

# LGBTQ+ books of recommendation

## **The Faggots & Their Friends Between Revolutions**

**Larry Mitchell**

Part fable, part manifesto, the book takes place in Ramrod, an empire in decline, and introduces us to the communities of the faggots, the women, the queens, the queer men, and the women who

documented both the years leading up to and the years following the riots.

## **13th Balloon**

**Mark Bibbins**

In his fourth collection, *13th Balloon*, Mark Bibbins turns his candid eye to the American AIDS crisis. With quiet consideration and dark wit, Bibbins addresses the majority of his poems to Mark Crast, his friend and lover who died from AIDS at the early age of 25. What does it mean to experience personal loss, Bibbins seems to ask, amidst a greater societal tragedy? The answer is blurred—amongst unforeseen disease, intolerance, and the intimate consequences of mismanaged power.

## **Cruising Utopia**

**Jose Esteban Muñoz**

Queerness must be reimagined as a futurity bound phenomenon, an insistence on the potentiality of another world that would crack open the pragmatic present. Part manifesto, part love letter to the past and the future, José Esteban Muñoz argued that the here and now were not enough and issued an urgent call for the revivification of the queer political imagination.

## **The Argonauts**

**Maggie Nelson**

A work of "autotheory" offering fresh, fierce, and timely thinking about desire, identity, and the

firsthand account of the complexities and joys of (queer) family making.

you knew about gender, identity,

and everything in between. Timely, informative, and provocative, it will arm you with the facts you need to come to your own conclusions about gender identity and its place in the world today.

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**Another Country**

**James Baldwin**

Set in Greenwich Village, Harlem, and France, a novel of passion



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### **Black Wave**

#### **Michelle Tea**

It's 1999 in San Francisco, and as shockwaves of gentrification sweep through Michelle's formerly scruffy neighborhood, money troubles, drug fueled mishaps, and a string of disastrous affairs send her into a tailspin. Desperate to save herself, Michelle sets out to seek a fresh start in Los Angeles. Meanwhile, climate related disruptions and a string of extinctions are the background noise of impending doom. One day, Michelle wakes up to an official announcement: the world will be ending in exactly one year. Daily life in Los Angeles quickly becomes

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**Sister Outsider**

**Audre Lorde**

The revolutionary writings of Audre Lorde gave voice to those 'outside the circle of this society's definition of acceptab

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## **Rainbow Milk**

**Paul Mendez**

Rainbow Milk is an intersectional coming of age story, following nineteen year old Jesse McCarthy as he grapples with his racial and sexual identities against the backdrop of a Jehovah's Witness upbringing and the legacies of the Windrush generation.

## **Between Men: English Literature and Male Homosocial Desire**

**Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick**

At the time of its first appearance in 1985 *Between Men* was viewed as an important intervention into Feminist as well as Gay and Lesbian studies because it argued that "sexuality" and "desire" were not a historical phenomenon but carefully managed social constructs. This insight (that actually originated with Michael Foucault) is often viewed as anti humanist or post humanist because it argues that men and women are simply the products of patriarchal power relations over which they have no control. By mobilizing Foucault's theories of the history of sexuality Sedgwick re fashions Feminism and Gay and Lesbian Studies to make it seem as though Feminism and Gay and Lesbian studies are ideally situated to continue those interventions into the history of sexuality begun by Foucault.

## **Epistemology of the Closet**

**Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick**

Since the late 1980s, queer studies and theory have become vital to the intellectual and political life of the United States. Working from classic texts of European and American writers—including Melville, James, Nietzsche, Proust, and Wilde—Sedgwick analyzes a turn of the century historical moment in which sexual orientation became as important a demarcation of personhood as gender had been for centuries.

## **Bodies That Matter: On the Discursive Limits of 'sex'**

**Judith Butler**

Butler offers a brilliant reworking of the body, examining how the power of heterosexual hegemony forms the "matter" of bodies, sex, and gender. Butler argues that power operates to constrain sex from the start, delimiting what counts as a viable sex. She clarifies the notion of "performativity" introduced in *Gender Trouble* and via bold readings of Plato, Irigaray, Lacan, and Freud explores the meaning of a citational politics. She also draws on documentary and literature with compelling interpretations of the film *Paris is Burning*, Nella Larsen's *Passing*, and short stories by Willa Cather.

## **The History of Sexuality**

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