasy with a high-stakes adventure, this story builds on Robin Hood and the Merry Men constructing a fabled world with mystical woodlands and hilarious queer characters. (Age 15+)

Read also: *Gwen & Art Are Not In Love* by Lex Croucher

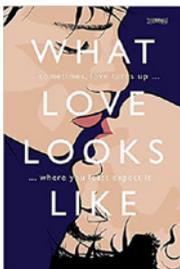


JUNO DAWSON illustrated by SOOFIYA
WHAT'S THE T?

WREN & ROOK 2021 (PBK) 304PP £10.99 ISBN 9781526362827

Written primarily for transgender, non-binary and questioning teens, this guide answers all the questions readers might have with a section for parents and guardians. Juno Dawson's conversational style is accessible and engaging, covering a huge range of topics, including UK-based medical and legal advice and how to access services. There is information on transgender terminology, history and the gamut of hurdles and delights a transgender or non-binary individual might face. (Non-fiction, Age 15+)

Read also: *What Is Gender? How Does It Define Us? And Other Big Questions* by Juno Dawson

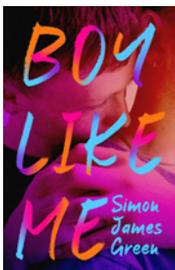


JARLATH GREGORY
WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE 🍀

THE O'BRIEN PRESS 2021 (PBK) 240PP €9.99 ISBN 9781788491624

Meet Ben, seventeen, gay and looking for love. Refreshingly honest, yet sometimes naïve, Ben has everything mapped out – teacher training awaits, family life is good. His best friends, Chelsea and Soda, bring advice and life tips on the joys and perils of love in contemporary Dublin's LGBTQ+ community with their own compelling stories. Navigating bullying, anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment and the North/South view of 'coming out' in Ireland, Gregory gives a realistic and optimistic picture of life for Irish teenagers exploring their sexuality. (Age 15+)

Read also: *Lose You to Find Me* by Erik J. Brown



SIMON JAMES GREEN
BOY LIKE ME

SCHOLASTIC 2023 (PBK) 368PP £8.99 ISBN 9780702313653

Rural England, 1994. Anti-gay sentiment isn't just in the air, it's in the law. But thanks to a bold librarian and a disguised novel, Jamie will figure out his feelings and, maybe, find love. But the risks for everyone are high. Both timeless and urgent, this novel expertly plays its foreshadowing cards while never giving in to the smugness of hindsight. Deliciously funny and self-referential, it takes readers on a proverbial rollercoaster ride through disbelief and rage, joy and pride, empowerment and optimism. (Age 15+)

Read also: *Gay Club!* by Simon James Green

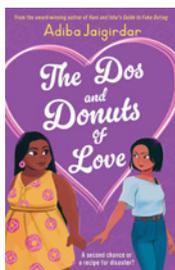


WILLIAM HUSSEY
THE BOY I LOVE ★

ANDERSEN PRESS 2025 (PBK) 304PP £8.99 ISBN 9781839134821

Set during WWI, this story tracks the relationship between Lieutenant Stephen Wraxall and Private Danny McCormick. With their relationship forbidden by wider society and within the army itself, Stephen is determined to protect Danny and must face down the prejudices and ignorance of his superiors as well as the onslaught of German shells and sniper fire. Hussey balances an intense and complex burgeoning LGBTQ+ relationship with a historically accurate depiction of war, this book reminds us that so much of LGBTQ+ history during this time is widely underreported. (Age 15+)

Read also: *Broken Hearts and Zombie Parts* by William Hussey



ADIBA JAIGIRDAR
THE DOS AND DONUTS OF LOVE 🍀

HODDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2023 (PBK) 400PP £7.99 ISBN 9781444967579

Donuts are not the only sweet thing in this young adult contemporary lesbian romance! Shireen Malik is reeling from a break-up with her girlfriend, so being chosen to take part in a national baking championship seems like the way to cheer her up – the only problem is, her ex happens to also be one of the contestants. With deft observations and pun-filled humour, Jaigirdar explores racism and the rise of online bullying while normalising queer identity. A very sweet read! (Age 15+)

