



***Queer Lit for Tweens to Adults:
Reading the Rainbow***

by Le Button, Alyssa Cokinis, Annie Greenwood-Sprague, Kirsten Brodbeck-Kenny, April Younglove
2023 OLA Conference

Queer Mirrors, Doors & Windows

- **MIRRORS** for queer readers to see themselves reflected and represented in literature
- **WINDOWS** for non-queer readers to gain empathy and understanding for the experiences of queer people.



<chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://scenicregional.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Mirrors-Windows-and-Sliding-Glass-Doors.pdf>

Queer Book Banning Facts

- **Book challenges nearly doubled between 2021 and 2022; the number of unique titles challenged increased by about 38%**

<https://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2023/03/record-book-bans-2022>

- **4 in 10 Books Banned in 2022 were LGBTQ+ Related**

<https://www.them.us/story/banned-books-lgbtq-2022>



The State of Queer Book Publishing

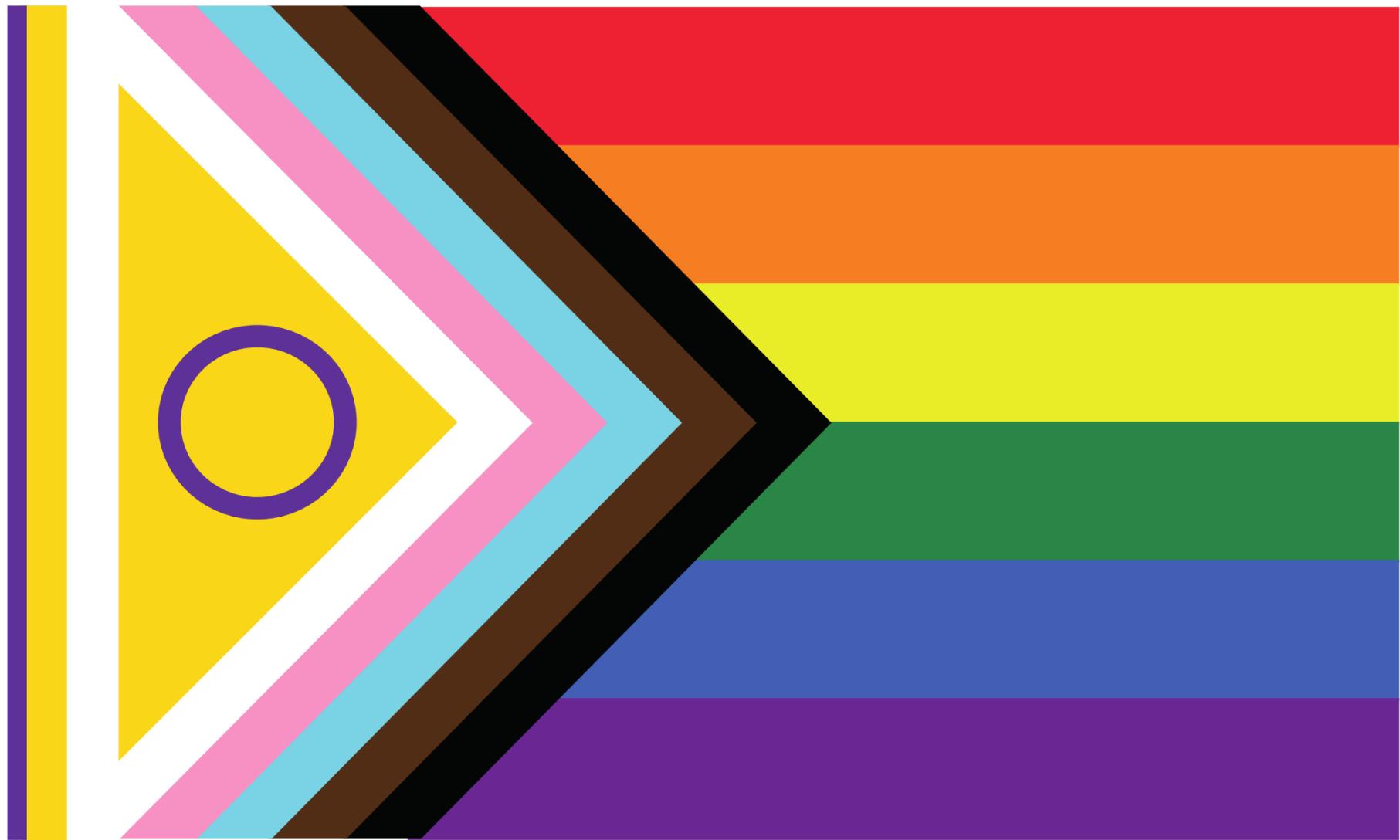
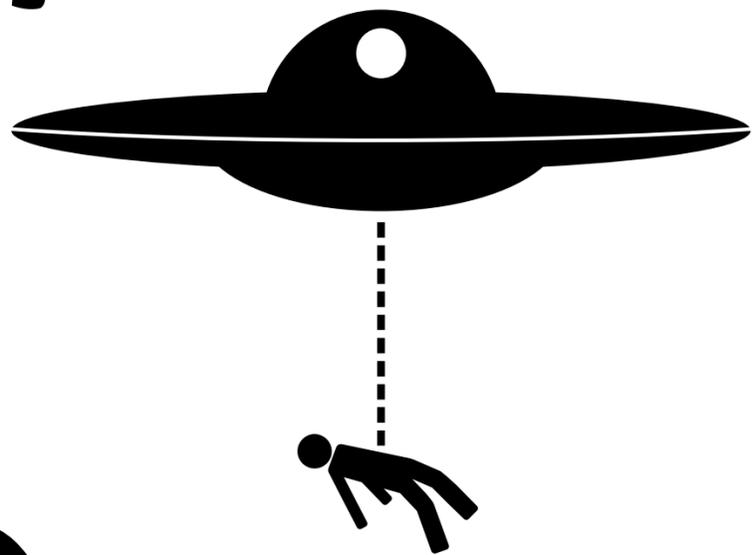
In 2021, sales of LGBTQ fiction reached 5 million units, doubling 2020 sales

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/financial-reporting/article/89622-lgbtq-fiction-sales-surge-in-the-u-s.html>

In a 2019 poll, 19% of publishing industry respondents identified as something other than straight; 3% identified as something other than cisgender

<https://wordsrated.com/diversity-in-book-publishing/>





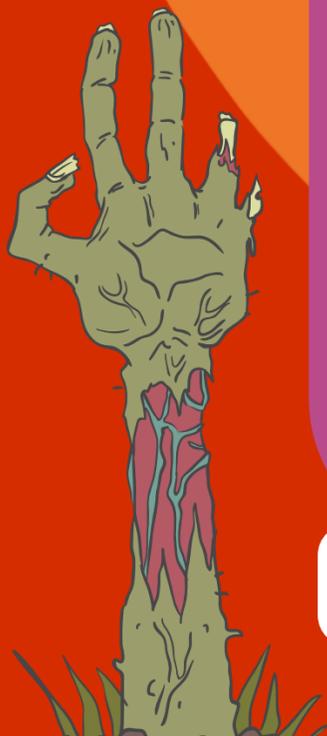
***Queer Fantasy, Sci-Fi, & Horror
Recommendations***

Bad Witch Burning by Jessica Lewis

- YA contemporary fantasy
- BIPOC main character
- necromancy
- not romance-centric
- ace supporting character
- for teen & up

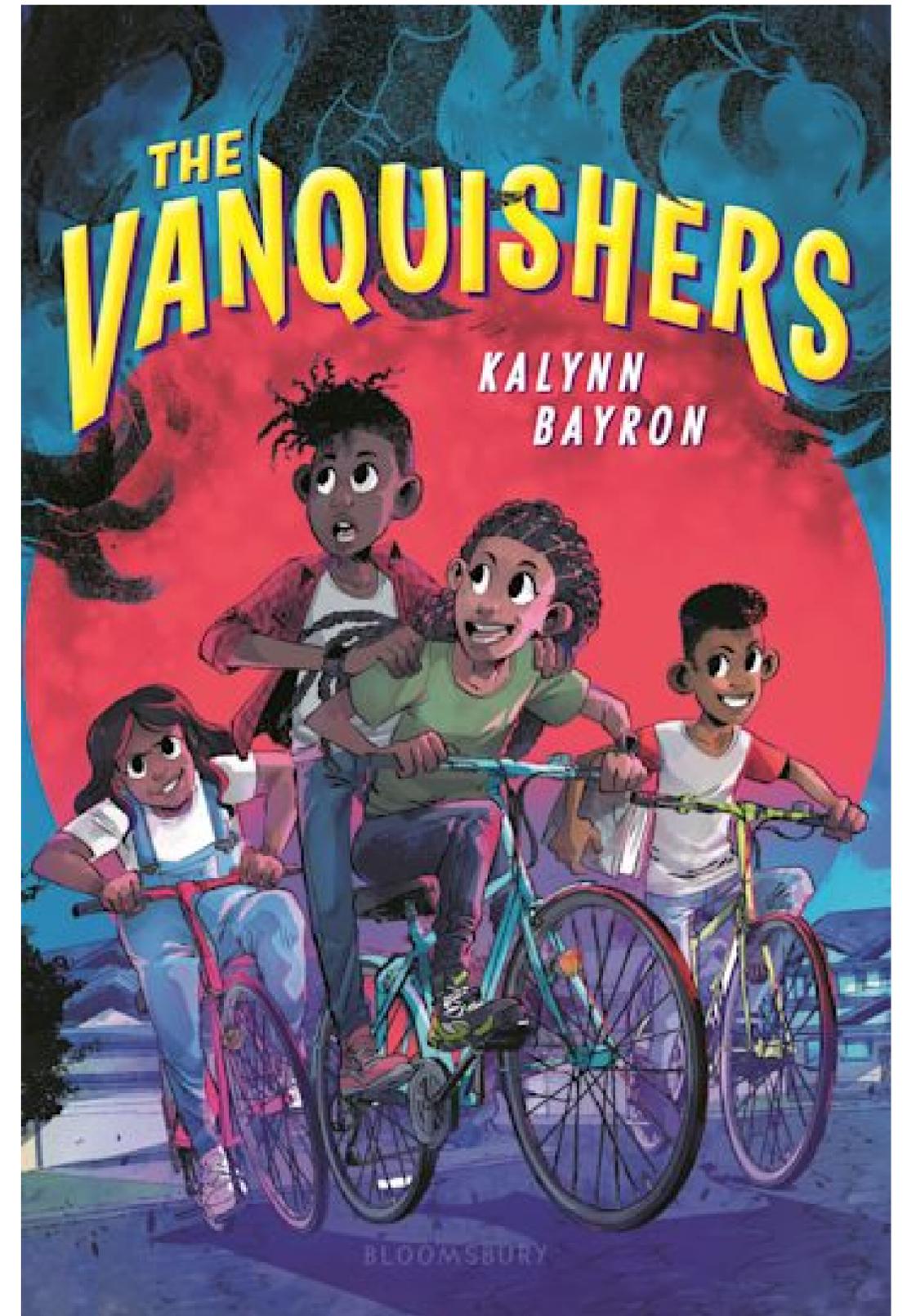


Trigger Warnings: abuse (emotional, physical, financial), domestic violence, pet murder/death (p. 9),
grief, parental neglect and trauma, gun violence, poverty



The Vanquishers by Kalynn Bayron

- vampires! Or are there?
- Black kids helping their friend and town
- nonbinary supporting character (they/them)
- queer parents as supporting characters
- for tweens or young teens :)



