

Lending Library Book List

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Genre</b>	<b># of Pages</b>	<b>Content warnings</b> (!) - (!! - (!!!)) To describe intensity/graphicness
All the Birds in the Sky	Charlie Jane Anders	Fiction: Sci-fi, fantasy, magical realism	320	
Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe	Benjamin Alire Sáenz	Young Adult Fiction	359	Homophobic violence, substance use, incarceration (!)
Bright Lines	Tanwi Nandini Islam	Fiction: queer, young adult	304	Descriptions of violence, war; substance use; allusion to sexual violence; death/loss (!)
Girl Sex 101	Allison Moon, KD Diamond	Humour, Self-Help book	367	
God Loves Hair	Vivek Shraya	Fiction: gay	99	
Guapa	Saleem Haddad	Fiction: literary, gay, political	368	
If I Was Your Girl	Meredith Russo	Fiction, Romance, Young Adult	280	
Juliet Takes a Breath	Gabby Rivera	Fiction: Coming-of-age, gay, lesbian	276	
Lizard Radio	Pat Schmatz	Young Adult Fiction	288	
One In Every Crowd	Ivan Coyote	Fiction	238	
Re-Imagining Change	Patrick Reinsborough, Doyle Canning	Nonfiction	196	
The Boat People	Sharon Bala	Fiction, inspired by real events	416	Racism/xenophobia, violence, war, death/loss, sexual violence (!!)
The Hate U Give	Angie Thomas	Young Adult Fiction	444	
The Marrow Thieves	Cherie Dimaline	Fiction: Young Adult, Science	231	Colonial violence, death/loss, sexual violence, torture (!!)
The Miseducation of Cameron Post	Emily M. Danforth	Young Adult Fiction	470	
The Remedy: Queer and Trans Voices on Healthcare	Zena Sharman et al	Nonfiction: queer, trans, health	272	
These Pills Don't Come in My Skin Tone (3)	Odesia Howlett	Spoken word, poetry	46	
Under the Udala Trees	Chinelo Okparanta	Fiction: literary, lesbian	328	War, death/loss, homophobic violence, religious homophobia, sexual violence, (!!)
When Everything Feels Like the Movies	Raziel Reid	Young Adult Fiction	176	Homophobic violence; transphobic, ableist, homophobic, and racist slurs; self harm; suicide; sexual violence/rape; intimate partner violence; STI shaming; substance use; whorephobia (!!)

## Summaries

### **All the Birds in the Sky, Charlie Jane Anders (2016) – 320 pages**

Childhood friends Patricia Delfine and Laurence Armstead didn't expect to see each other again, after parting ways under mysterious circumstances during high school. After all, the development of magical powers and the invention of a two-second time machine could hardly fail to alarm one's peers and families.

But now they're both adults, living in the hipster mecca of San Francisco, and the planet is falling apart around them. Laurence is an engineering genius who's working with a group that aims to avert catastrophic breakdown through technological intervention into the changing global climate. Patricia is a graduate of Eltisbury Maze, the hidden academy for the world's magically gifted, and works with a small band of other magicians to secretly repair the world's ever-growing ailments. Little do they realize that something bigger than either of them, something begun years ago in their youth, is determined to bring them together—to either save the world, or plunge it into a new dark ages.

### **Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe, Benjamin Alire Sáenz (2012) - 359 pages**

Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship—the kind that changes lives and lasts a lifetime. And it is through this friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves and the kind of people they want to be.

### **Bright Lines, Tanwi Nandini Islam (2015), 304 pages**

A vibrant debut novel, set in Brooklyn and Bangladesh, *Bright Lines* follows three young women and one family struggling to make peace with secrets and their past.

For as long as she can remember, Ella has longed to feel at home. Orphaned as a child after her parents' murder, and afflicted with hallucinations at dusk, she's always felt more at ease in nature than with people. She traveled from Bangladesh to Brooklyn to live with the Saleems: her uncle Anwar, aunt Hashi, and their beautiful daughter, Charu, her complete opposite. One summer, when Ella returns home from college, she discovers Charu's friend Maya—an Islamic cleric's runaway daughter—asleep in her bedroom.

