

LGBTQ+ Fiction and Graphic Novels in the Jackson Library Collection

Albertalli, Becky. *Simon Vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*. First ed., Balzer Bray, an Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2015.

Jackson Library Young Adult and Graphic Novel Collection

PZ7.A434 Sim 2015

Sixteen-year-old and not-so-openly gay Simon Spier prefers to save his drama for the school musical. But when an email falls into the wrong hands, his secret is at risk of being thrust into the spotlight. Now Simon is actually being blackmailed: if he doesn't play wingman for class clown Martin, his sexual identity will become everyone's business. Worse, the privacy of Blue, the pen name of the boy he's been emailing, will be compromised. With some messy dynamics emerging in his once tight-knit group of friends, and his email correspondence with Blue growing more flirtatious every day, Simon's junior year has suddenly gotten all kinds of complicated. Now, change-averse Simon has to find a way to step out of his comfort zone before he's pushed out -- without alienating his friends, compromising himself, or fumbling a shot at happiness with the most confusing, adorable guy he's never met.

Bunker, Lisa. *Zenobia July*. Viking, 2019.

Jackson Library Stacks

PZ7.1.B864 Zen 2019

Zenobia July, an excellent coder and hacker, investigates a mystery while wrestling with the challenges of a new school, a new family, and presenting her true gender for the first time.

Carbado, Devon W, et al. *Black Like Us : A Century of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual African American Fiction*. 2nd ed., 2nd ed., Cleis, 2011.

eBook Access: <https://uncg.on.worldcat.org/oclc/814405943>

Winner of the 2003 Lambda Literary Award for Fiction Anthology Showcasing the work of literary giants like Langston Hughes, James Baldwin, Audre Lorde, Alice Walker, and writers whom readers may be surprised to learn were "in the life," *Black Like Us* is the most comprehensive collection of fiction by African American lesbian, gay, and bisexual writers ever published. From the Harlem Renaissance to the Great Migration of the Depression era, from the postwar civil rights, feminist, and gay liberation movements, to the unabashedly complex sexual explorations of the present day, *Black Like Us* accomplishes a sweeping survey of 20th century literature.

Cassara, J. (2018). *The house of impossible beauties (First)*. Ecco, an imprint of HarperCollins.

Jackson Library Stacks

PS3603.A86822 H68 2018

1980, New York City. Burned by her traumatic past, Angel is new to the drag world, new to ball culture, and has a yearning inside of her to help create family for those without. When she falls in love with Hector, a beautiful young man who dreams of becoming a professional dancer, the two decide to form the House of Xtravaganza, the first-ever all-Latino house in the Harlem ball circuit. But when Hector dies of AIDS-related complications, Angel must tend to their house alone. She recruits Venus, a whip-fast trans girl who dreams of finding a rich man to take care of

her; Juanito, a quiet boy who loves fabrics and design; and Daniel, a butch queen who accidentally saves Venus's life. The Xtravaganzas lean on each other as bulwarks against a world that resists them.

Cronn-Mills, Kirstin, and Flux (Imprint). Beautiful Music for Ugly Children. First ed., Flux, an Imprint of Llewellyn Worldwide, 2012.

Jackson Library Stacks

PZ7.C88149 Be 2012

Gabe has always identified as a boy, but he was born with a girl's body. With his new public access radio show gaining in popularity, Gabe struggles with romance, friendships, and parents--all while trying to come out as transgendered. An audition for a station in Minneapolis looks like his ticket to a better life in the big city. But his entire future is threatened when several violent guys find out Gabe, the popular DJ, is also Elizabeth from school.

De Young, Dana. The Butterfly and the Flame. IUniverse, 2011.