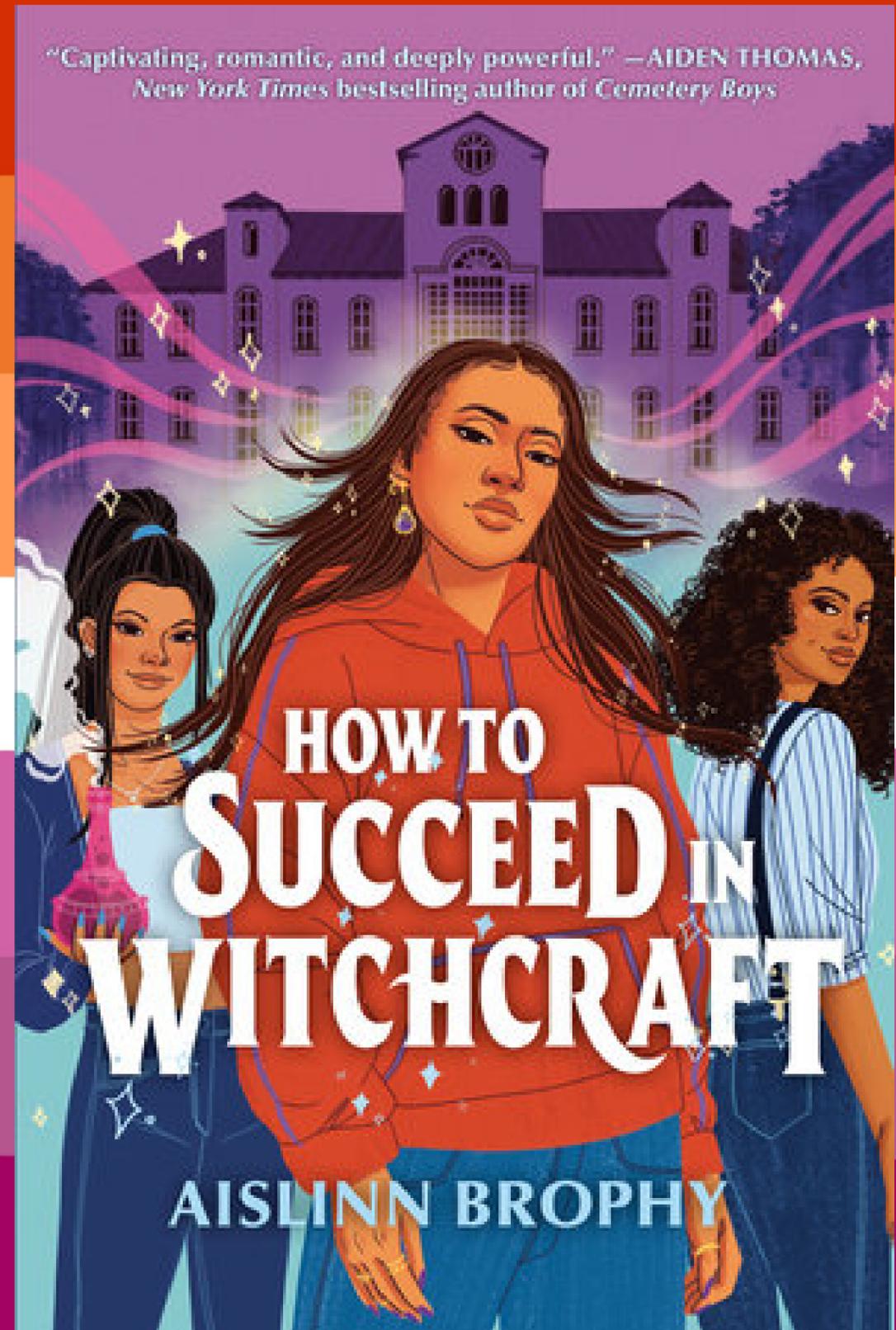
Trigger Warnings: violence, violence against a Black child (off page), kidnapping



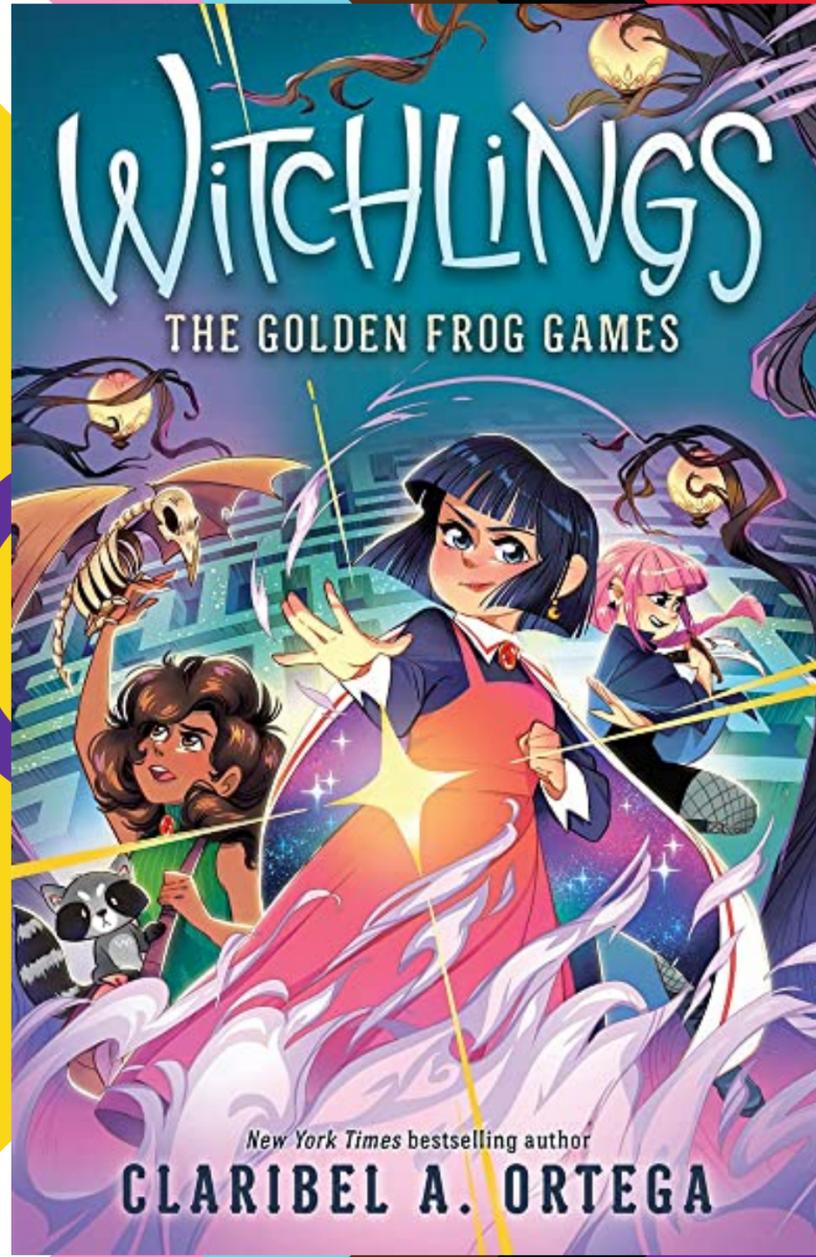
How to Succeed in Witchcraft

by Aislinn Brophy

- Black lesbian lead
- Latina bisexual rival-to-lover 🥰
- if magic existed in everyday society
- social commentary
- musical theatre!



Trigger Warnings: racism, lesbophobia (on page), grooming by teacher, drug use (recreational)



Witchlings
by
Claribel A. Ortega

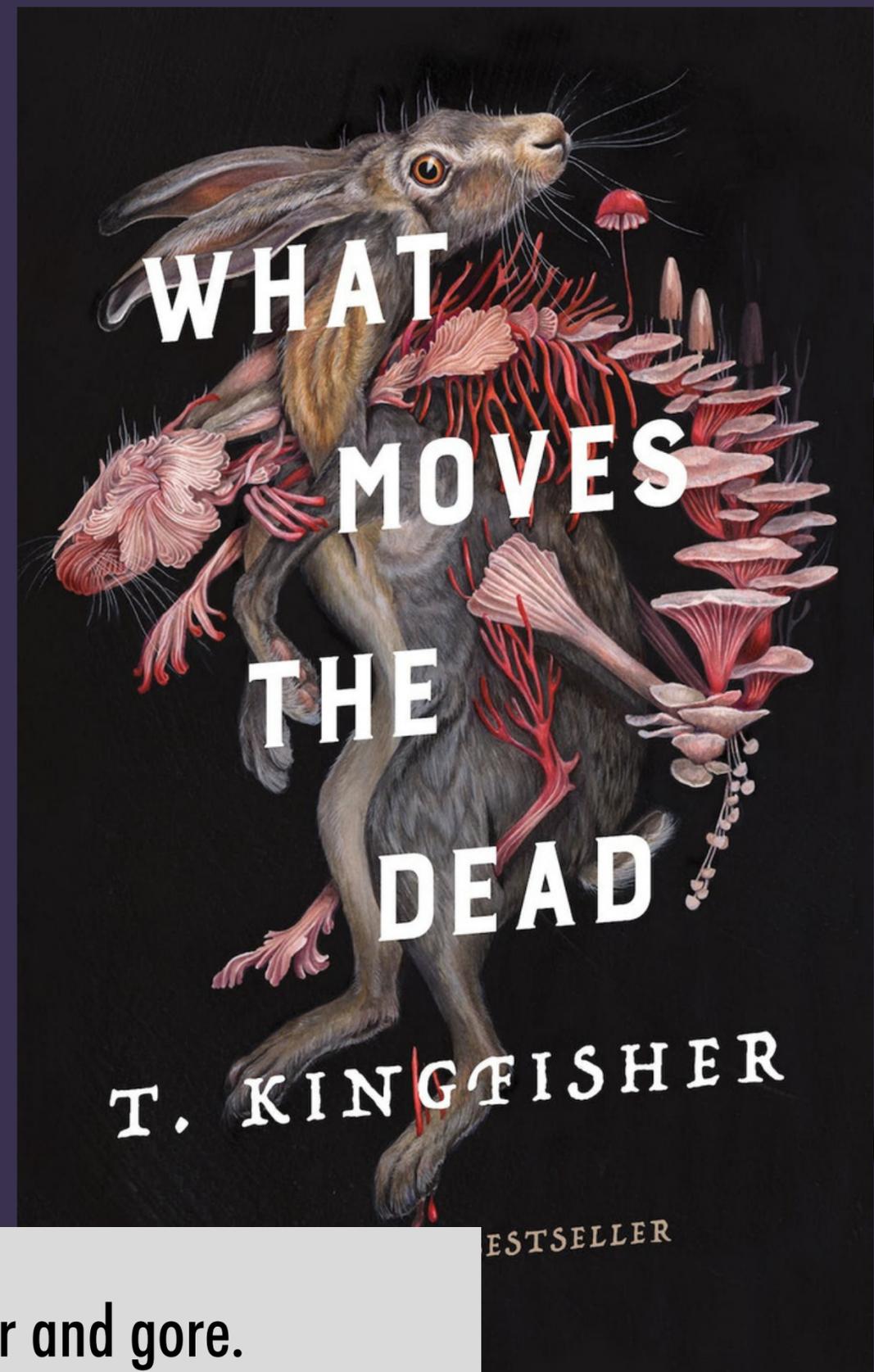
- inclusive magical fantasy
- Latinx main character
- the power of friendship
- saving their town--and each other!
- for tweens or young teens :)

Out May 2, 2023

Trigger Warnings: mention of death of a loved one, child abuse, starvation, bullying

What Moves the Dead
by T. Kingfisher

- Gothic horror
- Non-binary protagonist
- Queer re-telling of *The Fall of the House of Usher*
- Witty voice
- Audience: Adults and older teens



Trigger warnings: body horror and gore.



