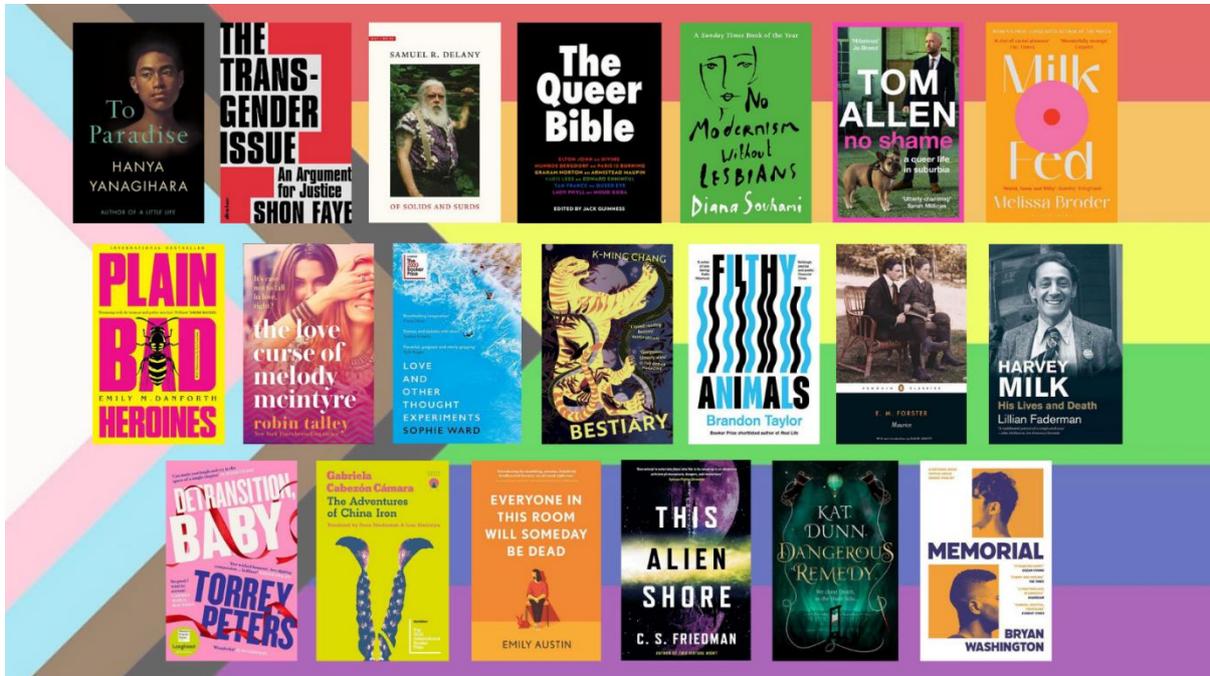


**The Reading Agency's February Booklist
LGBT+ History Month**



Discover The Reading Agency's February booklist celebrating the voices and stories of the LGBT+ community. There is compelling non-fiction, captivating romance and heart-stopping sci-fi among this selection of classic and brand-new titles.

Tell us what you think of the books on this list, or any others you have read, by tagging us on social media: @readingagency

***Plain Bad Heroines* by Emily M. Danforth (HarperCollins)**

ISBN: 9780008346959

In the early 1900s, Brookhants students Flo and Clara fell madly in love, brought together by their obsession with a scandalous memoir. A few months later they were found in the woods, the book lying next to their intertwined bodies. Three more grisly deaths followed before the school was forced to close. Now, the school's doors are open once more. But as a crew of glamorous young actresses assemble to start filming, past and present begin to blur...

***Of Solids and Surds* by Samuel R Delany (Yale University Press)**

ISBN: 9780300250404

In the fourth volume in the Why I Write series, the iconic Samuel Delany remembers fifty years of writing and shaping the world of speculative fiction. "We write," Delany believes, "at the intersection of your experience and mine in a way, I hope, that allows recognition."

***The Queer Bible* edited by Jack Guinness (HQ Stories)**

ISBN: 9780008343989

From Elton John on Divine to Graham Norton on Armistead Maupin; Russell Tovey on David Robilliard to Lady Phyll on Moud Goba; Tan France on the *Queer Eye* cast to Mae Martin on Tim Curry, today's queer heroes write about the icons that provided a creative inspiration to them.

***No Shame* by Tom Allen (Hodder & Stoughton)**

ISBN: 9781529348941

No Shame is a very funny, candid and emotional ride of a memoir by one of our most beloved comedians. The working-class son of a coach driver, and the youngest member of the Noel Coward Society, Tom Allen grew up in 90s suburbia as the eternal outsider.

***This Alien Shore* by C. S. Friedman (Head of Zeus)**

ISBN: 9781800245372

A thrilling space opera celebrated as one of science fiction's most profound explorations of diversity, *This Alien Shore* is a modern classic of the genre.

***Everyone in This Room will One Day be Dead* by Emily Austin (Atlantic Books)**

ISBN: 9781838953737

Gilda cannot stop thinking about death. Desperate for relief from her anxious mind, she responds to a flyer for free therapy at a local church and finds herself abruptly hired to replace the deceased receptionist, Grace. It's not the most obvious job - she's queer and an atheist for starters - and so in between trying to learn mass, hiding her new maybe-girlfriend and conducting an amateur investigation into Grace's death, Gilda must avoid revealing the truth of her mortifying existence.