Jackson Library Stacks

PS3604.E1298 B880 2011

"There's something you need to know about Emily..." In the year 2404, in a land ruled by the oppressive theocracy known as the Dominion of Divinity, being gay is a capital offense, adultery is punished with the lash, women are forbidden to work, and forced marriages are common. Fifteen-year-old Emily La Rouche faces an impossible choice. On her sixteenth birthday, she will be forced to marry the son of her landlord. If she refuses, her family will lose everything. If she takes his hand, it is certain that her life will end by a hangman's noose in front of an angry mob. All because Emily has been hiding an enormous secret for years--she was born a boy. As the wedding approaches, Emily's parents realize the only way that she will be safe is if she is to escape the Dominion. With her brother Aaron at her side, Emily flees across post-apocalyptic America in search for a new home. With vile bounty hunters on her trail, only time will tell if Emily will ever find a place where she can live and breathe free as the person she was always meant to be.

Emezi, Akwaeke. Pet. First ed., Make Me a World, 2019.

Jackson Library Stacks

PZ7.1.E474 Pet 2019

In a near-future society that claims to have gotten rid of all monstrous people, a creature emerges from a painting seventeen-year-old Jam's mother created, a hunter from another world seeking a real-life monster.

There are no monsters anymore. In the city of Lucille, Jam and her best friend, Redemption, have grown up with this lesson all their lives. Then Jam meets Pet, a creature made of horns and colors and claws, who emerges from one of her mother's paintings and a drop of Jam's blood. Pet has come to hunt a monster-- and the shadow of something grim lurks in Redemption's house. How do you save the world from monsters if no one will admit they exist?

Frankel, Laurie. This Is How It Always Is. First ed., Flatiron Books, 2017.

Jackson Library Stacks

PS3606.R389 T48 2017

This is how a family keeps a secret ... and how that secret ends up keeping them. This is how a family lives happily ever after ... until happily ever after becomes complicated. This is how children change ... and then change the world. When Rosie and Penn and their four boys welcome the newest member of their family, no one is surprised it's another baby boy. At least their large, loving, chaotic family knows what to expect. But Claude is not like his brothers. One day he puts on a dress and refuses to take it off. He wants to bring a purse to kindergarten. He wants hair long enough to sit on. When he grows up, Claude says, he wants to be a girl. Rosie and Penn aren't panicked at first. Kids go through phases, after all, and make-believe is fun. But soon the entire family is keeping Claude's secret. Until one day it explodes. *This Is How It Always Is* is a novel about revelations, transformations, fairy tales, and family. And it's about the ways this is how it always is: Change is always hard and miraculous and hard again; parenting is always a leap into the unknown with crossed fingers and full hearts; children grow but not always according to plan. And families with secrets don't get to keep them forever.

Garden, Nancy. *Annie on My Mind*. Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1982.

Jackson Library Stacks

PZ7.G165 AN 1982

eBook Access:

<https://uncg.on.worldcat.org/oclc/8475083>

Liza puts aside her feelings for Annie after the disaster at school, but eventually she allows love to triumph over the ignorance of people.

Gino, Alex. *George*. First ed., Scholastic Press, 2015.

Jackson Library Stacks

PZ7.1.G5660 Geo 2015

When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl. George thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever. Then her teacher announces that their class play is going to be *Charlotte's Web*. George really, really, REALLY wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part . . . because she's a boy. With the help of her best friend, Kelly, George comes up with a plan. Not just so she can be Charlotte -- but so everyone can know who she is, once and for all.

Green, John, et al. *Will Grayson, Will Grayson*. First ed., Dutton, an Imprint of Penguin Group (Usa), 2010.

Jackson Library Young Adult and Graphic Novel Collection

PZ7.G8233 Wil 2010

When two teens, one gay and one straight, meet accidentally and discover that they share the same name, their lives become intertwined as one begins dating the other's best friend, who produces a play revealing his relationship with them both.

Greer, Andrew Sean. *Less : A Novel*. First ed., Little, Brown and Company, 2017.

Jackson Library Stacks

PS3557.R3987 L47 2017

Receiving an invitation to his ex-boyfriend's wedding, Arthur, a failed novelist on the eve of his fiftieth birthday, embarks on an international journey that finds him falling in love, risking his life, reinventing himself, and making connections with the past.