The Locked Tomb series by Tamsyn Muir

Gideon the Ninth

Harrow the Ninth

Nona the Ninth

Alecto the Ninth (forthcoming)

- "lesbian necromancers in space!"
- Many queer characters of all sorts
- Complex narrative and construction -- a brainteaser of a series
- Elements of horror, sf, & fantasy
- ALL THE FEELS
- Audience: Adult

Triggers: body horror, gore, violent death described on the page, genocide

~~GIRL. SAINT. WITCH.~~

EXTASIA

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
CLAIRE LEGRAND

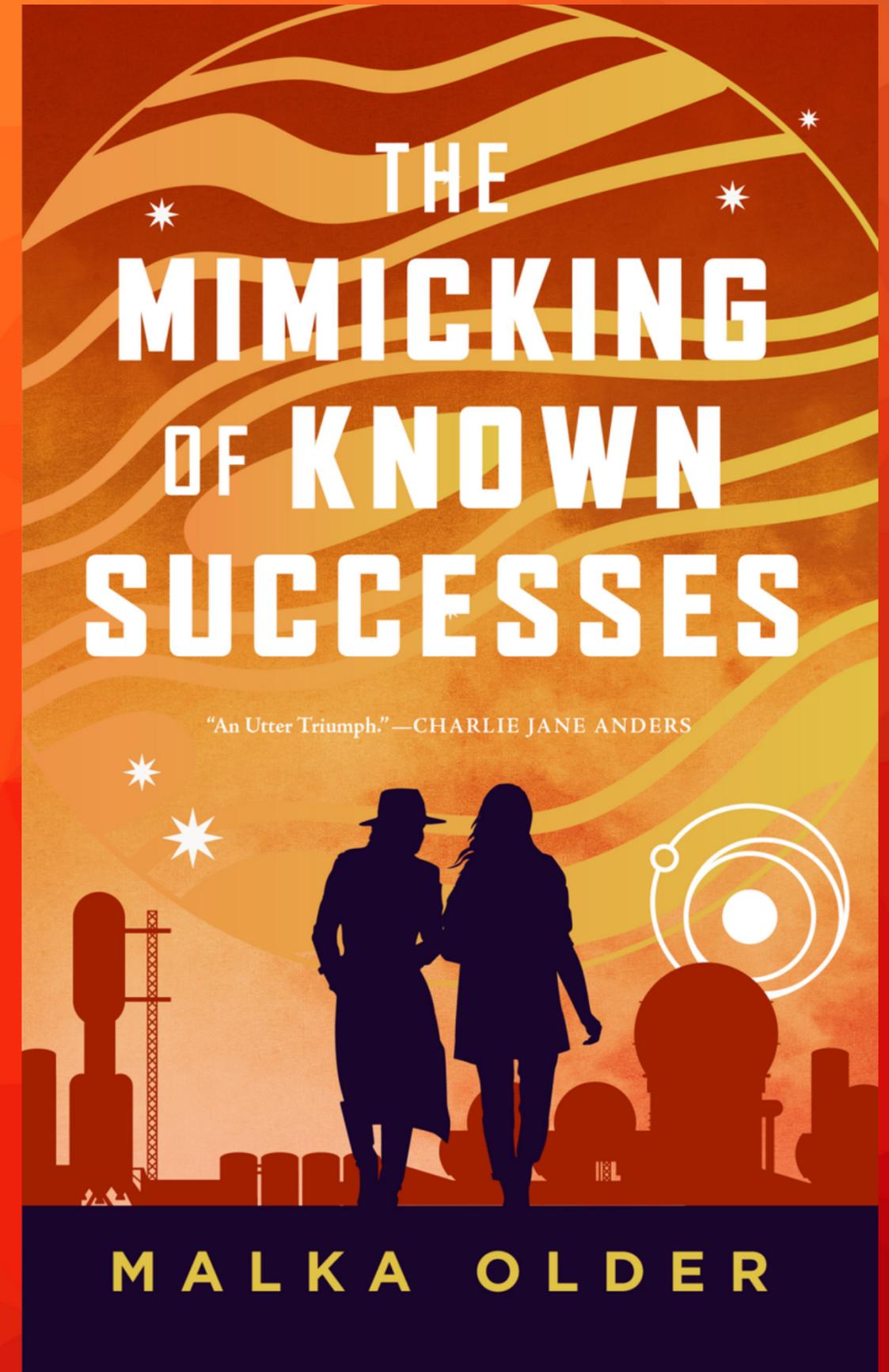
Extasia by Claire LeGrand

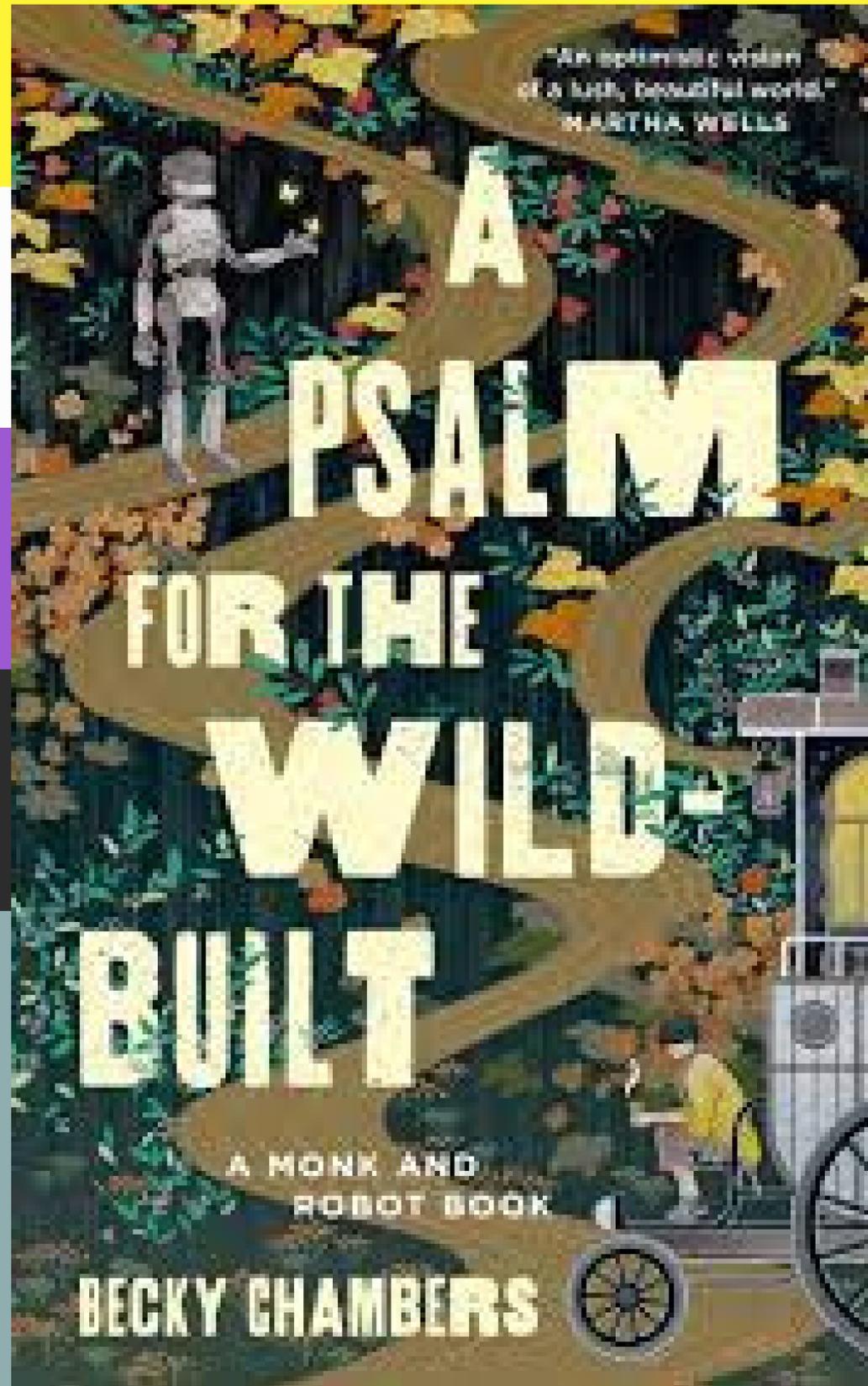
- SF/F, Horror
- Far-future religious society
- Sapphic characters
- Found family
- Rich descriptions
- Shades of "The Village" meets "The Craft"
- Audience: Young adult

Triggers: physical abuse, violence, sexual assault, religious abuse, misogyny

The Mimicking of Known Successes
by Malka Older

- Atmospheric science fiction
gaslamp mystery
- Sapphic romance
- Well-realized setting
- Audience: Adult & older teen

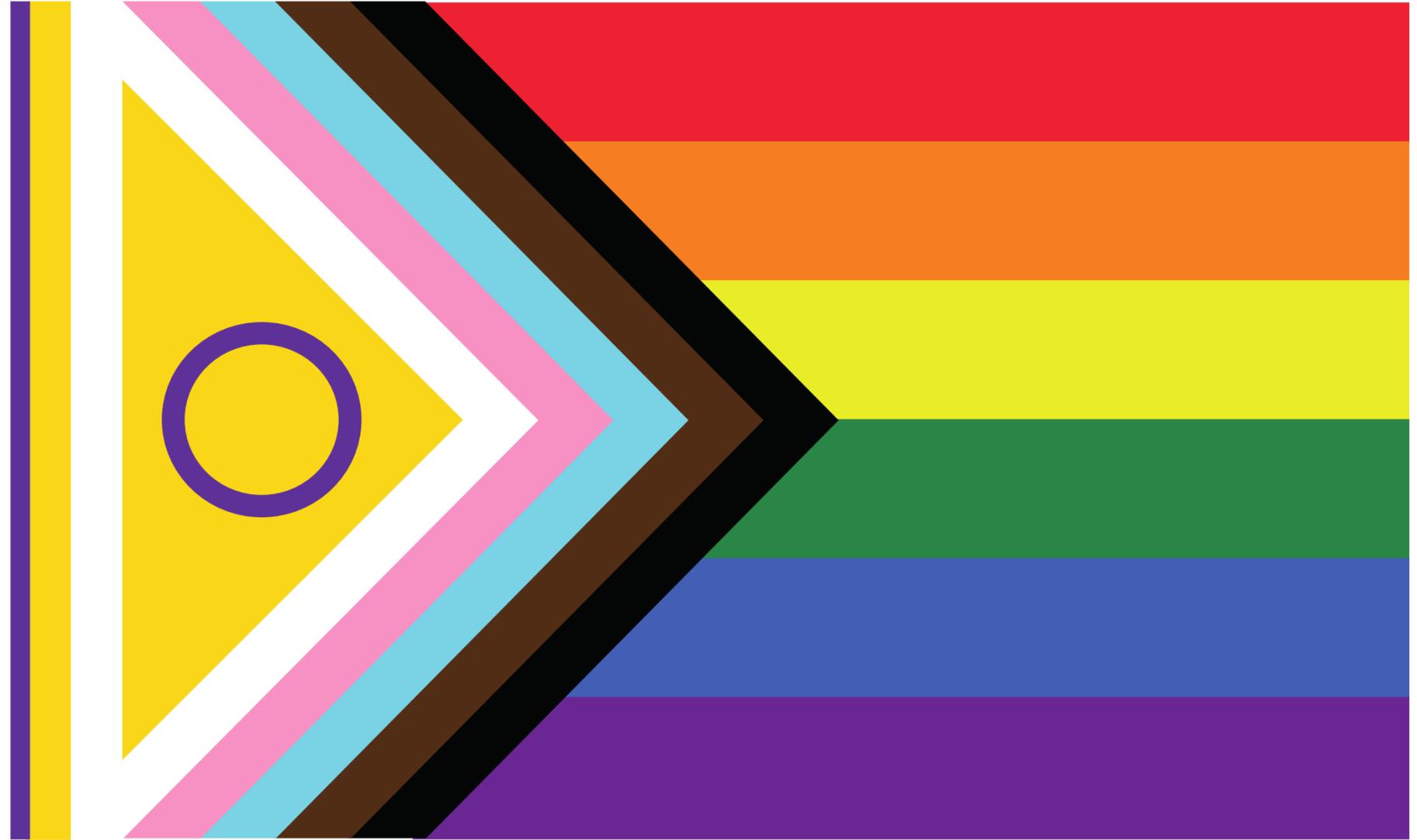
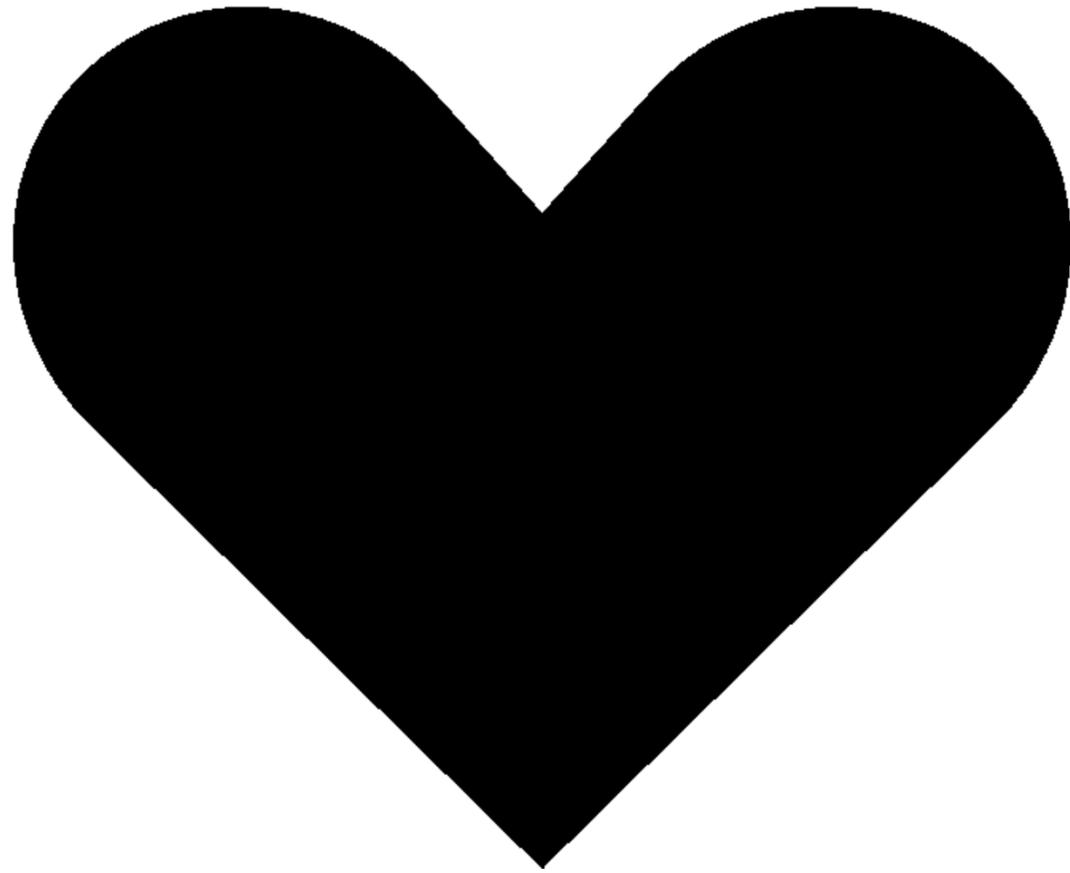




