

Pride booklist

Untamed – Glennon Doyle

In this inspirational memoir, the motivational speaker tells the story of divorcing her husband, coming out to her family and finding love with Olympic soccer player and now-wife Abby Wambach.

Something that May Shock and Discredit You – Daniel Lavern

The co-founder of the feminist literary site The Toast and Slate advice columnist puts his dazzling wit and humor on display in a “memoir-adjacent” collection of essays that touches on topics as wide-ranging as Lord Byron, the Bible and “House Hunters” in his exploration of self as a transgender man.

Real Life – Brandon Taylor

Wallace, an extremely introverted gay black graduate student from Alabama with a history of trauma, is a biochemistry student at a Midwestern university rife with racism and homophobia. Everything about him is at odds with his surroundings, and over the course of an intense weekend, things come to a head.

Under the Rainbow – Cecilia Laskey

A small town in Kansas, labeled the most homophobic town in the U.S., is thrown into turmoil when a group of LGBTQ social activists moves in, on a crusade to change hearts and minds.

--> <https://www.usatoday.com/story/entertainment/books/2020/05/31/pride-month-lgbtq-books-glennon-doyle-brandon-taylor-samantha-irby/5263442002/>

Mostly Dead Things – Kristen Arnett

A family-owned taxidermy shop in sunny Florida may not seem like the most conventional setting for a meditation on grief and heartbreak, but Kristen Arnett isn't exactly a conventional author. Morbid, strange, and very queer, Arnett's debut novel is sort of a coming-of-age story for an entire family: When Jessa-Lynn Morton discovers her father dead by suicide, she steps up to take over his struggling taxidermy business as the rest of their household falls to pieces around her. *Mostly Dead Things* is a book that refuses to fit neatly into any boxes, making it a perfect read during a month that's all about celebrating yourself for who you are.

In the Dream House: A Memoir – Carmen Machado

Two years after first commanding the world's attention with her debut collection *Her Body and Other Parties*, Carmen Maria Machado is back with *In The Dream House*, an engrossing memoir that blurs the lines between personal narrative and literary criticism. Revisiting a psychologically toxic relationship through the lens of assorted storytelling tropes, Machado expands an intensely intimate story into a meditation on the way that abuse takes hold in queer relationships.

Find Me – Andre Aciman

Looking for something lush and seductive to read? Keep an eye out for the long-awaited sequel to *Call Me By Your Name*, which follows Elio, Oliver, and Elio's father Samuel as they wrestle with affairs of the heart in the years following that fateful summer. No word yet on whether any peaches are involved.

How We Fight for Our Lives – Saeed Jones

What is it like to grow up black, queer, and male in the South? Poet and former *AM to DM* host Saeed Jones answers that question with *How We Fight For Our Lives*, a haunting, sensual memoir about Jones' experiences

growing up as a young gay kid below the Mason-Dixon line. If you're looking for something that'll both rough you up and talk you down, this powerful, lyrical book is for you.

On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous – Ocean Vuong

Perhaps it comes as no surprise that the debut novel by acclaimed poet Ocean Vuong is painfully honest and achingly beautiful. Written as a letter from a man in his twenties to his mother, *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* is a coming-of-age story about coming into one's own as an immigrant and queer man, but it's also something else: a deeply moving manifesto about the act of refusing to be silenced.

Red, White, & Royal Blue – Casey McQuiston

When his mother became President of the United States, Alex Claremont-Diaz was promptly cast as the American equivalent of a young royal. Handsome, charismatic, genius—his image is pure millennial-marketing gold for the White House. There's only one problem: Alex has a beef with an actual prince, Henry, across the pond. And when the tabloids get hold of a photo involving an Alex/Henry altercation, U.S./British relations take a turn for the worse.

High School – Tegan Quin

Be honest: who among us has not sobbed through the lyrics of "Nineteen" while struggling to process the emotional turmoil of our first queer heartbreak? By daring to be openly gay musicians making openly gay music, Tegan and Sara have earned a place of hero worship in the LGBTQ community, especially among young women and nonbinary people. Now, as adults, they are finally telling the story of how they developed their superhuman powers of queer empathy in this revelatory dual memoir.

Stonewall: Breaking Out in the Fight for Gay Rights – Ann Bausman

In 1969 being gay in the United States was a criminal offense. It meant living a closeted life or surviving on the fringes of society. People went to jail, lost jobs, and were disowned by their families for being gay. Most doctors considered homosexuality a mental illness. There were few safe havens. The Stonewall Inn, a Mafia-run, filthy, overpriced bar in New York City's Greenwich Village, was one of them. Ann Bausman's riveting exploration of the Stonewall Riots and the national Gay Rights movement that followed is eye-opening, unflinching, and inspiring.

Her Body and Other Parties – Carmen Machado

In *Her Body and Other Parties*, Carmen Maria Machado blithely demolishes the arbitrary borders between psychological realism and science fiction, comedy and horror, fantasy and fabulism. While her work has earned her comparisons to Karen Russell and Kelly Link, she has a voice that is all her own. In this electric and provocative debut, Machado bends genre to shape startling narratives that map the realities of women's lives and the violence visited upon their bodies.

The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo – Taylor Jenkins Reid

As a bisexual/pansexual woman who has struggled with internalized biphobia for much of her life, believing on some unconscious level that if I claimed to be bi/pan, people would demand proof I couldn't give, Reid's book about the classic Hollywood bombshell Evelyn was important to me. Which of her seven husbands is the love of her life? What if it was none of them? What if it was a woman? What's more important than the story itself, although that is dramatic and winding, fascinating and a quick read, is the way that Evelyn continues to emphasize her love for more than one gender—that being in love with a woman in no way takes away from the love she's had for men.

Less: A Novel – Andrew Greer

PROBLEM: You are a failed novelist about to turn fifty. A wedding invitation arrives in the mail: your boyfriend of the past nine years now engaged to someone else. You can't say yes--it would all be too awkward--and you can't say no--it would look like defeat. On your desk are a series of half-baked literary invitations you've received from around the world. A love story, a satire of the American abroad, a rumination on time and the human heart, by an author *The New York Times* has hailed as "inspired, lyrical," "elegiac," "ingenious," as well as "too sappy by half," *Less* shows a writer at the peak of his talents raising the curtain on our shared human comedy.