"Who says you can't run away from your problems? You are a failed novelist about to turn fifty. A wedding invitation arrives in the mail: your boyfriend of the past nine years is engaged to someone else. You can't say yes-it would be too awkward-and you can't say no-it would look like defeat. On your desk are a series of invitations to half-baked literary events around the world. QUESTION: How do you arrange to skip town? ANSWER: You accept them all. What would possibly go wrong? Arthur Less will almost fall in love in Paris, almost fall to his death in Berlin, barely escape to a Moroccan ski chalet from a Saharan sandstorm, accidentally book himself as the (only) writer-in-residence at a Christian Retreat Center in Southern India, and encounter, on a desert island in the Arabian Sea, the last person on Earth he wants to face. Somewhere in there: he will turn fifty. Through it all, there is his first love. And there is his last. Because, despite all these mishaps, missteps, misunderstandings and mistakes, Less is, above all, a love story. A scintillating satire of the American abroad, a rumination on time and the human heart, a bittersweet romance of chances lost, 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.

Hall, Radclyffe, and Havelock Ellis. The Well of Loneliness. 1st Anchor Books ed., Anchor Books, 1990.

Jackson Library Stacks

PR6015.A33 W43 1990

Originally published in 1928, Radclyffe Hall's *The Well of Loneliness* is the timeless story of a lesbian couple's struggle to be accepted by "polite" society. Shockingly candid for its time, this novel was the very first to condemn homophobic society for its unfair treatment of gays and lesbians.

Harris, E. Lynn. Basketball Jones. 1st ed., Doubleday, 2009.

Jackson Library Stacks

PS3558.A64438 B37 2009

Aldridge James "AJ" Richardson has never had to work a regular job, thanks to his longtime lover, Dray Jones. Dray is a rich and famous NBA star. To make it to the big time, Dray must juggle his public image and his private desires. When Dray's teammates begin to ask insinuating questions about AJ, Dray puts their doubts to rest by marrying Judi, a beautiful and ambitious woman. Judi knows nothing about Dray's "other life." Or does she?

Hollinghurst, Alan. The Line of Beauty : A Novel. First U.S. ed., Bloomsbury, 2004.

Jackson Library Stacks

PR6058.O4467 L56 2004

20-year-old Nick Guest moves into an attic room in the Notting Hill home of the Feddens. An innocent in matters of politics and money, he becomes caught up in the Feddens' world: its grand parties, its surprising alliances, its parade of monsters both comic and menacing. In an era of

endless possibility, he finds himself able to pursue his own private obsession with beauty--a prize as compelling to him as power and riches are to his friends.

Kenan, Randall. A Visitation of Spirits : A Novel. First Vintage contemporaries ed., Vintage Books, a Division of Random House, 2000.

Jackson Library Stacks
PS3561.E4228 V5 2000

Sixteen-year old Horace Cross is plagued by issues that hover in his impressionable spirit and take shape in his mind as loathsome demons, culminating in one night of horrible and tragic transformation. In the face of Horace's fate, his cousin Reverend James "Jimmy" Green questions the values of a community that nourishes a boy, places their hopes for salvation on him, only to deny him his destiny.

Lo, Malinda. A Line in the Dark. Dutton Books, 2017.

Jackson Library Young Adult and Graphic Novel Collection
PZ7.L778786 Lin 2017

"When Chinese American teenager Jess Wong's best friend Angie falls in love with a girl from the nearby boarding school, Jess expects heartbreak. But when everybody's secrets start to be revealed, the stakes quickly elevate from love or loneliness to life or death."

McLemore, Anna-Marie. When the Moon Was Ours. First ed., Thomas Dunne Books, St. Martin's Griffin, 2016.