Read also: *A Million to One* by Adiba Jaigirdar



AMIE KAUFMAN & MEAGAN SPOONER
LADY'S KNIGHT

ELECTRIC MONKEY 2025 (PBK) 528PP £9.99 ISBN 9780008714062

A tongue-in-cheek tale about Gwen, a blacksmith's daughter who masquerades as a knight in the Tournament of Dragonslayers, and the Lady Isobelle whose hand in marriage (and sizeable dowry) is the prize. What starts as a daring plan to outsmart the patriarchy turns into something that neither girl bargained for ... With fighting montages, cocktails, stolen kisses and secret jailbreaks, readers are in for an entertaining time. The sassy, fourth-wall breaking narrator draws us into a world where medieval meets modern with copious amounts of wit and star-crossed lovers. (Age 15+)

Read also: *The Dandelion Riots* by Kim Smejkal



FREDDIE KÖLSCH
NOW, CONJURERS

ELECTRIC MONKEY 2024 (PBK) 448PP £8.99 ISBN 9780008623494

This tale of a mostly-queer coven in a small New England town just before the turn of the millennium, has an eventful opening – the discovery of a dead boy, Nesbit, the boyfriend of the narrator. An ancient amorphous evil lurking beneath the small town, sometimes making itself known through a sinister carnival, creates a plot swerve that turns this slow burn into a page-turner. The central themes of finding your fellow misfits and the intensity of adolescent relationships makes the supernatural horrors compelling, emotional and unsettling. (Age 15+)

Read also: *Otherworldly* by F.T. Lukens

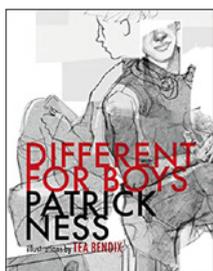


CLARA KUMAGAI
SONGS FOR GHOSTS 

ZEPHYR 2025 (HBK) 464PP £14.99 ISBN 9781803288086

Adam, a seventeen-year-old Japanese American teenager, is juggling a confusing love life, a strained relationship with his family and uncertainty about his identity. When he discovers a diary hidden in his family's attic, he becomes determined to solve the mystery of the owner's origins. What he does not expect is to be swept into the story of her life – nor to be haunted by her restless ghost ... Spanning multiple generations, with revelations that will leave readers truly gripped, this novel is a beautiful tale of love, family and identity. (Age 15+)

Read also: *Catfish Rolling* by Clara Kumagai



PATRICK NESS illustrated by TEA BENDIX
DIFFERENT FOR BOYS

WALKER BOOKS 2024 (PBK) 104PP £8.99 ISBN 9781529517736

Ant knows he is attracted to boys but has no one he can turn to, especially as Charlie, his best mate, is unashamedly homophobic. With old friendships rekindled, Ant struggles with the secrets he is hiding and an increasingly angry Charlie. Typography is used cleverly here with text referencing swear words or sex redacted, highlighting how the characters are supposedly too young to read about their own experiences. This short novel is unafraid of confronting the experience of masculinity and sexuality for teenage boys. (Age 15+)

Read also: *Release* by Patrick Ness



CAROLINE O'DONOGHUE
THE GIFTS THAT BIND US 

WALKER BOOKS 2022 (PBK) 416PP £7.99 ISBN 9781406393101

The sequel to *All Our Hidden Gifts* brings us back to Kilbeg, where Maeve and her friends are learning to master their magical gifts, however the final year of school is not smooth sailing. In this witchy, plot-driven story, O'Donoghue explores important themes through Roe's journey into queer identity and sexuality, Fiona's struggles with mental health and Maeve's feelings of being lost and isolated. The diversity and inclusivity of these strong, vibrant characters and the humour of O'Donoghue's writing are what really make this a special, intriguing sequel. (Age 15+)