***The Love Curse of Melody McIntyre* by Robin Talley (HQ Stories)**

ISBN: 9780008217242

Melody McIntyre, stage manager extraordinaire, has a plan for everything. What she doesn't have? Success with love. Of course, Mel didn't count on Odile Rose. And she definitely didn't expect Odile to be sweet, and funny and care as much about the play's success as Mel. Which means that Melody McIntyre's only plan now is trying desperately not to fall in love.

***Dangerous Remedy* by Kat Dunn (Head of Zeus)**

ISBN: 9781789543667

The first in a dazzling, commercial, historical adventure series set in the extravagant and deadly world of the French Revolution. A whirlwind of action, science and magic reveals, with a diverse cast of fearless heroines, a band of rebels like no other.

***Memorial* by Bryan Washington (Atlantic Books)**

ISBN: 9781838950101

Benson and Mike have been together for a few years - good years - but now they're not sure why they're still a couple. When Mike finds out his estranged father is dying in Osaka just as his acerbic mother, Mitsuko, arrives for a visit, Mike flies across the world to say goodbye. In Japan he undergoes an extraordinary transformation, discovering the truth about his family and his past, while Mitsuko and Benson are stuck living together, an absurd domestic situation that ends up meaning more to each of them than they ever could have predicted...

***Harvey Milk: His Lives and Death* by Lillian Faderman (Yale University Press)**

ISBN: 9780300248555

A lively and engaging biography of the first openly gay man elected to public office in the United States, a man fiercely committed to protecting all minorities

***No Modernism Without Lesbians* by Diana Souhami (Head of Zeus)**

ISBN: 9781786694874

Sylvia Beach, Bryher, Natalie Barney, and Gertrude Stein. A trailblazing publisher; a patron of artists; a society hostess; a groundbreaking writer. They were all women who loved women. They rejected the patriarchy and made lives of their own. Diana Souhami weaves their stories into those of the four central women to create a vivid moving tapestry of life among the Modernists in pre-War Paris.

***Bestiary* by K-Ming Chang (VINTAGE)**

ISBN: 9781529111965

Three generations of Taiwanese American women are haunted by the myths of their homeland in this blazing debut of one family's queer desires, violent impulses and buried secrets.

***Detransition, Baby* by Torrey Peters (Profile Books)**

ISBN: 9781788167222

Navigating the complicated waters of family-making and motherhood in the twenty-first century, this Women's Prize for Fiction-longlisted debut follows the lives of three trans and cis women living in New York.

***Milk Fed* by Melissa Broder (Bloomsbury)**

ISBN: 9781408897126

Rachel is twenty-four, a lapsed Jew who has made calorie restriction her religion. Then Rachel meets Miriam, a young Orthodox Jewish woman intent upon feeding her. *Milk Fed* is a tender and riotously funny meditation on love, certitude, and the question of what we are all being fed, from one of our major writers on the psyche - both sacred and profane.

***The Transgender Issue: An Argument for Justice* by Shon Faye (Penguin Press)**

ISBN: 9780241423141

In this powerful new book, Shon Faye reclaims the idea of the 'transgender issue' to uncover the reality of what it means to be trans in a transphobic society. In doing so, she provides a compelling, wide-ranging analysis of trans lives from youth to old age, exploring family, housing, healthcare and trans participation in the LGBTQ+ and feminist communities, in contemporary Britain and beyond.

***Filthy Animals* by Brandon Taylor (Daunt Books)**

ISBN: 9781911547983

A blisteringly beautiful collection of short fiction from the author of the Booker-shortlisted *Real Life*, *Filthy Animals* brings together quietly devastating stories of young people caught up in violence and desire, while longing for intimacy.

***Love and Other Thought Experiments* by Sophie Ward (Little, Brown)**

ISBN: 9781472154606

Rachel and Eliza are planning their future together. One night in bed Rachel wakes up terrified and tells Eliza that an ant has crawled into her eye and is stuck there. Rachel is certain; Eliza, a scientist, is sceptical. Suddenly their entire relationship is called into question. What follows is a uniquely imaginative sequence of interlinked stories ranging across time, place and perspective to form a sparkling philosophical tale of love, lost and found across the universe.

***To Paradise* by Hanya Yanagihara (Pan Macmillan)**

ISBN: 9781529077476

From the author of the classic *A Little Life*, a bold, brilliant novel spanning three centuries and three different versions of the American experiment, about lovers, family, loss and the elusive promise of utopia.

***Maurice* by E.M. Forster (Penguin Classics)**

ISBN: 9780141441139

Maurice Hall is a young man who grows up confident in his privileged status and well aware of his role in society. Through Clive, whom he encounters at Cambridge, and through Alec, the gamekeeper on Clive's country estate, Maurice gradually experiences a profound emotional and sexual awakening. A tale of passion, bravery and defiance, this intensely personal novel was completed in 1914 but remained unpublished until after Forster's death in 1970.

***The Adventures of China Iron* by Gabriela Cabezon Camara, translated by Iona Macintyre and Fiona Macintosh (Charco Press)**

ISBN: 9781916465664

A riotous romp taking the reader from the frontier culture of the pampas deep into indigenous territories. It charts the adventures of China Iron, Martín Fierros abandoned wife, in her travels across the pampas in a wagon with her new-found friend and lover, Liz.