Jackson Library Young Adult and Graphic Novel Collection
PZ7.1.M463 Wh 2016

As their deep friendship turns to love, Latina teenager Miel, who grows roses from her wrist, and Italian-Pakistani Samir, a transgender boy, fear their secrets will be exposed by the beautiful Bonner girls, four sisters rumored to be witches.

Morgan, Claire. The Price of Salt. Dover Publications, 2015.

eBook Access: <https://uncg.on.worldcat.org/oclc/900632785>

Tells the riveting drama of Therese Belivet, a stage designer trapped in a department-store day job, whose routine is forever shattered by a erotic epiphany--the appearance of Carol Aird, a customer who comes in to buy her daughter a Christmas toy. Therese begins to stalk the alluring suburban housewife, who is trapped in a marriage as stultifying as Therese's job. They fall in love and set out across the United States, pursued by a private investigator who eventually blackmails Carol into a choice between her daughter and her lover.

Murphy, Julie. Ramona Blue. First ed., Balzer Bray, an Imprint of HarperCollins, 2017.

Jackson Library Young Adult and Graphic Novel Collection
PZ7.M95352 Ram 2017

Ramona was only five years old when Hurricane Katrina changed her life forever. Since then, it's been Ramona and her family against the world. Standing over six feet tall with unmistakable blue hair, Ramona is sure of three things: she likes girls, she's fiercely devoted to her family, and she knows she's destined for something bigger than the trailer she calls home in Eulogy,

Mississippi. But juggling multiple jobs, her flaky mom, and her well-meaning but ineffectual dad forces her to be the adult of the family. Now, with her sister, Hattie, pregnant, responsibility weighs more heavily than ever. The return of her childhood friend Freddie brings a welcome distraction. Ramona's friendship with the former competitive swimmer picks up exactly where it left off, and soon he's talked her into joining him for laps at the pool. But as Ramona falls in love with swimming, her feelings for Freddie begin to shift too, which is the last thing she expected. With her growing affection for Freddie making her question her sexual identity, Ramona begins to wonder if perhaps she likes girls and guys or if this new attraction is just a fluke. Either way, Ramona will discover that, for her, life and love are more fluid than they seem.

Petrus, Junauda. *The Stars and the Blackness between Them*. Dutton Books, 2019.

Jackson Library Young Adult and Graphic Novel Collection

PZ7.1.P474 St 2019

Port of Spain, Trinidad. Sixteen-year-old Audre is heartbroken, having just found out she's going to live in America with her father because her mother caught her with her secret girlfriend, the pastor's granddaughter. Audre's grandmother (a dancer who drives a white convertible Mercedes and has a few secrets of her own) reassures Audre that she won't lose her roots, not even in some place called Minneapolis. "America have dey spirits too, believe me," she tells Audre. Minneapolis, USA. Sixteen-year-old Mabel is staring at a picture of Whitney Houston, trying figure out why she feels the way she feels - about her ex, Terrell, about her girl Jada and that moment they had in the woods, and about the vague feeling of illness that's plagued her all summer. Mabel's reverie is cut short when her dad announces that a friend and his just-arrived-from-Trinidad daughter are coming for dinner. Mabel falls hard and fast for Audre, and she's determined to help Audre find her way in America - never an easy thing for a Black girl, as she knows. But their romance takes a turn when test results reveal exactly why Mabel has been feeling low-key sick all summer. Suddenly it's Audre who must care for Mabel as she faces a deeply uncertain future.

Russo, Meredith. *Birthday*. First ed., Flatiron Books, 2019.