Read also: *Every Gift a Curse* by Caroline O'Donoghue



CHRISTEN RANDALL
THE NO-GIRLFRIEND RULE

PUSHKIN PRESS 2024 (PBK) 336PP £9.99 ISBN 9781782694465

This charming LGBTQ+ coming of age story shows us that we can discover the most about ourselves in the unlikeliest of places. In an effort to become closer to her boyfriend and experience the joys of the boardgame *Secrets & Spells*, Hollis sets out to find a welcoming and inclusive group of players to embark on an epic adventure with. This book will appeal to anyone with a love for *Dungeons & Dragons* and features realistic depictions of the ways we navigate complex relationships in our teen years. (Age 15+)

Read also: *Emmy Star is So Everything* by Daniel Tawse



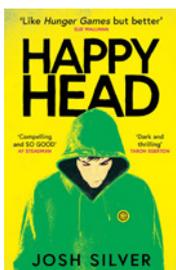
SONORA REYES

THE LESBIANNA'S GUIDE TO CATHOLIC SCHOOL

FABER & FABER 2023 (PBK) 400PP £8.99 ISBN 9780571373765

Yami and her brother are being given a fresh start at Slayton Catholic School. After being outed by ex-best friend, Bianca, Yami is determined that nobody, certainly not her deeply religious mom, will discover her secret again. All she has to do is remain firmly 'Not Gay' – but hiding her identity is harder, and more dangerous, than it seems. While the novel deals with challenging subjects like racism, homophobia and mental illness, it does so with incredible sensitivity and honesty. (Age 15+)

Read also: *Wish You Dead* by Rebecca Westcott



JOSH SILVER

HAPPYHEAD

ROCK THE BOAT 2023 (PBK) 400PP £8.99 ISBN 9780861545537

HappyHead is a camp designed to tackle the unhappiness that is endemic amongst teenagers. Sebastian is one of the lucky few chosen to attend, along with other shy, disengaged, introverted teenagers that are living solitary lives, mainly online. In a *Squid Game*–*Hunger Games* hybrid, the group is encouraged to participate in a series of 'challenges' that escalate in jeopardy and bizarreness until only the successful survive. A very impressive debut with a new angle on the well-trodden dystopia path that feels topical and sensitive. (Age 15+)

Read also: *Dead Happy* by Josh Silver



CIARA SMYTH

THE FALLING IN LOVE MONTAGE

ANDERSEN PRESS 2020 (PBK) 400PP £8.99 ISBN 9781783449668

Saoirse has a lot going on. She has just finished the Leaving Cert, her mum doesn't live at home any more and she's on the outs with her best friend. But then she meets Ruby – fun, mischievous, fascinating Ruby. Saoirse feels she can leave all her problems behind if she just follows some rules for life. But can she keep Ruby from getting too close? Smyth deals with difficult issues deftly and realistically, with body-positive, self-assured young women working out their place in the world. (Age 15+)

Read also: *Not My Problem* by Ciara Smyth



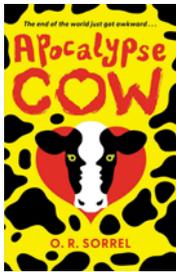
CYNTHIA SO

THIS FEAST OF A LIFE

LITTLE TIGER 2025 (PBK) 416PP £8.99 ISBN 9781788953450

When Auden comes out as non-binary, they do so by testing out their chosen name on their food blog. This is how Valerie discovers Auden and as they both find comfort in each other's company, they explore their identities and passions informing the intricacies of their burgeoning relationship. Weaving together so many relatable aspects of growing up with compassion, this is a true comfort read. An astonishing story about connection, community and self, paired with wonderful instances of food writing at the heart of the narrative. (Age 15+)

Read also: *If You Still Recognise Me* by Cynthia So



O.R. SORREL

APOCALYPSE COW

GUPPY BOOKS 2024 (PBK) 309PP £8.99 ISBN 9781916558144

Mel, the only out lesbian in the school, pines after her straight friend, Sasha and is so wrapped up in her quest to woo her that she overlooks the ongoing drought and thirty-degree temperatures in January. But when air raid sirens blare and animals suddenly turn against the human race, Mel ends up trapped with the two people she hates the most trying to survive the end of the world. With snappy, original dialogue, unforgettable characters, laugh-out-loud moments and mutant animals, this is a LGBTQ+ love story like no other. (Age 15+)