***A Psalm for the Wild-Built* by Becky Chambers**

- 1st book in *Monk & Robot* series
- Nonbinary protagonist
- Gentle, warm read
- Fascinating imagined culture
- Will make you want to drink a lot of tea





Queer Romance Recommendations

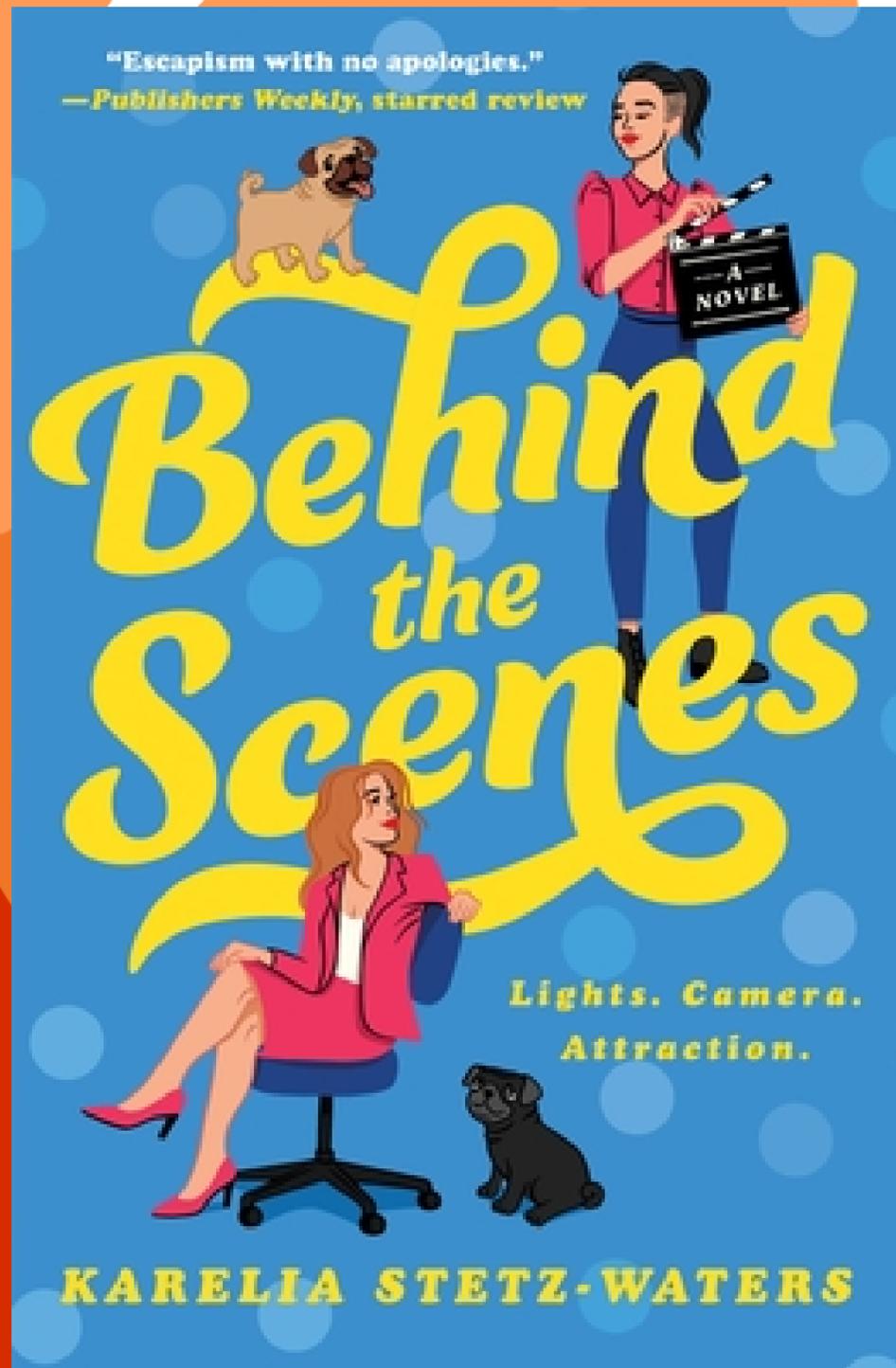


One Last Stop by Casey McQuiston

- white bisexual main character
- Chinese lesbian love interest
- time travel romance
- adult



TRIGGER WARNINGS: Mentions of historical homophobia and police violence, the AIDS crisis, racism, childhood neglect



Behind the Scenes
by Karelia Stetz-Waters

- Oregon author
- Feel good sapphic fiction
- NOT PG



Chef's Kiss by TJ Alexander

bisexual lead
nonbinary love interest
trans roommate
for adults



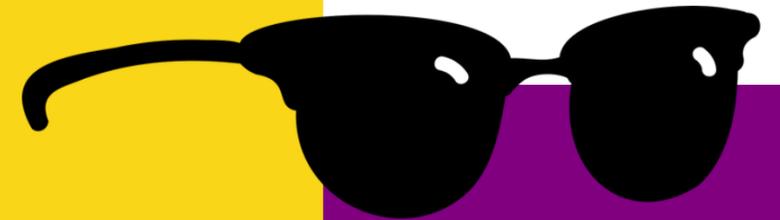
TRIGGER WARNINGS: deadnaming, transphobia, misgendering, surgery



The Romantic Agenda

by Claire Kann

- Romance
- Multiple Black, ace characters
- For adults





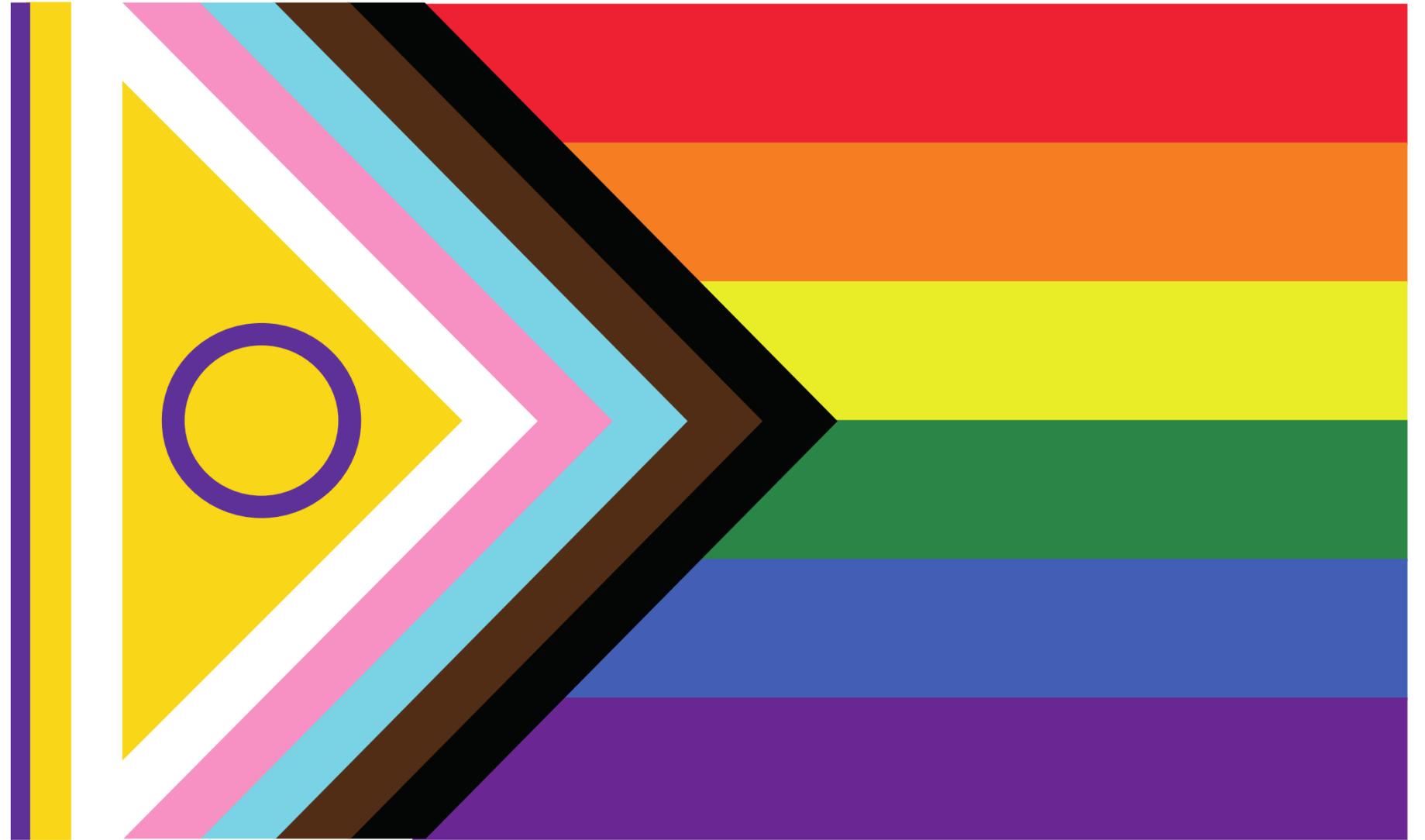
Dead Collections by Isaac Fellman

- literary, romance, vampire
- transmasculine & genderqueer characters
- discovering gender
- archives/librarianship
- early Internet fandom
- for adults!