Jackson Library Young Adult and Graphic Novel Collection

PS3618.U7744 B57 2019

Eric: There was the day we were born. There was the minute Morgan and I decided we were best friends for life. The years where we stuck by each other's side--as Morgan's mom died, as he moved across town, as I joined the football team, as my parents started fighting. But sometimes I worry that Morgan and I won't be best friends forever. That there'll be a day, a minute, a second, where it all falls apart and there's no turning back the clock. Morgan: I know that every birthday should feel like a new beginning, but I'm trapped in this mixed-up body, in this wrong life, in Nowheresville, Tennessee, on repeat. With a dad who cares about his football team more than me, a mom I miss more than anything, and a best friend who can never know my biggest secret. Maybe one day I'll be ready to become the person I am inside. To become her. To tell the world. To tell Eric. But when? Six years of birthdays reveal Eric and Morgan's destiny as they come together, drift apart, fall in love, and discover who they're meant to be--and if they're meant to be together.

Eric and Morgan decided they were best friends for life. They've stuck by each other's side as Morgan's mom died, as he moved across town, as Eric joined the football team, as his parents started fighting. But Morgan feels trapped in a mixed-up body, in a wrong life, in Nowheresville, Tennessee, on repeat. With a dad who cares about his football team more than his son, and a best friend who can never know his biggest secret. Six years of birthdays reveal Eric and Morgan's destiny as they come together, drift apart, fall in love, and discover who they're meant to be-- and if they're meant to be together.

Russo, Meredith. *If I Was Your Girl*. First ed., Flatiron Books, 2016.

Jackson Library Young Adult and Graphic Novel Collection

PZ7.1.R874 If 2016

Amanda Hardy is the new girl in school in Lambertville, Tennessee. Like any other girl, all she wants is to make friends and fit in. But Amanda is keeping a secret. There's a reason why she transferred schools for her senior year, and why she's determined not to get too close to anyone. And then she meets Grant Everett. Grant is unlike anyone she's ever met -- open, honest, kind -- and Amanda can't help but start to let him into her life. As they spend more time together, she finds herself yearning to share with Grant everything about herself ... including her past. But she's terrified that once she tells Grant the truth, he won't be able to see past it. Because the secret that Amanda's been keeping? It's that she used to be Andrew.

Safi, Aminah Mae. *Tell Me How You Really Feel*. First ed., Feiwel and Friends, 2019.

Jackson Library Young Adult and Graphic Novel Collection

PZ7.1.S2414 Te 2019

"Aminah Mae Safi's *Tell Me How You Really Feel* is an ode to romantic comedies, following two girls on opposite sides of the social scale as they work together to make a movie and try very hard not to fall in love. The first time Sana Khan asked out a girl -- Rachel Recht -- it went so badly that she never did it again. Rachel is a film buff and aspiring director, and she's seen *Carrie* enough times to learn you can never trust cheerleaders (and beautiful people). Rachel was furious that Sana tried to prank her by asking her on a date. But when it comes time for Rachel to cast her senior project, she realizes that there's no more perfect lead than Sana -- the girl she's sneered at in the halls for the past three years. And poor Sana -- she says yes. She never did really get over that first crush, even if Rachel can barely stand to be in the same room as her. Told in alternative viewpoints and set against the backdrop of Los Angeles in the springtime, when the rainy season rolls in and the Santa Ana's can still blow -- these two girls are about to learn that in the city of dreams, anything is possible -- even love."

Sugiura, Misa. *It's Not Like It's a Secret*. First ed., HarperTeen, an Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2017.

Jackson Library Young Adult and Graphic Novel Collection

PZ7.1.S8464 It 2017

"Sixteen-year-old Sana Kiyohara has too many secrets. Some are small, like how it bothers her when her friends don't invite her to parties. Some are big, like that fact that her father may be having an affair. And then there's the one that she can barely even admit to herself -- the one about how she might have a crush on her best friend. When Sana and her family move to

California she begins to wonder if it's finally time for some honesty, especially after she meets Jamie Ramirez. Jamie is beautiful and smart and unlike anyone Sana's ever known. There are just a few problems: Sana's new friends don't trust Jamie's crowd; Jamie's friends clearly don't want her around anyway; and a sweet guy named Caleb seems to have more-than-friendly feelings for her. Meanwhile, her dad's affair is becoming too obvious to ignore anymore. Sana always figured that the hardest thing would be to tell people that she wants to date a girl, but as she quickly learns, telling the truth is easy ... what comes after it, though, is a whole lot more complicated."

