

Lauren's List of Lighthearted LGBTQ+ Stuff with Positive Queer Portrayals! **(i.e. you won't cry) (at least not in a bad way)**

Mission Statement (or "Why I Made This List"): During the coming out process/journey/other synonyms, it can be stressful to even hear words like "gay," "lesbian," etc., let alone say them out loud. We all grew up surrounded by examples of heterosexuality, so many of us have come to see that as "normal." I am of the opinion that surrounding yourself with (positive!) examples of LGBTQ+ media can be an effective way of normalizing the concept of queerness for all of us; i.e., just kind of "taking off the edge" of electricity that the whole notion of it can have during the coming out process. With that in mind, here's a fun list of various queer things that you can submerge yourself in (or just dip a toe) :)

Please note that this is very much a work in progress! I have tried for the most part to only recommend things that I've experienced first-hand (so that I can vouch for them), which is why this is in no way an exhaustive list. Feel free to email the pod with suggestions as to what should be added! (If you came to this list via alternate means, "the pod" refers to [Coming Out with Lauren & Nicole](#). Check out our website for a TON of resources!)

Television

Lost Girl: Silly, sexy, Canadian sci-fi series. Tons of queer characters, relationships, and storylines. And the main character is a bisexual woman who has encounters and relationships with a variety of men and women throughout the entire series!

Orphan Black: Phenomenal female-centric series with a truly wonderful lesbian character at the forefront. Also features homosexual/bisexual/trans characters, and a female/female relationship whose conflict is refreshingly *not* about the fact that they are both women. Also-also, Orphan Black is the best dramatic series OF ALL TIME! (In my opinion.) (But I'm right.)

One Day at a Time: Fantastic show about a Cuban family living in Echo Park. The teenage daughter's coming out arc begins around the middle of the first season, and is handled spectacularly; each family member has a different reaction to her coming out, which is very cool. Her sexuality and coming out process continue to be featured very prominently throughout the entire series, and while ODAAT was famously cancelled by Netflix, its fourth and final season aired on Pop TV. Also: non-binary they/them rep with another major character!

The "San Junipero" episode of Black Mirror: If you haven't seen this yet, watch it YESTERDAY! It's sexy and beautiful and tender as fuuuuuuck, and one of the main characters is a Black bisexual woman, played by Gugu Mbatha-Raw!

Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Season 4: I know it's sacrilegious to suggest skipping any of this series...but if you're short on time, Season 4 has a really lovely coming out arc, featuring one of the main characters discovering her sexuality. Also, if you just watch Season 4, you will avoid the *very* uncool turn that BtVS unfortunately took in Season 6 (sigh). Let's just say it did NOT do its groundbreaking lesbian couple justice, and leave it at that...

The Bold Type: Features a female/female relationship (one who already identifies as a lesbian; one who discovers her bisexuality during the series) where both women are WOC and one is Muslim. So obviously this show is doing huge things for more inclusive representation! It's glossy and cheesy, but a lot of fun, and the character discovering her sexuality is charming af (also: queer biracial representation!). As a nice bonus, the female/female storyline starts up right in the pilot episode, so you don't have to wait til halfway through the season, like with most series. Double bonus: also stars Katie Stevens of Faking It (see below).

Faking It: Really fun show about two best friends in high school, one of whom comes to realize that she has feelings for the other. Also does a good job of featuring characters that are traditionally underrepresented in media, such as an intersex character, a male bisexual character, a trans guy character, etc.

Schitt's Creek: Besides just being a really funny show with a real "comfort food" feel, Schitt's Creek features a FANTASTIC male character who identifies as pansexual. In Season 1, Episode 10, he gives one of the best explanations of sexuality that I've ever heard, relating the whole concept to liking multiple types of wine. People have talked online about coming out to friends and family using David's exact speech :)

Queer Eye: OH MY GOD, WILL THIS SHOW GIVE YOU FEELINGS!!! This team of guys is outstanding. And Season 1, Episode 4 shows a man come out to his stepmother in real time. Like, you literally get to see him do it. It's beautiful.

Wynonna Earp: I must admit that I haven't watched this series yet, but I feel like I have to include it anyway, because fans have THE most incredible attachment to the queer female couple on the show! They also have a very supportive online community based on their fandom; just search #WayHaught to get a sense of it...