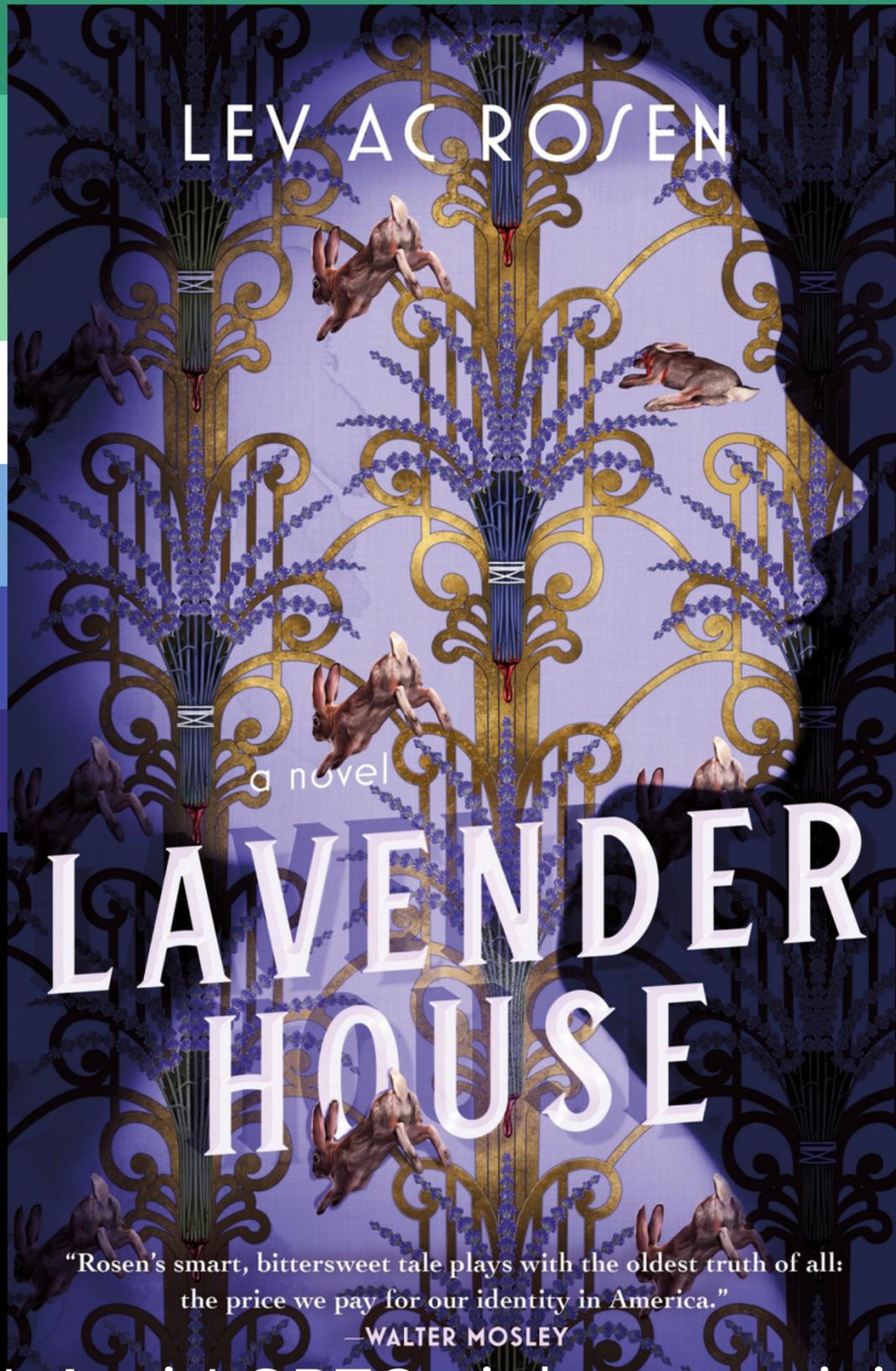


Trigger Warnings: chronic illness (as vampirism), transphobia, transphobic violence/assault, abusive work spaces, emotionally-manipulative relationship, ableism, outing of illness/personal details





Queer Mystery & Thriller Recommendations

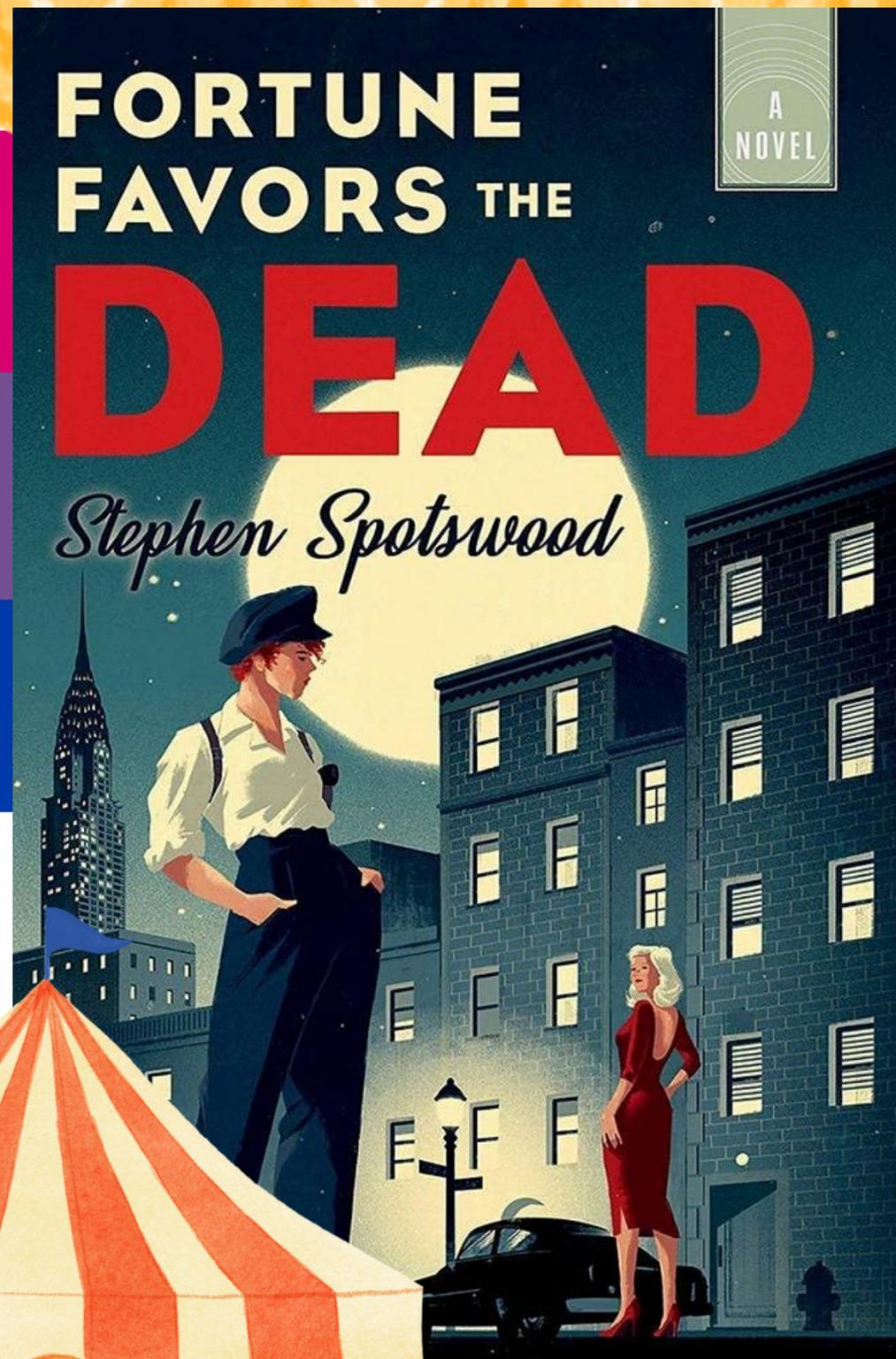


Lavender House
by Lev A.C. Rosen

- Noir/Mystery
- Adult
- Gay
- Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Chosen Family



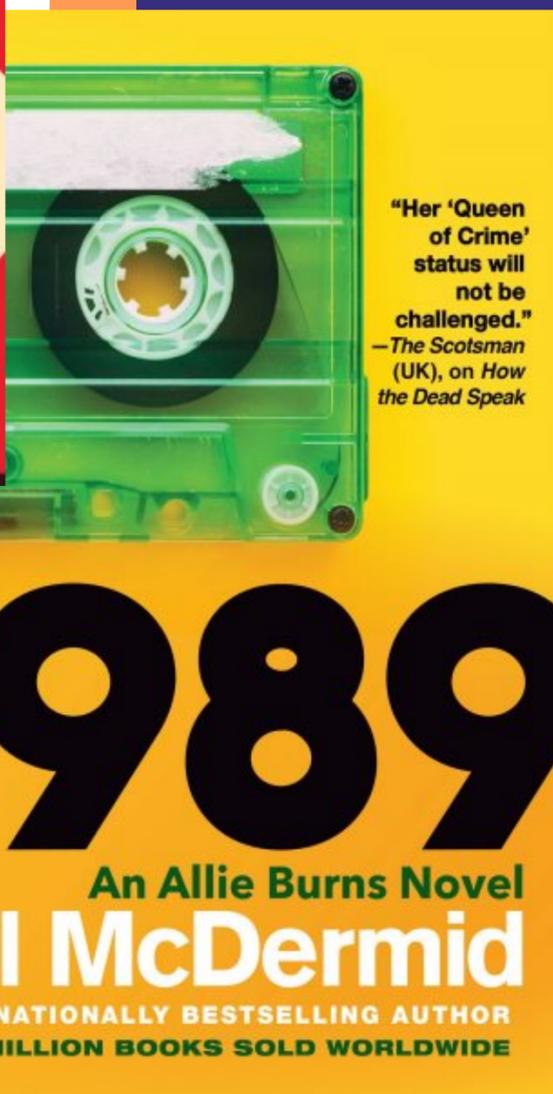
TW: Anti-LGBTQ violence; suicidal ideation; murder (on the page)



*The Pentecost and
Parker Mysteries
by Stephen Spotswood*

- Mystery
- Teen and up
- Bisexual
- Invisible illness
and different
physical ability