As the girls have a summer of clandestine adventure and sexual awakenings, Anwar—owner of a popular botanical apothecary—has his own secrets, threatening his thirty-year marriage. But when tragedy strikes, the Saleems find themselves blamed. To keep his family from unraveling, Anwar takes them on a fated trip to Bangladesh, to reckon with the past, their extended family, and each other.

## **Girl Sex 101, Allison Moon and K.D. Diamond (2015), 388**

Girl Sex 101 is a sex-ed book like no other, offering helpful info for ladies and lady-lovers of all genders and identities, playful and informative illustrations on each page, and over 100 distinct voices, plus a hot narrative that shows you how to put the info to good use!

Learn how to navigate the twists and turns of female sexuality, with special guidance from sixteen guest sex educators including Nina Hartley, Sex Nerd Sandra, Jiz Lee, Tristan Taormino, Julia Serano, Reid Mihalko and more!

### **GIRL SEX 101 WILL TEACH YOU...**

- \* The bits and pieces that make up female sexual anatomy
- \* Simple ways to communicate in the heat of the moment
- \* How to build a “Road Map” of your partner’s pleasure
- \* Essential moves for cunnilingus, strap-ons, hand sex and more!
- \* Positions to avoid fatigue and generate the power you need to rock your girl’s world!

You’ll gain confidence to please your girl, no matter what your hands-on experience.

**BUCKLE YOUR SEAT BELT AND GET READY TO RIDE!**

## **God Loves Hair, Vivek Shraya (2010), 99 pages**

*God Loves Hair* is a collection of 20 short stories following a tender, intellectual, and curious child as he navigates complex realms of sexuality, gender, racial politics, religion, and belonging.

Told with the poignant insight and honesty that only the voice of a young mind can convey, each story is accompanied by a vivid illustration by Toronto artist Juliana Neufeld.

## **Guapa, Saleem Haddad (2016), 368 pages**

Set over the course of twenty-four hours, *Guapa* follows Rasa, a gay man living in an unnamed Arab country, as he tries to carve out a life for himself in the midst of political and social upheaval. Rasa spends his days translating for Western journalists and pining for the nights when he can sneak his lover, Taymour, into his room. One night Rasa's grandmother—the woman who raised him—catches them in bed together. The following day Rasa is consumed by the search for his best friend Maj, a fiery activist and drag queen star of the underground bar, Guapa, who has been arrested by the police. Ashamed to go home and face his grandmother, and reeling from the potential loss of the three most important people in his life, Rasa roams the city’s slums and prisons, the lavish weddings of the country’s elite, and the bars where outcasts and intellectuals drink to a long-lost revolution. Each new encounter leads him closer to confronting his own identity, as he revisits his childhood and probes the secrets that haunt his family. As Rasa confronts the simultaneous collapse of political hope and his closest personal relationships, he is forced to discover the roots of his alienation and try to re-emerge into a society that may never accept him.

### **If I Was Your Girl, Meredith Russo (2016), 280 pages**

Amanda Hardy is the new girl in school. Like anyone else, all she wants is to make friends and fit in. But Amanda is keeping a secret, and she's determined not to get too close to anyone.

But when she meets sweet, easygoing Grant, Amanda can't help but start to let him into her life. As they spend more time together, she realizes just how much she is losing by guarding her heart. She finds herself yearning to share with Grant everything about herself, including her past. But Amanda's terrified that once she tells him the truth, he won't be able to see past it.

Because the secret that Amanda's been keeping? It's that at her old school, she used to be Andrew. Will the truth cost Amanda her new life, and her new love?

### **Juliet Takes a Breath. Gabby Rivera (2016), 276 pages**

Juliet Milagros Palante is leaving the Bronx and headed to Portland, Oregon. She just came out to her family and isn't sure if her mom will ever speak to her again. But Juliet has a plan, sort of, one that's going to help her figure out this whole "Puerto Rican lesbian" thing. She's interning with the author of her favorite book: Harlowe Brisbane, the ultimate authority on feminism, women's bodies, and other gay-sounding stuff.