Read also: *Let's Split Up* by Bill Wood



VARIOUS

GLÓRTHA AITEACHA/QUEER VOICES

SHOUTOUT 2023 shoutout.ie

Glórtha Aiteacha/Queer Voices is a vibrant and beautiful collection put together by ShoutOut to share the resilience and experiences of members of the LGBTQ+ community in Ireland. Founded to help LGBTQ+ teenagers navigate the loneliness that can sometimes be felt in secondary school, ShoutOut have created a relevant resource for LGBTQ+ teens and allies. Including illustrations, recipes, interviews, poetry and personal essays, this is a gorgeous collection that acts as the perfect pick-me-up on days when you might feel alone in the world. (Non-fiction, Age 15+)

Read also: *Queer Up: An Uplifting Guide to LGBTQ+ Love, Life and Mental Health* by Alexis Caught



BRITTANY N. WILLIAMS

SAINT-SEDUCING GOLD

FABER & FABER 2025 (PBK) 304PP £8.99 ISBN 9780571381647

Joan's life was already fraught before the pact between the Fae and humankind fell; her magic, race, and gender all make her stand out in her worlds of metalworking and swordsmanship. Now William Cecil's targeting her, the Queen has made Joan her plaything, and responsibility for restoring the pact and keeping London safe has fallen on Joan's shoulders. The second in the Forge and Fracture trilogy is just as thrilling with themes of race, sexuality, and gender norms explored in ways at once age-old and utterly modern. (Age 15+)

Read also: *That Self-Same Metal* by Brittany N. Williams



LISA WILLIAMSON

THE ART OF BEING NORMAL

DAVID FICKLING BOOKS 2020 (PBK) 384PP £7.99 ISBN 9781788451338

Protagonists David and Leo devastate and inspire us with their compelling voices and authentic experiences – each chapter is a rollercoaster. This empowering exploration of the transgender experience is remarkable for its universality as much as its subject matter – exploring human nature and the desire to be one's true self in a sensitive and entirely natural way. A must read. (Age 15+)

Read also: *All About Romance* by Daniel Tawse



MILLY EVANS illustrated by LUCIA PICERNO
HONEST: EVERYTHING THEY DON'T TELL YOU ABOUT SEX, RELATIONSHIPS AND BODIES

HOT KEY 2022 (PBK) 320PP £7.99 ISBN 9781471411168

Covering a range of topics, from one's anatomy, to sex, consent, sexuality, gender identity, growing up in the digital age and mental health; this is a how-to guide to growing up that is inclusive of LGBTQ+ identities throughout. Evans includes professionals and own voices in her educational narrative and at the end of each chapter, there is a UK-focused resource section, with a list of websites, recommended reading and helplines. There are some heavy subjects discussed in this book that may not be as suitable for younger teenagers. (Non-fiction, Age 16+)
Read also: *It's Totally Normal!* by Monica Gupta Mehta, Asha Lily Mehta and Fox Fisher



JAKE HALL, HELEN LI, JASJYOT SINGH HANS and SOFIE BIRKIN
THE ART OF DRAG

FLYING EYE BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 136PP £18.99 ISBN 9781838749767

This is a considered and nuanced non-fiction book, exploring the vast history of drag culture. Matched with upbeat, funky illustrations and with reference to the multi-faceted, multi-cultural specifics of drag performance, the information wonderfully balances queer and trans history with a deep dive into the elements of drag. Weaving in historical touchstones, this book reflects on the ways in which different art forms can inform and influence each other, and how all are constantly changing. With reference to some challenging themes this book is more suited to older teens. (Non-fiction, Age 16+)

Read also: *Boy Queen* by George Lester



LEWIS HANCOX
WELCOME TO ST. HELL: MY TRANS TEEN MISADVENTURE

SCHOLASTIC 2022 (PBK) 304PP £10.99 ISBN 9780702313905

Challenging and funny in equal measures, this graphic memoir covers dealing with family and friends, navigating healthcare and coming to terms with your gender identity. Told from the author's personal perspective, reflecting on his teenage years coping with gender dysphoria and the early stages of his transition, imagining what advice he would give to his younger self. The juxtaposition of Hancox's animated illustrations with his raw accounts of the confusion of dysphoria is a potent combination. Themes, content and imagery suited to older readers. (Age 16+)