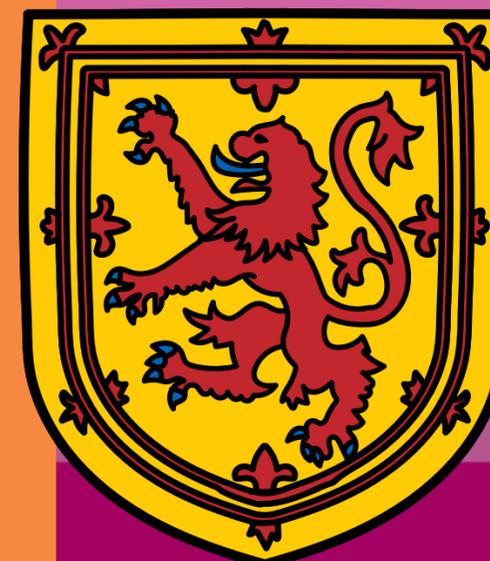
Trigger warning: Anti-LGBTQ rhetoric



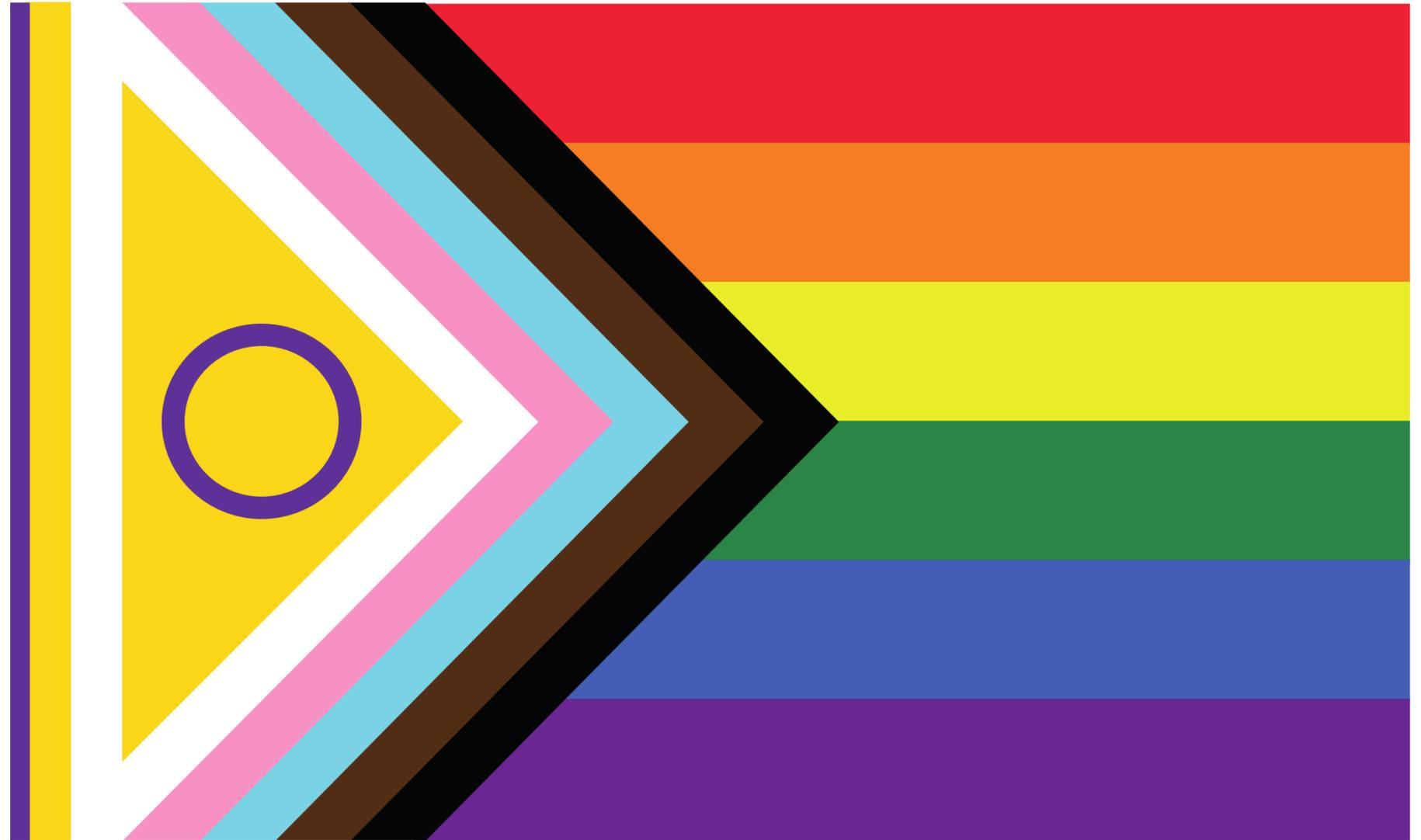
Allie Burns novels

by Val McDermid

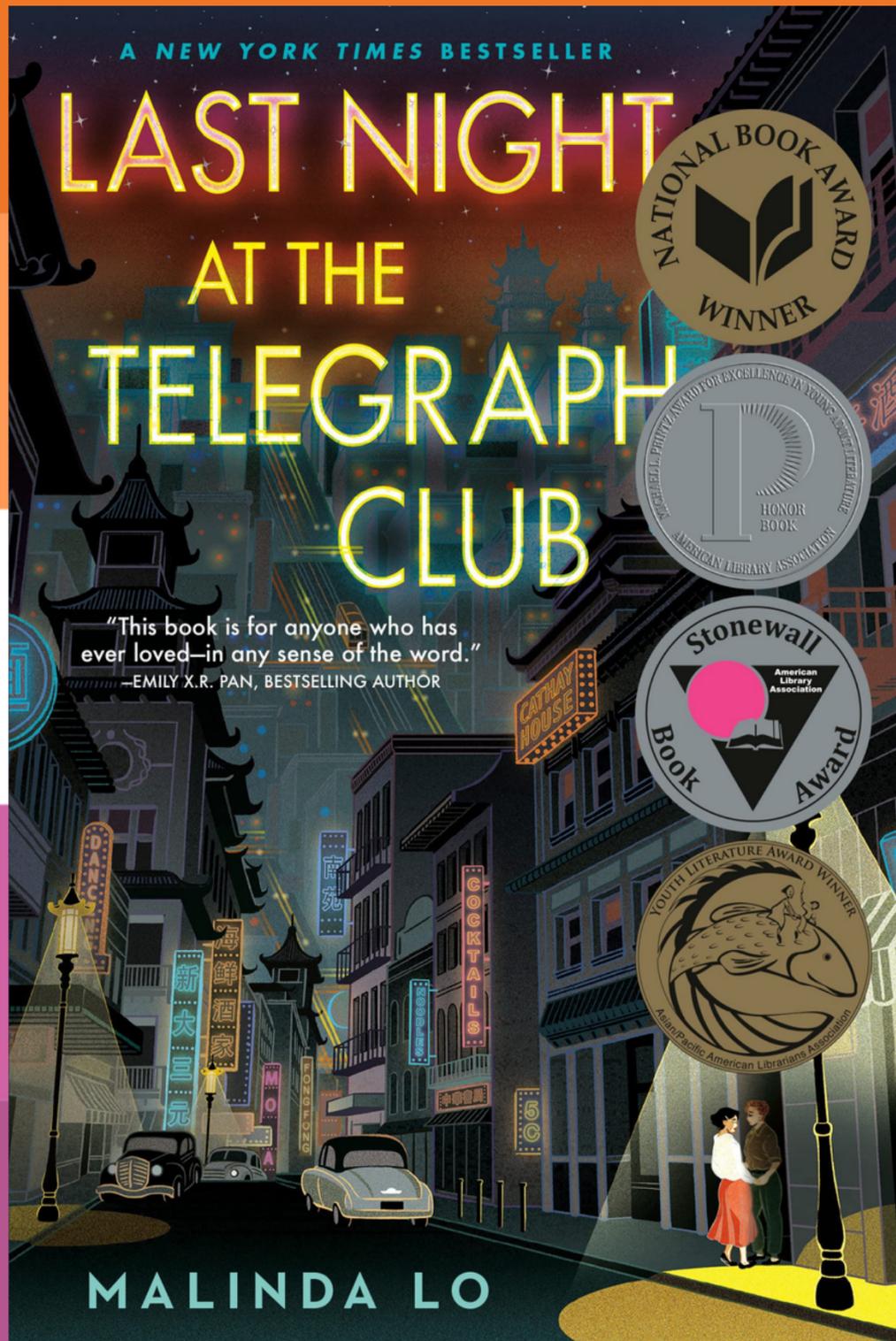
- Historical
Mystery/Thriller
- Adult
- Lesbian
- Gay



TW: Anti-LGBTQ violence; murder; assault



Queer Historical Fiction Recommendations



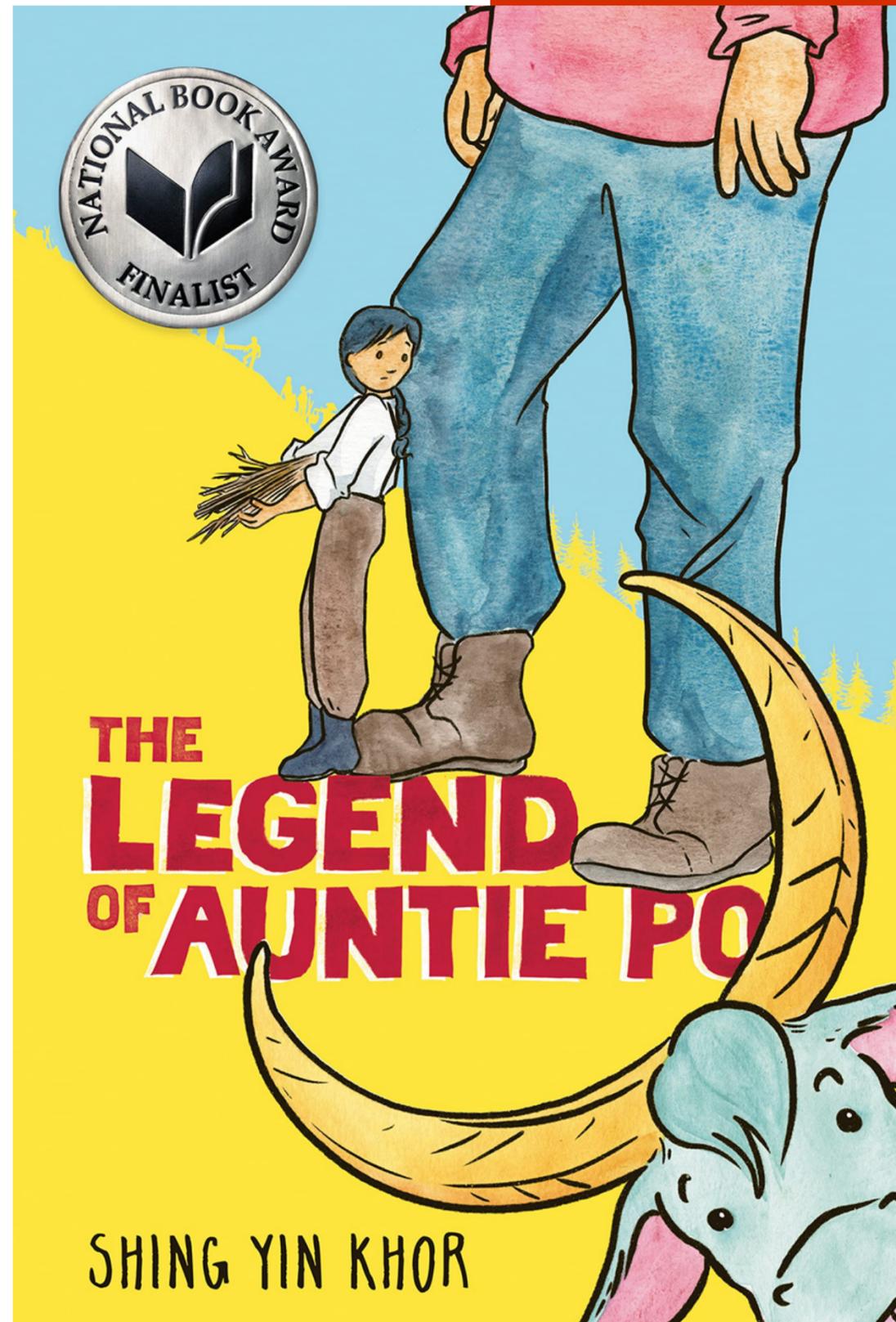
Last Night at the Telegraph Club

by Malinda Lo

- Historical Fiction
- Teen and up
- Lesbian
- Drag



TW: Microaggressions; dated terminology



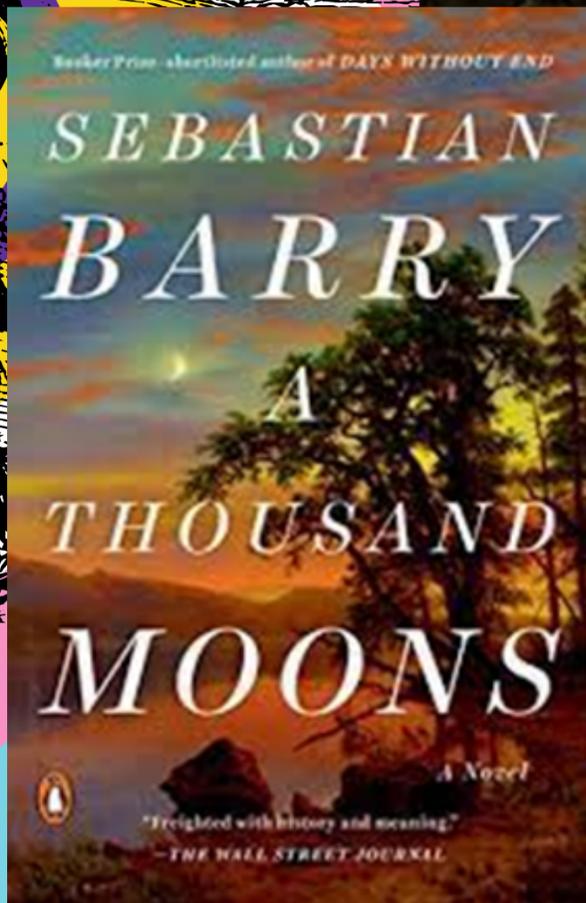
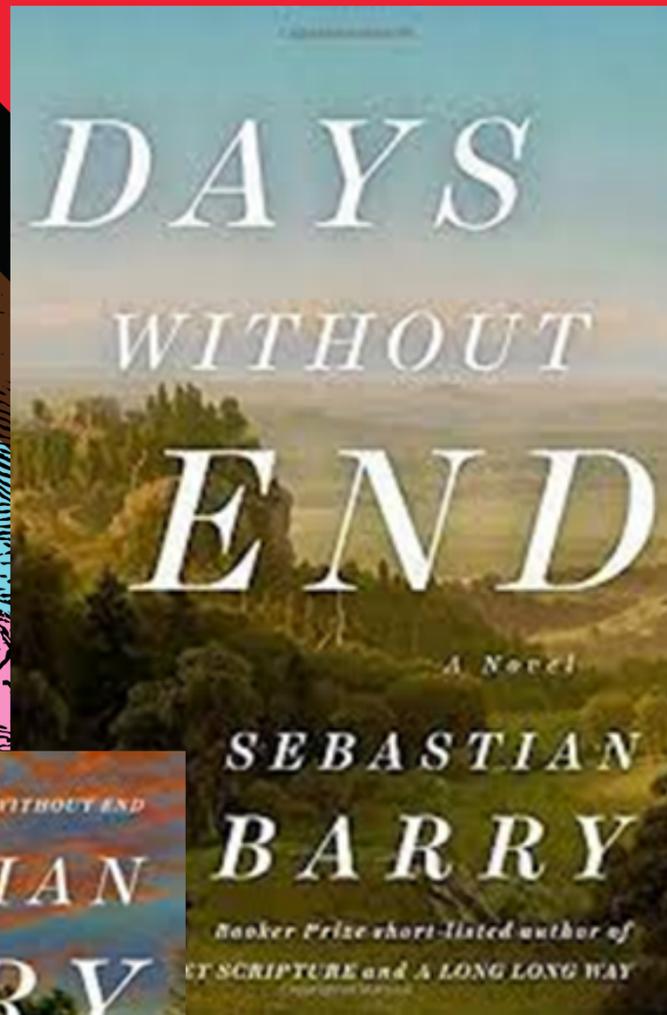
The Legend of Auntie Po

