

Am I Blue? Coming Out From the Silence

Each of these short stories is original, each is by a noted author for young adults, and each honestly portrays its subject and theme--growing up gay or lesbian, or with gay or lesbian parents or friends.

Benduhn, Tea. *Gravel Queen.*

All Aurin wants to do the summer before her senior year in high school is hang out with her friends Kenney and Fred, but when she falls in love with Neila, everything changes.

Chbosky, Steven. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower.*

Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it, Charlie is navigating through the strange worlds of love, drugs, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show", and dealing with the loss of a good friend and his favorite aunt.

Garden, Nancy. *Annie on My Mind.*

Liza tries to put aside her feelings for Annie after the disaster at Foster Academy, but eventually she allows love to triumph over the ignorance of others.

Hall, John. *Is He or Isn't He?*

Best friends Paige and Anthony both have designs on cute new guy Max, figuring whether he is straight or gay, he'll have to fall for one of them.

Hartinger, Brent. *Geography Club.*

Russel is gay, and he knows he'd better keep it secret, or he'll be a total outcast in his small-town high school. However, when he discovers that there are others like him they form a support group they call the "Geography Club".

Howe, James. *Totally Joe.*

As a school assignment, a thirteen-year-old boy writes an alphabiography--life from A to Z--and explores issues of friendship, family, school, and the challenges of being a gay teenager. Also try *The Misfits* by the same author.

Johnson, Maureen. *The Bermudez Triangle.*

The friendship of three high school girls and their relationships with their friends and families are tested when two of them fall in love with each other.

Koja, Kathe. *Talk.*

Hoping to escape from himself for awhile, Kit auditions for a controversial school play, discovers his talent for acting, and struggles with coming out.

LaRochelle, David. *Absolutely, Positively, Not Gay.*

Chronicles a teenage boy's humorous attempts to fit in at his Minnesota high school by becoming a macho, girl-loving, "Playboy" pinup-displaying heterosexual.

Levithan, David. *Boy Meets Boy.*

This is the story of Paul, a sophomore at a high school like no other: The cheerleaders ride Harleys, the homecoming queen used to be a guy named Daryl (she now prefers Infinite Darlene), and the gay-straight alliance was formed to help the straight kids learn how to dance.

Lockhart, E. *Dramarama.*

Spending their summer at Wildewood Academy, an elite boarding school for the performing arts, tests the bond between teens Sadye and her best friend Demi.

Mac, Carrie. *Crush.*

Just when she thinks she knows who she is, Hope falls in love--and her world is turned upside down.

Manning, Sarra. *Pretty Things.*

While rehearsing for a production of "The Taming of the Shrew," four English teenagers explore their relationships and sexuality, while also discovering some surprising truths about themselves.

Medina, Nico. *The Straight Road to Kylie.*

Out and proud Jonathan pretends to be the school It Girl's boyfriend to get what he really wants - a trip to see Kylie Minogue.

Moore, Perry. *Hero.*

Thom Creed, the gay son of a disowned superhero, finds that he, too, has special powers and is asked to join the very League that rejected his father.

Myracle, Lauren. *Kissing Kate.*

Sixteen-year-old Lissa's relationship with her best friend changes after they kiss at a party. Lissa doesn't know what to do, until she gets help from an unexpected new friend.

Papademetriou, Lisa and Chris Tebbetts. *M or F?*

Gay teen Marcus helps his friend Frannie chat up her crush online, but then becomes convinced that the crush is falling for him instead.

Peters, Julie Anne. *Keeping You a Secret.*

As she begins a very tough last semester of high school, Holland finds herself puzzled about her future and intrigued by a transfer student who wants to start a Lesbigan club at school.

Peters, Julie Anne. *Luna*.

Fifteen-year-old Regan's life, which has always revolved around keeping her older brother Liam's transsexuality a secret, changes when Liam decides to start the process of "transitioning" by first telling his family and friends that he is a girl who was born in a boy's body.

Ryan, Sara. *Empress of the World*.

While attending a summer institute, fifteen-year-old Nic meets another girl named Battle, falls in love with her, and finds the relationship to be difficult and confusing. Check out the continuation of Battle's story in *Rules for Hearts*.

Sanchez, Alex. *Rainbow Boys*.

Three high school seniors, a jock with a girlfriend and an alcoholic father, a closeted gay, and a flamboyant gay rights advocate, struggle with family issues, gay bashers, first sex, and conflicting feelings about each other. Their story is continued in *Rainbow High* and *Rainbow Road*, also by Alex Sanchez.

Sanchez, Alex. *So Hard to Say*.

Xio and Frederick, who has just moved to California from Wisconsin, quickly become close friends, but when Xio starts thinking of Frederick as her boyfriend, he must confront his feelings of confusion and face the fear that he might be gay.

Shiozu, Shiri. *Eerie Queerie, Vol. 1-4*

Mitsuo Shiozu is put in an awkward position when his mind and body are taken over by two young women. Hasunuma and Ichi, two of his fellow male high school students, find themselves attracted to Mitsuo, which places him in an even stranger position.

Sloan, Brian. *A Really Nice Prom Mess*.

Gay high school senior Cameron Hayes endures a disastrous prom night when forced to take a girl as his date, and after fleeing the dance in disguise, he finds himself involved in a surprising on-stage performance, a high-speed police chase, and unexpected revelations.

Sloan, Brian. *A Tale of Two Summers*.

Even though Hal is gay and Chuck is straight, the two fifteen-year-olds are best friends and set up a blog where Hal records his budding romance with a young Frenchman and Chuck falls for a summer theater camp diva.

St. James, James. *Freak Show*.

Having faced teasing that turned into a brutal attack, seventeen-year-old Billy Bloom, a drag queen, decides the only way to become fabulous again is to run for Homecoming Queen at his elite, private school near Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Wittlinger, Ellen. *Hard Love*.

After starting to publish a zine in which he writes his secret feelings about his lonely life and his parents' divorce, sixteen-year-old John meets an unusual girl and begins to develop a healthier personality.

Wittlinger, Ellen. *Parrotfish*.

Grady, a transgendered high school student, yearns for acceptance by his classmates and family as he struggles to adjust to his new identity as a male.

Wyeth, Sharon. *Orphea Proud*.

As Orphea, who discovers her sexuality as a lesbian, shares her story, powerful questions of family, prejudice, and identity are explored



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