



Reading Recommendations eBooks from the people who work at [UAlberta Library](#)

These recommendations were made anonymously by members of the University of Alberta Library community. We thank everyone who took the time to contribute.

Some eBook on this list are from Edmonton Public Library (EPL). If you do not have an EPL account, use your OneCard to register for an [L-Pass](#) online!

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NON-FICTION

[Prairie Fairies: A History of Queer Communities and People in Western Canada, 1930-1985](#)

Valerie J. Korinek

Dr. Korinek is a historian of modern Canada and Vice Dean Faculty Relations at the College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan. An expert in gender and cultural histories, she has published widely on feminist media, histories of sexuality and activism, food history and oral history. Most recently she is the author of the award-winning book (University of Toronto Press, 2018).

[A two-spirit journey : the autobiography of a lesbian Ojibwa-Cree elder](#)

Ma-Nee Chacaby with Mary Louisa Plummer.

Readable and important history of a Two-Spirit woman in Ontario. Contemporary history.

Lesbian nuns : breaking silence

Edited by Rosemary Curb & Nancy Manahan

Recommender 1: This book helped me come to terms with my queer identity and Catholic upbringing. I thought that there was no place for queer people in Catholicism, and that accepting myself as a lesbian equated to being rejected by the community that I was born into. This book helped me first by providing some representation of other people with similar experiences, but more than that it helped me work through the grief of losing my community and find some closure and confidence in myself.

Recommender 2: I know this title was already recommended, but I wanted to second it, as it has also been deeply important to me as one of very few books I've found that contain first-person stories of lesbian experiences in the Catholic Church. One of the ways it was helpful to me is that it represents a diversity of experiences, in terms of each woman's relationship to the church and to her religious community, and showed me that there are many ways to grapple with identity and religion, and that I am not alone in my own search.

Raising Ryland: Our Story of Parenting A Transgender Child With No Strings Attached

Hillary Whittington

This book was invaluable in helping me understand my own transgender child's experiences when she came out as transgender, and it helped me to know how to support her.

FICTION

Stone butch blues : a novel

Leslie Feinberg

An incredible novel about the struggles of people who don't conform to gender norms. Brutal in parts, but deeply moving and well written.

This is How It Always Is

Laurie Frankel

It's an imaginative, funny, and heartwarming story about a family with a transgender child learning to navigate a gender-focused world.

Less

Andrew Sean Greer

Very funny and well-written with lots of pay offs in the narrative; explores non-heteronormative relationships in a way that feels neutral and refreshing.

Call me by your name ([2008 edition from EPL](#) or [2007 edition from Internet Archive](#))

André Acimen

Romantic and erotic story that captures the intensity of first love without making a big deal about the fact that it takes place between two men.

The Inheritance Trilogy: [The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms](#); [The Broken Kingdoms](#); [The Kingdom of Gods](#)

N.K. Jemisin

Gender and sexuality fluid representations throughout (particularly in the final one). Great fantasy series in general.

GRAPHIC NOVELS & SEQUENTIAL ART

[On A Sunbeam](#)

Tillie Walden

A sci-fi adventure graphic novel with beautiful visuals. The gender and sexualities of characters are not questioned nor are they struggled with. The characters get to be who they are--they have bad-ass adventures, struggles, successes and failures without the focus being on them being gay (or non-binary!!!)

[Laura Dean keeps breaking up with me](#)

Mariko Tamaki, Rosemary Valero-O'Connell

When I came out (to myself) around 10 years ago, I yearned for queer-femme representation in my media: I kept waiting for that tertiary character to show up in TV shows, hoping she would get to survive the episode... I soon turned to indie comics, because that's where girls-who-like-girls got to shine as complicated, 3-dimensional, human beings. Mariko Tamaki has been my favourite ever since I read *Skim* in 2010; and this latest graphic novel -- beautiful, pink, fun, femme -- does not disappoint.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN (AND EVERYONE)

[It feels good to be yourself: a book about gender identity](#)

Theresa Thorn; illustrated by Noah Grigni

While browsing this in a colleague's office, I legit teared up. It is a wonderful book to introduce kids to the wide range of gender identities that exist. The illustrations are exceptionally diverse showing various ethnicities, body types, and abilities. A truly wonderful expression of diversity and inclusivity.

[This Day In June](#)

Gayle E. Pitman; illustrated by Kristyna Litten

One of my favourite children's picture books! The book is a colourful and poetic celebration of LGBTQ+ identities at a pride parade.

MORE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BEYOND THE LIBRARY

The amazing folx at *The Landing* chimed in with their recommendations, too:

[Sissy: A Coming-of-Gender Story](#)

Jacob Tobia

Recommended by the director of The Landing (student association on campus): A memoir about one person's journey to figure out where they fit on the gender spectrum.

[Any book of poetry by...](#)

Andrea Gibson