Runaways: Teenagers with powers, a diverse cast, plot lines involving mental health, queer Asian representation, and a really sweet girl/girl couple that gets together with zero drama or angst about their sexual identities? WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE?!? I mean, maybe the bonkers writing post-Season 1, but you get what I mean. It's a fun watch! Also features a fantastic performance from Episode 105 guest Ariela Barer as one of the series leads! (pls don't tell her what i said about the bonkers writing thx)

Teenage Bounty Hunters: You need to know going in that, in an EGREGIOUS move on Netflix's part, this series was cancelled after only one season, and ends with a bummer of a cliffhanger. But I'm including it anyway because it is **such** a fun, funny show, and the fandom really connected to its queer female couple. The backdrop is a Christian prep school in Atlanta, and - without spoiling too much - there's one character who realizes she's attracted to girls and is 100% fine with it, and another who has always known she is a lesbian, and is **also** 100% fine with it, despite her conservative religious upbringing. Both girls are very connected to their religion, and neither of them feel any internal conflict between their spirituality and their sexuality, which is something we don't see a lot of in media!

Steven Universe: I've never actually seen it (PLEASE DON'T COME FOR ME), but this show is queer as fuuuuuuuck, and I'd be remiss if I didn't include it. Plus, its creator is non-binary (all hail Rebecca Sugar), and it's the first animated series to win a GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Kids & Family Program!

She-Ra and the Princesses of Power: Another one I haven't gotten to yet (THERE IS TOO MUCH QUEER TV TO WATCH! WHAT AN AMAZING PROBLEM!), but this reboot of the '80s original is literally overflowing with LGBTQ+ rep. **Multiple** queer romantic relationships, as well as an explicitly non-binary character who uses they/them pronouns, and a trans male character voiced by Episode 129 guest Alex Blue Davis! Wish I'd had this kind of show when I was a kid :)

Motherland: Fort Salem: This show has tons of angst and drama, but none of it has to do with the main wlw couple's sexuality! Takes place in a world where a) witches are real, and 2) they make up the entire U.S. army. A female-dominated show where one of the three main characters is an out lesbian from the get-go. No one has any problems with it and it's barely even a plot point; her relationship with another girl is fraught for other reasons, but also very tender.

Film

Imagine Me & You: Piper Perabo and Lena Headey and British accents COME ON.

D.E.B.S.: DELIGHTFULLY fluffy and timeless movie with a ton of hot, badass chicks, one of whom unexpectedly discovers her attraction to another woman. Bonus: written and directed by queer filmmaker Angela Robinson, and featuring Holland Taylor!

Mosquita y Mari: I confess that I haven't actually seen this one, but people RAVE about it! Coming of age story featuring two Chicana high schoolers.

Saving Face: The first feature from queer filmmaker Alice Wu, who more recently made Netflix's *The Half of It*! A cute, funny movie with an almost entirely Chinese-American cast, *Saving Face* has big time rom-com vibes, but also tells the very realistic story of a first-generation lesbian woman coming out to her immigrant mother.

Booksmart: HILARIOUS female written and directed movie about two straight-A-student best friends (one of whom is an out lesbian pursuing her crush) looking to cut loose and party the night before their high school graduation. This movie is a goddamned DELIGHT, and the queer content (there are also some very funny Gay Theatre Boys™) feels very authentic. No “dyke drama” or coming out angst; just coming-of-age high school movie fun, where the queer stuff is very naturally folded into the rest of the action :) Also, queer rep in actor Beanie Feldstein, who ironically plays the *straight* friend in the pair!

Web Series

Anyone But Me (full series on Hulu and Amazon Prime; you can also watch literally *all* things Anyone But Me online at <https://www.youtube.com/user/AnyoneButMeWebSeries>): A lot of you probably found your way to us through this series, as it stars the one and only Nicole Pacent! Two high school girls (one of whom is played by the aforementioned one and only Nicole Pacent) navigate their relationship when one of them moves from NYC to the suburbs. Also, check out Episode 87, where we talk to Anyone But Me co-creator Susan Miller!

BIFL (all episodes and much, much more at bifltheseries.com): A funny and heartfelt series that does a FANTASTIC job with representation! In addition to a diverse cast and crew, there's also non-binary rep, asexual rep, and even aromantic rep! We've had nearly every queer person involved with BIFL on the pod, so after you watch it, check out Episodes 11, 39, 43, 49, and 125.