Will Juliet be able to figure out her life over the course of one magical summer? Is that even possible? Or is she running away from all the problems that seem too big to handle?

### **Lizard Radio, Pat Schmatz (2015), 288 pages**

Fifteen-year-old Kivali has never fit in. As a girl in boys' clothes, she is accepted by neither tribe, bullied by both. *What are you?* they ask. Abandoned as a baby wrapped in a T-shirt with an image of a lizard on the front, Kivali found a home with nonconformist artist Sheila. Is it true what Sheila says, that Kivali was left by a mysterious race of saurians and that she'll one day save the world? Kivali doesn't think so. But if it is true, why has Sheila sent her off to CropCamp, with its schedules and regs and what feels like indoctrination into a gov-controlled society Kivali isn't sure has good intentions?

But life at CropCamp isn't all bad. Kivali loves being outdoors and working in the fields. And for the first time, she has real friends: sweet, innocent Rasta; loyal Emmett; fierce, quiet Nona. And then there's Sully. The feelings that explode inside Kivali whenever Sully is near—whenever they touch—are unlike anything she's experienced, exhilarating and terrifying. But does Sully feel the same way?

Between mysterious disappearances, tough questions from camp director Ms. Mischetti, and weekly doses of kickshaw—the strange, drug-like morsel that Kivali fears but has come to crave—things get more and more complicated. But Kivali has an escape: her unique ability to channel and explore the power of her animal self. She has Lizard Radio. Will it be enough to save her?

### **One In Every Crowd, Ivan E. Coyote (2012), 238 pages**

Ivan E. Coyote's wry, honest stories about gender and identity have captivated audiences everywhere. Ivan's eighth book is her first for LGBT youth, written for anyone who has ever felt different or alone in their struggles to be true to themselves. Included are stories about Ivan's tomboy youth and her adult life, where she experiences cruelty and kindness in unexpected places.

### **Re-Imagining Change, Patrick Reinsborough & Doyle Canning (2010), 196 pages**

An inspirational inside look at the trailblazing methodology developed by the nonprofit strategy and training organization, smartMeme, this unique exploration provides progressive activists with the tools to get stories into the media, build successful campaigns, and connect with other organizations the world over. Providing resources, theories, hands-on tools, and illuminating case studies for the next generation of activists, this resource shows how culture, media, memes, and narrative intertwine with social-change strategies and offers practical methods to amplify progressive causes in popular culture. A summation of the smartMeme approach, this study in memetics provides practical exercises to augment movements for justice, ecological sanity, and transformative social change.

### **The Boat People, Sharon Bala (2018), 416 pages**

When the rusty cargo ship carrying Mahindan and five hundred fellow refugees reaches the shores of British Columbia, the young father is overcome with relief: he and his six-year-old son can finally put Sri Lanka's bloody civil war behind them and begin new lives. Instead, the group is thrown into prison, with government officials and news headlines speculating that hidden among the "boat people" are members of a terrorist militia. As suspicion swirls and interrogation mounts, Mahindan fears the desperate actions he took to survive and escape Sri Lanka now jeopardize his and his son's chances for asylum.

Told through the alternating perspectives of Mahindan; his lawyer Priya, who reluctantly represents the migrants; and Grace, a third-generation Japanese-Canadian adjudicator who must decide Mahindan's fate, *The Boat People* is a high-stakes novel that offers a deeply compassionate lens through which to view the current refugee crisis. Inspired by real events, with vivid scenes that move between the eerie beauty of northern Sri Lanka and combative refugee hearings in Vancouver, where life and death decisions are made, Sharon Bala's stunning debut is an unforgettable and necessary story for our times.

### **The Hate U Give, Angie Thomas (2017), 444 pages**

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what *really* went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.