by Shing Yin Khor

- Graphic historical fiction
- Recommend to fantasy readers
- For tween & up

TW: Expression of Anti-Asian sentiments

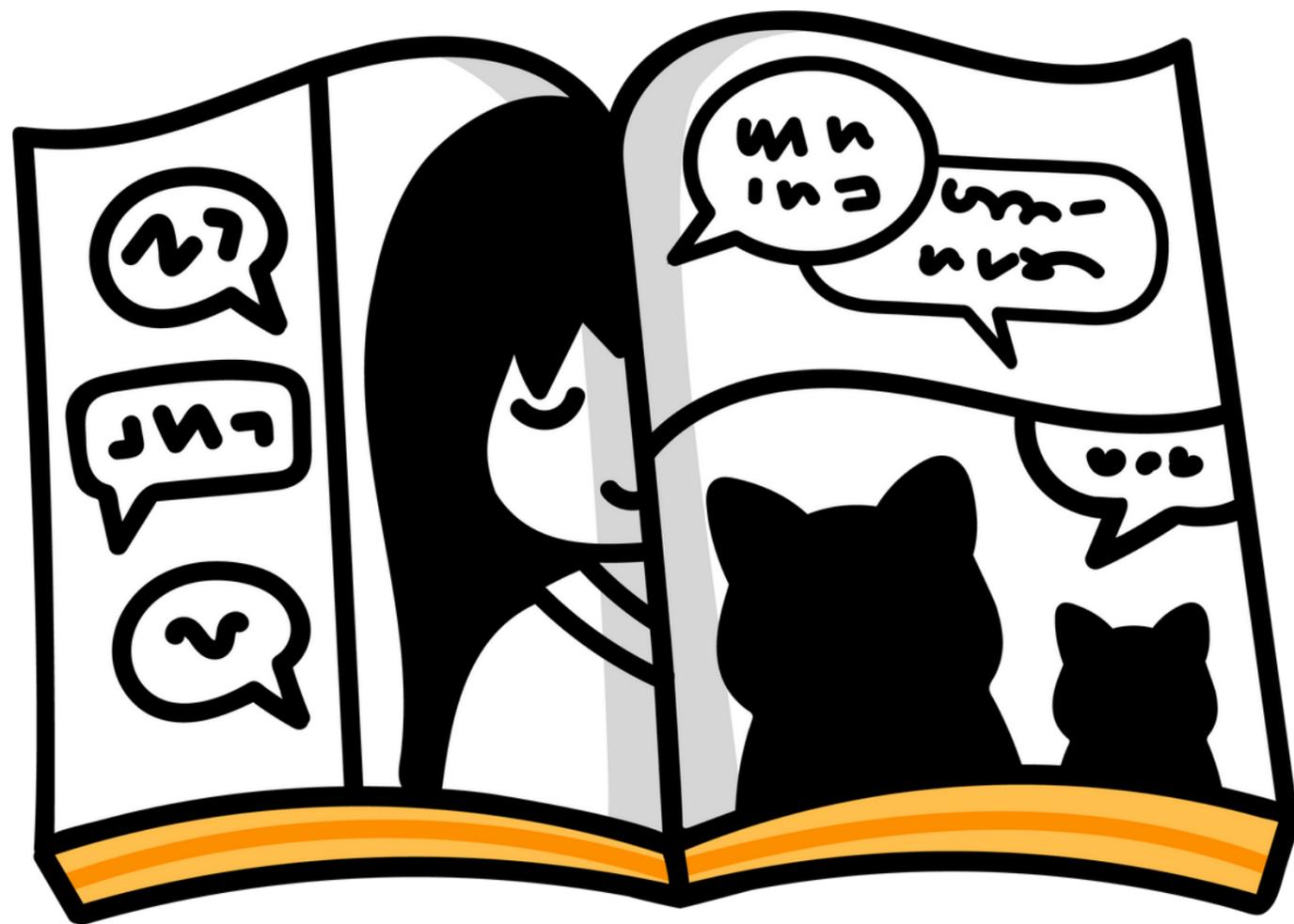




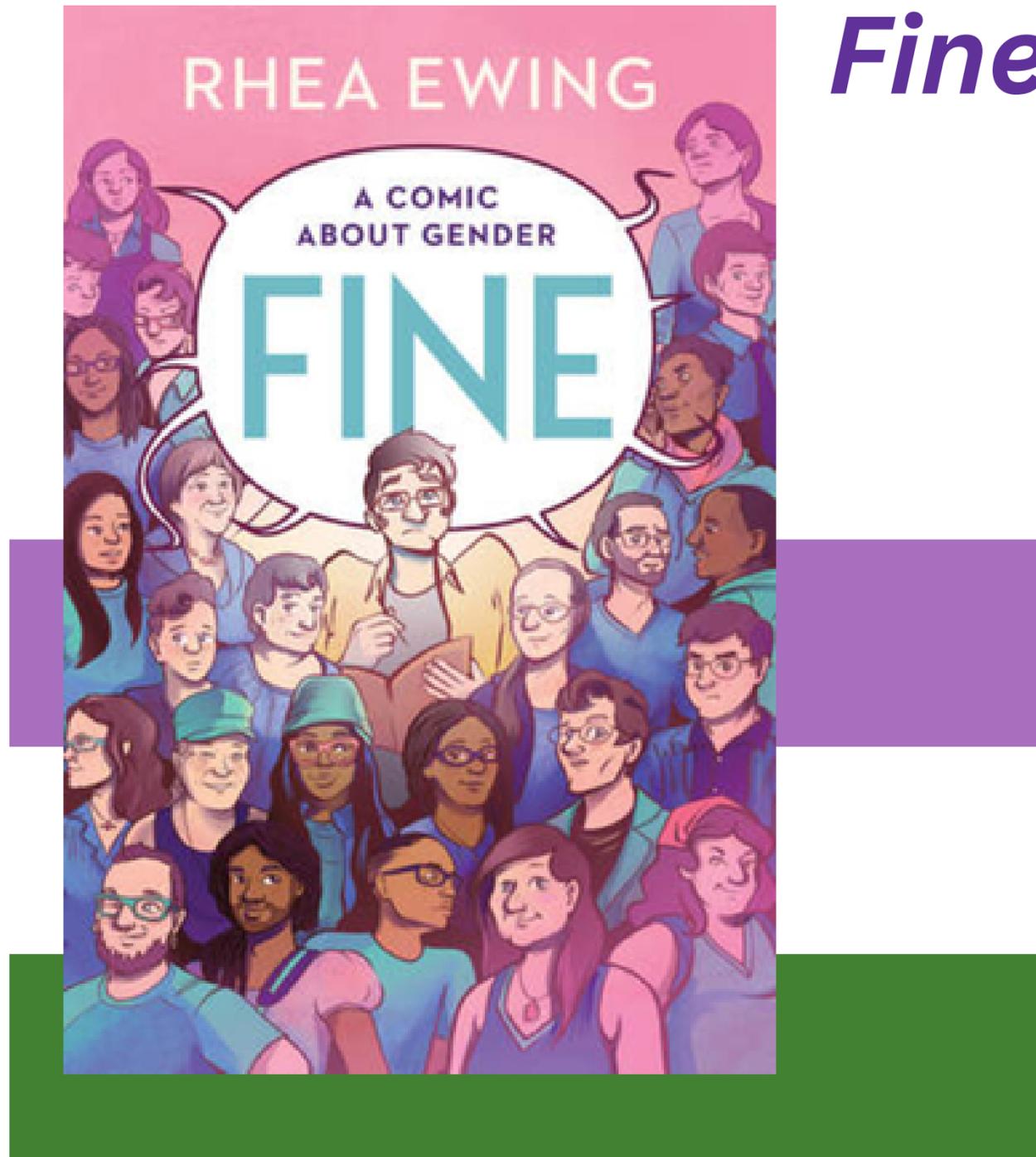
Thomas McNulty stories by Sebastian Barry

- Historical Fiction/Western
- Adult
- Gay
- Lesbian
- Drag
- Chosen family

TW: Racial Violence; Native genocide; sexual violence; military and war scenes; murder



Queer Graphic Novels



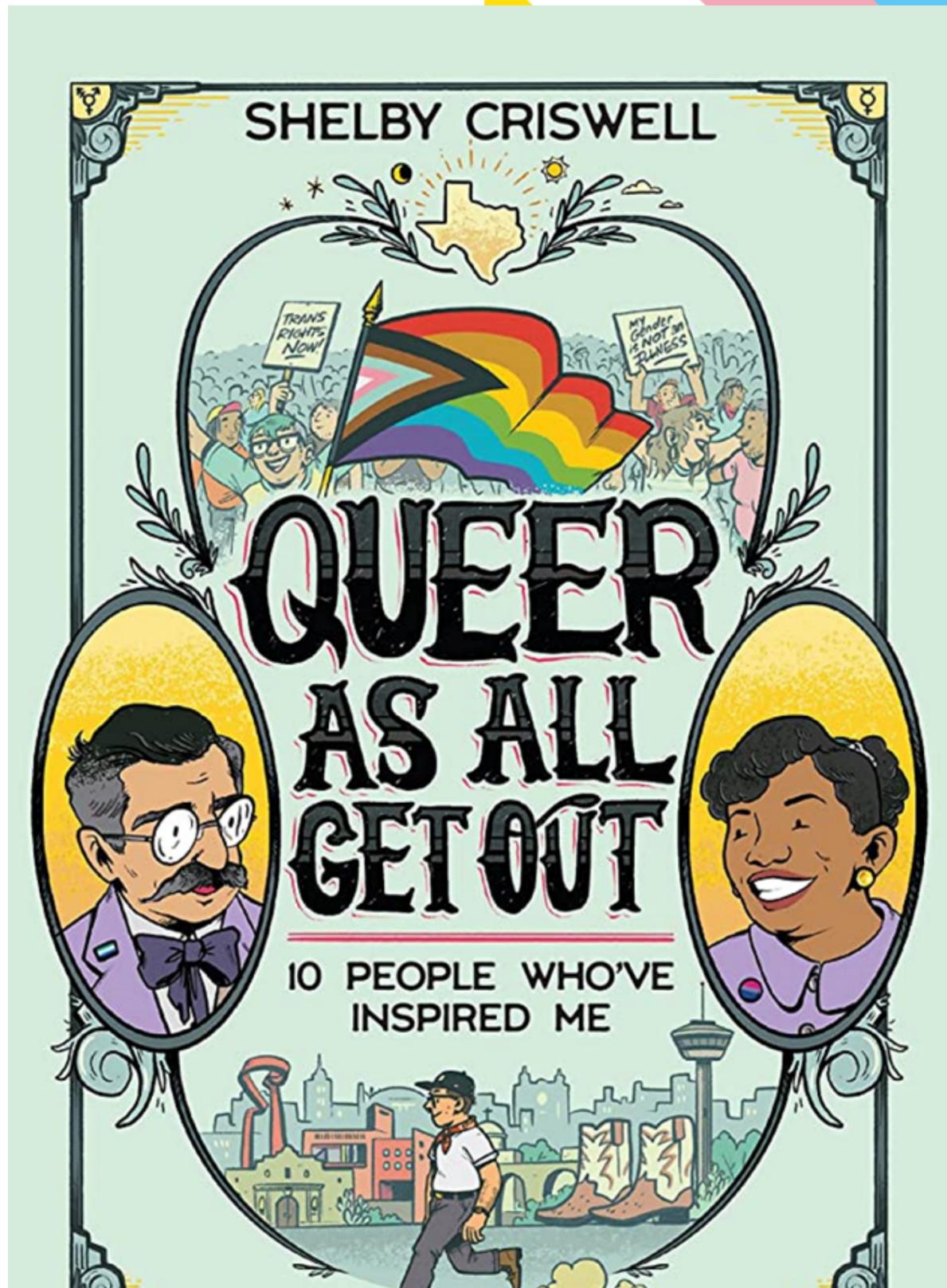
Fine: A Comic About Gender

by Rhea Ewing

- 56 qualitative interviews
- cis, trans, nonbinary, two spirit, genderqueer, genderfluid people
- feelings, thoughts and experiences with gender, sex and race
- Deep dive, not a primer



Trigger Warning: Gender dysphoria, transphobia, racism, ableism, and body-issues are discussed throughout the book. Drug use, sex work, and suicidal ideation are mentioned briefly in some stories. There is one depiction of a suicide attempt that may be especially challenging to some readers

