



10 essential LGBT+ books that opened minds and broadened horizons in 2021

Patrick Kelleher - 30 December 2021

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/12/30/best-lgbt-books-2021-shon-faye-paris-lees-sally-rooney/>

Over the last year, countless powerful and important LGBT+ books have been published – and they’ve helped queer people feel seen in new and exciting ways.

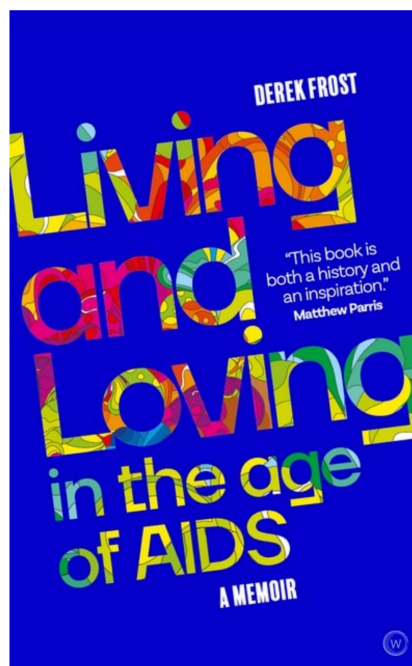
Queer literature has always been vital to our community – it provides a window for us to see ourselves represented and for big questions to be explored and answered.

LGBT+ books have taken on a new significance since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. As queer spaces shuttered, LGBT+ people have been forced to look elsewhere to explore their identities, see themselves reflected, and to ponder over some of the big issues of our time.

Fortunately, some of the best books of 2021 have helped keep us engaged in what, for many, has been a deeply unnerving, unstable time.

As the year draws to a close, we look back on some of our favourite LGBT+ books of 2021 – including fiction, memoir, non-fiction and other genres.

7. Living and Loving in the Age of AIDS by Derek Frost



Living and Loving in the Age of AIDS was released just months after *It's a Sin* aired on Channel 4, bringing the history of the AIDS epidemic to a new generation.

In this deeply moving memoir, Frost looks back on his experience of the worst years of the AIDS epidemic. He recounts the pain that came with losing friends – and most devastatingly, he recounts the anguish he felt when his partner Jeremy contracted HIV.

Living and Loving in the Age of AIDS is ultimately a redemptive book. Jeremy is still alive and healthy today, and in the years since, both men have dedicated their lives to improving the outlook for people affected by HIV across the world. The book shines a light on the impact global inequalities continue to have on the trajectory of HIV. It's a heartbreaking and necessary read. – **Patrick Kelleher**