Read also: *Kisses for Jet* by Joris Bas Backer



KEL MENTON
A FIX OF LIGHT 🍀

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 280PP €10.99 ISBN 9781915071743

When Hanan took his darkness down to the forest, he didn't expect to return home alive and changed. An ancient magic has resulted in emotions erupting beyond his control. That is, until Hanan meets Pax and finds his curse muted under the boy's touch. But Pax has his own reasons for moving to Skenashogue ... An enlightening excavation of the depths of the human heart, this is a trans romance about trust and survival in the glare of trauma. A strong début for the bookshelves of mature teens. (Age 16+)

Read also: *Old Wounds* by Logan-Ashley Kisner

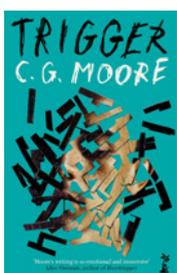


C.G. MOORE illustrated by **BECKY CHILCOTT**
GUT FEELINGS 

UCLan PUBLISHING 2021 (PBK) 400PP £7.99 ISBN 9781912979431

This realistic and insightful verse narrative follows Chris through his teen years to university, as he experiences preventative surgeries, the resultant scarring and chronic illness, and his emotionally distant father's traumatic brain injury. The impact of illness on Chris's dating life as a young gay man is sensitively handled, as he grows to accept his body. Daily life with chronic illness is especially well depicted. Winner of the 2022 KPMG Children's Books Ireland Book of the Year Award. (Age 16+)

Read also: *Fall Out* by C.G. Moore

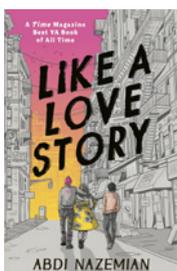


C.G. Moore 
TRIGGER

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS 2024 (PBK) 298PP €10.99 ISBN 9781915071538

Jay narrates his experiences having been the victim of a brutal sexual assault. The author illustrates how this violence continues to haunt, hurt and consume Jay without having to document and portray the details of the awful attack itself. But there is light, with support and understanding from other survivors of abuse and a supportive, non-judgmental and loving family. The conciseness of the succinct poems that form the narrative sit in contrast with the weight of the content, allowing plenty of space for the reader to contemplate and reflect. (Age 16+)

Read also: *The Outrage* by William Hussey

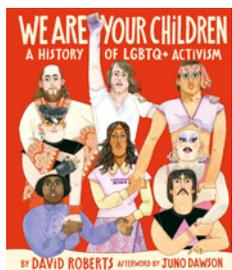


ABDI NAZEMIAN
LIKE A LOVE STORY

LITTLE TIGER 2025 (PBK) 448PP £8.99 ISBN 9781788957946

It's 1989 and Reza, an Iranian boy, has just moved to New York at the height of the AIDS crisis. Reza is terrified that someone will discover his truth – that he likes boys, which becomes harder to hide as he grows closer to Art, the only out student at school. Nazemian does not blunt the impact of the AIDS crisis, but shows his characters, who in the face of hatred and death, choose to love and live unashamed. A pertinent reminder to love loudly and to live in courage rather than fear, no matter what. (Age 16+)

Read also: *Only This Beautiful Moment* by Abdi Nazemian



DAVID ROBERTS
WE ARE YOUR CHILDREN:
A HISTORY OF LGBTQ+ ACTIVISM

TWO HOOTS 2025 (HBK) 224PP £25.00 ISBN 9781529015362

A rich and highly informative book, this lavishly illustrated celebration of the modern history of LGBTQ+ activism covers the years 1950–2000. While mostly focussed on the UK and USA, the text is supplemented by marvellous and colourful illustrations that lift the content and make the words so much more absorbing. Accessible and engaging, this book serves as a useful and detailed reference work in its own right, or as a launching pad for those seeking information about highlighted events and people. (Non-fiction, Age 16+)

Read also: *Destination Unknown* by Bill Konigsberg



children's
books
ireland

every child a reader