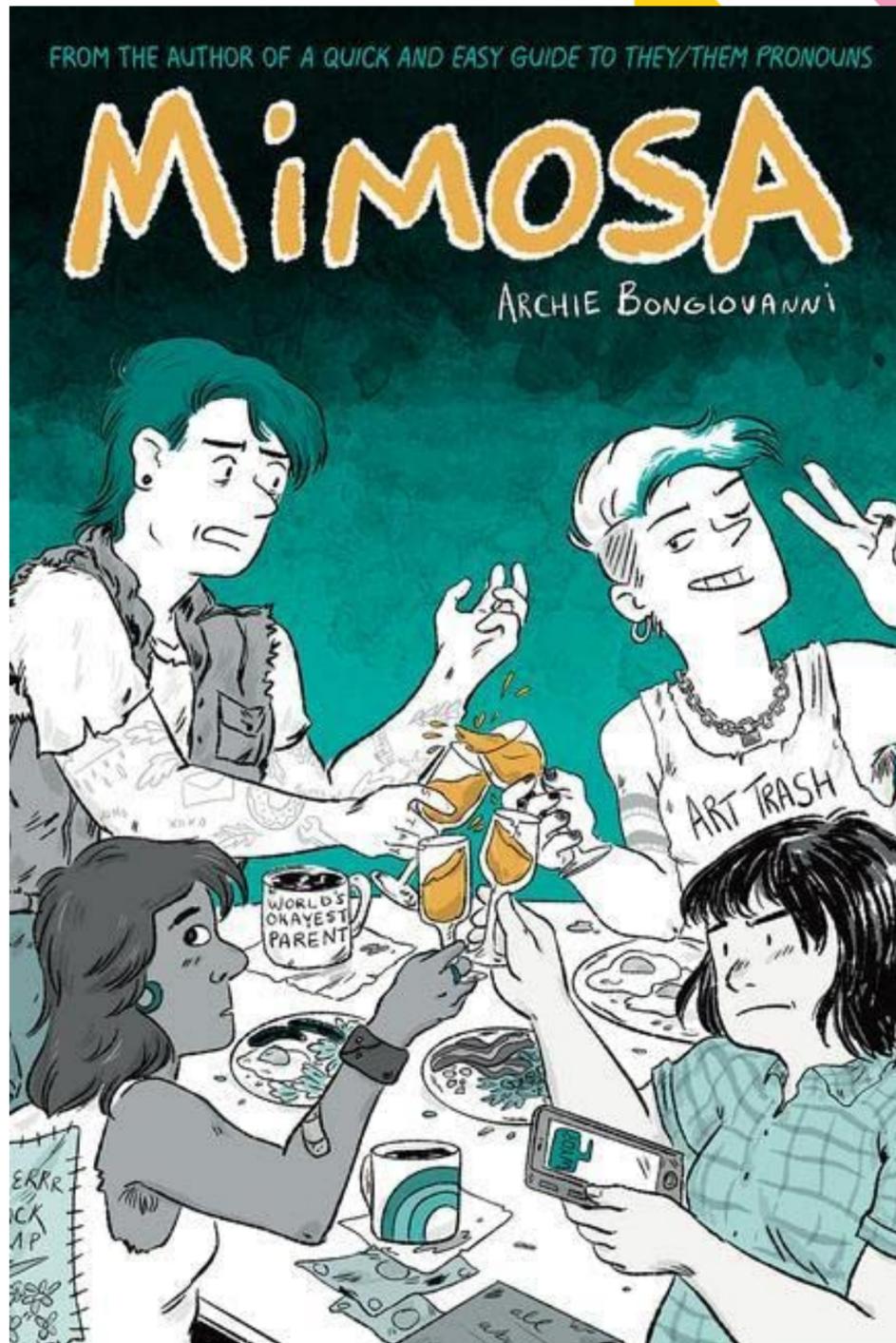


Queer as All Get Out by Shelby Criswell

- Graphic nonfiction
- Queer history!
- For teen & up

TW: Descriptions of anti-LGBTQ attitudes and rhetoric

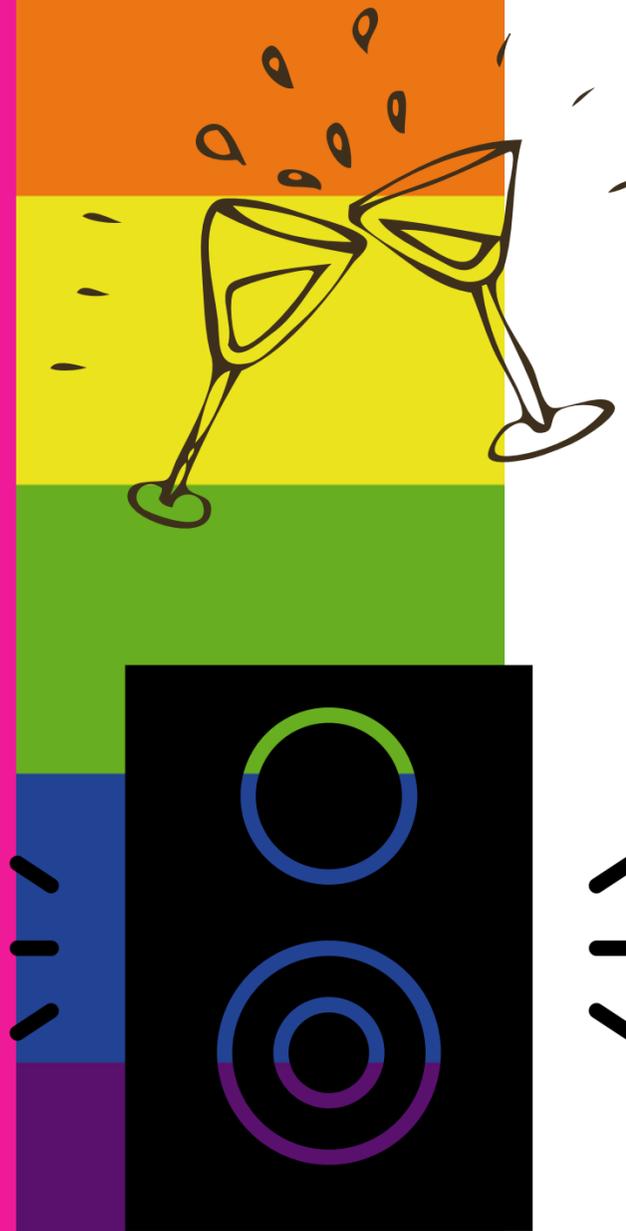


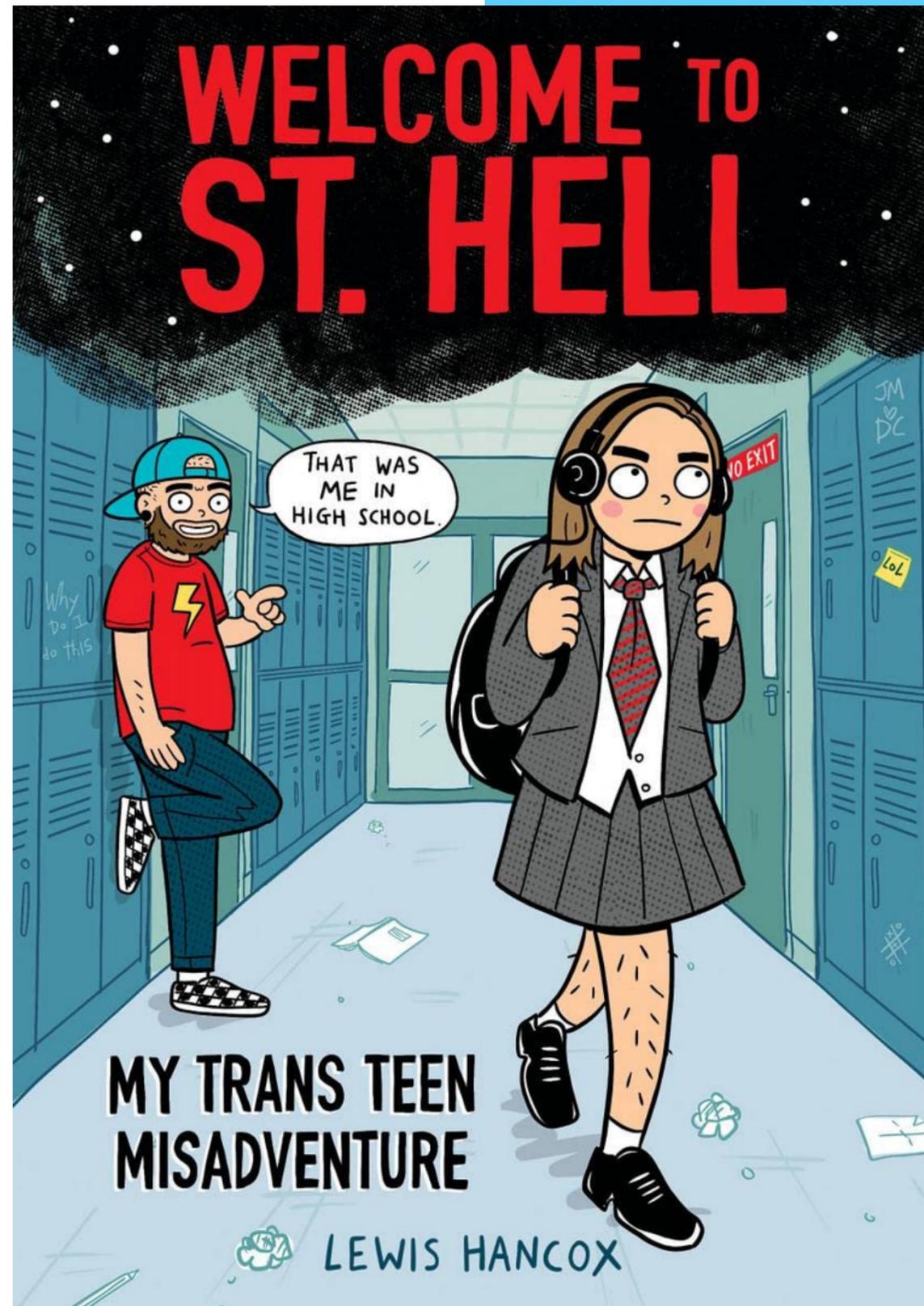


Mimosa by Archie Bongiovanni

- Graphic fiction
- Friendship is hard!
- Queer people in community
- For adults

TW: Depictions of sex





Welcome to St. Hell

by Lewis Hancox

- Graphic memoir
- Authentic, engaging, and informative
- For teens (though parents will also want to take a look!)

TW: Eating disorder, anti-trans language



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*Bad Witch Burning by Jessica Lewis - TEEN
Black queer main character + Black ace supporting character (Trigger Warning: domestic violence, pet death, grief, poverty)

Cemetery Boys by Aiden Thomas - TEEN
trans and cis teen boys (both gay and Latinx) (Trigger Warning: transphobia)

The Dragon of Inys by Minerva Cerridwen - ADULT
asexuality

Elatsoe by Darcie Little Badger - TEEN
indigenous main character is canonically ace (Trigger Warning: pet death, grief)

The Extraordinaries by TJ Klune - ADULT/YA
main character is gay, with lesbian and bi side characters

*How to Succeed in Witchcraft by Aislinn Brophy - TEEN
lesbian main character + bi love interest (Trigger Warning: racism, lesbophobia, grooming)

The Insiders by Mark Oshiro - TWEEN
cis gay teen boy; cis queer teen girl; nonbinary teen (Trigger Warning: bullying, homophobia)

Legends & Lattes by Travis Baldree - ADULT
sapphic orc and succubus, for D&D players

The Lost Girls by Sonia Hartl - TEEN
bisexual women (Trigger Warning: grooming, relationship abuse)

A Spindle Splintered by Alix E. Harrow - TEEN/NEW ADULT
sapphic characters (Trigger Warning: terminal illness)

There's Magic Between Us by Jillian Maria - TEEN
pansexual white main character, Asian love interest, sapphic story (content warning: death, kidnapping)

This Is Our Rainbow: Stories of Her, Him, Them, and Us - TWEEN
various LGBTQIA+-centered stories

*The Vanquishers by Kalynn Bayron - TWEEN
nonbinary supporting character, queer side characters (all POC)

*Witchlings by Claribel A. Ortega - TWEEN
sapphic side characters



A Dowry of Blood by S.T. Gibson - ADULT
bisexuals everywhere (Trigger Warning: domestic/relationship abuse)

Echo by Thomas Olde Heuvelt - ADULT
cis gay men (Trigger Warning: violence, body horror)

*Extasia by Claire LeGrand - TEEN
sapphic characters (Trigger Warning: physical abuse, violence, sexual assault, religious abuse)

A Lesson in Vengeance by Victoria Lee - TEEN

***Other genres! So many recommendations!
Handout available on conference website***