These Thems (all episodes and much, much more at thesethems.com): A fiercely-funny (and shockingly educational!) series that follows four queer friends in NYC. These Thems has won a slew of awards, and deservedly so! The pilot episode is actually a reenactment of creator/writer/star Gretchen Wylder's *hilarious* real-life coming out story, so definitely listen to Episode 88 after you see it for the inside scoop! We've also had on Vico Ortiz (Episode 29) and Shaan Dasani (Episode 32), who play two of the four leads, as well as director Jett Garrison (Episode 59).

To Be With You (watch for free on Vimeo [here](#)): A twenty-minute short as opposed to a series, but cannot more highly recommend Episode 126 guest Elliott Feliciano's FANTASTIC film! Just a truly beautiful story about a trans man reconnecting with their former crush when they come back to town for just 24 hours to scatter their father's ashes. But don't take my word for it: *To Be With You* was an official 2019 OutFest Film Fest selection!

Websites

<https://www.autostraddle.com>: The current go-to website for all things queer for women/non-binary peeps!

<https://janelovesjayne.tumblr.com/post/74592000401/stereotyping-types-of-lesbian>: I found this to be a useful and fun list, if you're curious about the idea of classifying what "type" of lesbian/queer woman you are (and what type you're generally attracted to). Take it with a grain of salt! As they say themselves up top, "this is just a rough guide and nothing is set in stone :-)"

<https://lesbianhaven.wordpress.com/category/blue-jeans-femme/>: Here's one with even MORE definitions of common lesbian types (or, more accurately, stereotypes). If it feels overwhelming or you don't recognize yourself in any of these definitions, don't worry!! At the end of the day, these are just shorthand stereotypes. There's no actual rulebook for how to be queer :)

YouTube

I love the channels [Rose and Rosie](#) and [Rose and Rosie Vlogs](#). Rose identifies as a lesbian and Rosie is bisexual; they're a pair of married, British YouTubers (who recently had a baby!). I definitely recommend their videos for a positive example of a real-life female/female couple!

For alllllll things queer sex (and much, much more), you should absolutely subscribe to Episode 19 guest [Stevie Boebi's](#) channel!

Episode 103 guest [Miles McKenna](#) is one of the most popular trans YouTubers out there! He began transitioning in his early twenties and documented the entire process on his channel, where you can still watch all the videos.

Episode 51 guest Amber Whittington goes by [Amber's Closet](#) online, and started her YouTube channel to help those struggling with their queer identity through humor and honest conversation. She often has friends on her channel to discuss any and all queer topics!

The absolutely *delightful* [Alayna Joy](#) (Episode 132) amassed a large following on YouTube making bi-focussed LGBTQ content...only to realize during quarantine that she was actually a lesbian. Alayna detailed the whole process (including having to break off her engagement to her longtime boyfriend) on her channel, where she continues to be an incredible source of vulnerability and positivity!

Music

Tegan and Sara – Fun, pop-y music where girls sing about other girls! And not in code; like, with actual female pronouns and junk! I especially like the album Love You to Death.

Janelle Monáe – Everything, but especially the album Dirty Computer. And check out the videos for “Make Me Feel” (which is touted as a “bisexual anthem”) and “PYNK,” both of which feature #bicon Tessa Thompson. The whole album is fantastically queer.

Hayley Kiyoko – There is a reason why Hayley Kiyoko is known as “Lesbian Jesus,” and it’s not just because she coined “20gayteen.” Her music is gay (and catchy!) as faaaaahq, and her videos are HAWT. Check out both!

Lucy & La Mer – Our Episode 86 guest performed her coming out song “I Feel Better Now” live on the pod, and she has a TON of other queer songs as well! Check her out at <https://www.listentolucy.com/home>.

Rachael Cantu – Not necessarily upbeat, but her voice is GORGEOUS. Rachael’s a queer singer/songwriter who Nicole and I interviewed in Episode 20, if you’re interested in hearing her coming out story :)

Also not upbeat, but if you wanna hear a beautiful song that’s literally about coming out, search **Mikelle Dowse** on Spotify, and listen to the song “Beginning Today.” The lyrics were written by a former-Mormon about the feelings she experienced once she finally came out as bisexual (lyricist **Vanessa Hunt** talks about writing this song on Episode 25).

Books

Ask a Queer Chick: A Guide to Sex, Love, and Life for Girls Who Dig Girls

By Lindsay King-Miller

You can buy it pretty cheap on Amazon and elsewhere. I’ll admit that I’ve only flipped through it, but I liked what I read, and it’s got great reviews on Amazon! Here’s that link:

<https://www.amazon.com/Ask-Queer-Chick-Guide-Girls/dp/0147516781>