Waters, Sarah. Tipping the Velvet. First Riverhead trade paperback ed., Riverhead Books, 2000.

Jackson Library Stacks
PR6073.A828 T560 2000

Nancy Astley, a fishmonger in Whitstable, becomes smitten by male impersonator Kitty Butler and attends shows until the star notices her, which leads to the two becoming partners in romance and performance until societal pressures drive the two into situations that embrace the ambiguity of sexual preference and gender roles.

Waters, Sarah. The Night Watch. Riverhead Books, 2006.

Jackson Library Stacks
PR6073 .A828 N54 2006

Follows a group of four people living in World War II-era London at three different points in their lives: in the aftermath of the war, during its height, and the early days of the war.

Westerfeld, Scott. Afterworlds. First Simon Pulse hardcover ed., Simon Pulse, 2014.

Jackson Library Stacks
PZ7.W5197 Aft 2014

In alternating chapters, eighteen-year-old Darcy Patel navigates the New York City publishing world and Lizzie, the heroine of Darcy's novel, slips into the "Afterworld" to survive a terrorist attack and becomes a spirit guide, as both face many challenges and both fall in love.

Winterson, Jeanette. Frankissstein : A Love Story. First Grove Atlantic hardcover ed., Grove Press, 2019.

Jackson Library Current Literature Collection
PR6073.I558 F73 2019

eBook Access: <https://uncg.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1111640711>

Lake Geneva, 1816. Nineteen-year-old Mary Shelley is inspired to write a story about a scientist who creates a new life-form. In Brexit Britain, a young transgender doctor called Ry is falling in love with Victor Stein, a celebrated professor leading the public debate around AI and carrying out some experiments of his own in a vast underground network of tunnels. Meanwhile, Ron Lord, just divorced and living with his mom again, is set to make his fortune launching a new generation of sex dolls for lonely men everywhere. Across the Atlantic, in Phoenix, Arizona, a cryogenics facility houses dozens of bodies of men and women who are medically and legally dead ... but waiting to return to life. What will happen when homo sapiens is no longer the

smartest being on the planet? In fiercely intelligent prose, Jeanette Winterson shows us how much closer we are to that future than we realize. Funny and furious, bold and clear-sighted, Frankissstein is a love story about life itself.

Winterson, Jeanette. Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit. 1st American ed., Atlantic Monthly Press, 1987.

Jackson Library Stacks
PR6073.I558 O7 1987

"Winner of the Whitbread Prize for best first fiction, *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* is a coming-out novel from Winterson, the acclaimed author of *The Passion and Sexing the Cherry*. The narrator, Jeanette, cuts her teeth on the knowledge that she is one of God's elect, but as this budding evangelical comes of age, and comes to terms with her preference for her own sex, the peculiar balance of her God-fearing household crumbles."

Wood, Jennie. A Boy Like Me. 215 Ink, 2014.

Jackson Library Young Adult and Graphic Novel Collection
PZ7.W849625 Bo 2014

"Born a girl, Peyton Honeycutt meets Tara Parks in the eighth grade bathroom shortly after he gets his first period. It is the best and worst day of his life. Determined to impress Tara, Peyton sets out to win her love by mastering the drums and basketball. He takes on Tara's small-minded mother, the bully at school, and the prejudices within his conservative hometown. In the end, Peyton must accept and stand up for who he is or lose the woman he loves"

Wood, Jennie, and Jeff McComsey. Jennie Wood's Flutter, Volume One : Hell Can Wait. 215 Ink, 2013.

Jackson Library Stacks
PN6790.W593 F48 2013

Fifteen year-old Lily shape-shifts into a boy to get the girl. Chaos ensues from pretending to be someone she's not. While coming to terms with who she really is and what she's done, Lily learns that life as a boy is just as difficult.