But what Starr does or does not say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

### **The Marrow Thieves, Cherie Dimaline (2017), 231 pages**

In a futuristic world ravaged by global warming, people have lost the ability to dream, and the dreamlessness has led to widespread madness. The only people still able to dream are North America's Indigenous people, and it is their marrow that holds the cure for the rest of the world. But getting the marrow, and dreams, means death for the unwilling donors. Driven to flight, a fifteen-year-old and his companions struggle for survival, attempt to reunite with loved ones and take refuge from the "recruiters" who seek them out to bring them to the marrow-stealing "factories."

### **The Miseducation of Cameron Post, Emily M. Danforth (2012), 470 pages**

When Cameron Post's parents die suddenly in a car crash, her shocking first thought is relief. Relief they'll never know that, hours earlier, she had been kissing a girl.

But that relief doesn't last, and Cam is soon forced to move in with her conservative aunt Ruth and her well-intentioned but hopelessly old-fashioned grandmother. She knows that from this point on, her life will forever be different. Survival in Miles City, Montana, means blending in and leaving well enough alone (as her grandmother might say), and Cam becomes an expert at both.

Then Coley Taylor moves to town. Beautiful, pickup-driving Coley is a perfect cowgirl with the perfect boyfriend to match. She and Cam forge an unexpected and intense friendship — one that seems to leave room for something more to emerge. But just as that starts to seem like a real possibility, ultra-religious Aunt Ruth takes drastic action to 'fix' her niece, bringing Cam face-to-face with the cost of denying her true self — even if she's not exactly sure who that is.

### **The Remedy: Queer and Trans Voices on Healthcare, Zena Sharman et al (2016), 272 pages**

*The Remedy* invites writers and readers to imagine what we need to create healthy, resilient, and thriving LGBTQ communities. This anthology is a diverse collection of real-life stories from queer and trans people on their own health-care experiences and challenges, from gay men living with HIV who remember the systemic resistance to their health-care needs, to a lesbian couple dealing with the experience of cancer, to young trans people who struggle to find health-care providers who treat them with dignity and respect. The book also includes essays by health-care providers, activists and leaders with something to say about the challenges, politics, and opportunities surrounding LGBTQ health issues.

### **These Pills Don't Come in My Skin Tone (3), Odesia Howlett (2017), 46 pages**

A spoken word collection by black, indigenous, and people of colour (BIPoC) living in "Canada" on mental health.

### **Under the Udala Trees, Chinelo Okparanta (2015), 328 pages**

Inspired by Nigeria's folktales and its war, *Under the Udala Trees* is a deeply searching, powerful debut about the dangers of living and loving openly.

Ijeoma comes of age as her nation does; born before independence, she is eleven when civil war breaks out in the young republic of Nigeria. Sent away to safety, she meets another displaced child and they, star-crossed, fall in love. They are from different ethnic communities. They are also both girls.

When their love is discovered, Ijeoma learns that she will have to hide this part of herself. But there is a cost to living inside a lie.

As Edwidge Danticat has made personal the legacy of Haiti's political coming of age, Okparanta's *Under the Udala Trees* uses one woman's lifetime to examine the ways in which Nigerians continue to struggle toward selfhood. Even as their nation contends with and recovers from the effects of war and division, Nigerian lives are also wrecked and lost from taboo and prejudice. This story offers a glimmer of hope — a future where a woman might just be able to shape her life around truth and love.

## **When Everything Feels Like the Movies, Raziel Reid (2014), 176 pages**

School is just like a film set: there's The Crew, who make things happen, The Extras who fill the empty desks, and The Movie Stars, whom everyone wants tagged in their Facebook photos. But Jude doesn't fit in. He's not part of The Crew because he isn't about to do anything unless it's court-appointed; he's not an Extra because nothing about him is anonymous; and he's not a Movie Star because even though everyone knows his name like an A-lister, he isn't invited to the cool parties. As the director calls action, Jude is the flamer that lights the set on fire.

Before everything turns to ashes from the resulting inferno, Jude drags his best friend Angela off the casting couch and into enough melodrama to incite the paparazzi, all while trying to fend off the haters and win the heart of his favourite co-star Luke Morris. It's a total train wreck! But train wrecks always make the front page.