



Bi Any Other Name: Bisexual People Speak Out

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In this groundbreaking anthology, more than seventy women and men from all walks of life describe their lives as bisexuals in prose, poetry, art, and essays

Bi Any Other Name: Bisexual People Speak Out Details

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From Reader Review Bi Any Other Name: Bisexual People Speak Out for online ebook

Ron Suresha says

The Bible of contemporary Bi life.

HeavyReader says

This is one of the first books on bisexuality that I ever read. I think it was one of the first books on bisexuality ever published. It consists of the true, personal stories of people who identify as bisexual. Reading about how other people realized they were bisexual, how they came out, and what their bisexual identify meant to them was really helpful to me when I was trying to figure out my own sexual identity.

Rory says

Perspectives on bisexuality from a variety of writers, ranging from college-aged women to married men involved in the AIDS epidemic. Talented writers that make one proud to be part of bisexuality, and help those of other sexual preference to understand what it is to be bisexual. Like any sexuality, the stories are different, the people want different things. An important read for anyone interested in human sexuality, dealing with the issues of being bisexual, or supporting someone who is.

Will says

Helped me come out as a Bi-Man.

Karen says

I read this a bit longer ago, actually, but went out and bought it last year. Some of the stories are tough to read, but I really liked a couple of them - it made me feel less alone.

A.M. Leibowitz says

I received a free copy via Inked Rainbow Reads in exchange for an honest review.

If you are a bisexual (or other multisexual) person or an ally to the bi community, or if you simply want to understand bisexuality better, this book is a necessity for your collection. It is its own self-contained library of information, resources, and personal stories by and about bisexual people.

One of the things that struck me is that as a person who has only recently connected with the community, I still found so many ways in which the stories resonated. While the world has changed--and new ways of looking at sex and love have emerged--a lot of things have remained the same.

The book is divided into sections, each addressing a different aspect of bi life. These are deeply personal stories about relationships and love and navigating the world. Most people will be able to find something in here to relate to.

There is no possible way to rate each and every story. Some made me want to stand up and scream, "Yes! This exact thing!" Others didn't resonate with me, and that's all right--it's not because they weren't any good, and I know someone else would be able to relate. In any case, each story was a learning experience for me, being able to read about the lives of these wonderful people.

Some readers may be surprised both by places where gender-inclusive language is used to describe attractions and by places where it is not. Be aware going in that there is a wide range of perspectives represented, and no one experience should be used to measure an entire vast community of people. Nor should any one story be used as "proof" of what the bisexual community is or is not.

I am simply blown away by the time, effort, and care given to putting this collection together. What a fitting way to celebrate twenty years! Many thanks to all the people who devoted themselves to this project, particularly Lani and Loraine.

Vampirerichard says

I loved the idea of a book like this, but the editors got it so wrong in the introduction. For me bisexuality is about equality, male, female, doesn't matter, all the same. But when debating on whether or not to include males in the book these Feminists wrote: Yes but their view on Bisexuality hasn't caught up yet and some other things along those lines. What the hell is that supposed to mean! So women are better bisexuals? Screw you!

As a result I was about to throw the book out (figuratively speaking) but I paid for it so I eventually only read the sections written by guys.

Really really sad to see a unique book, which could have made a difference, stumble and fall on its own prejudice.

Kathleen O'Neal says

This anthology of the work of bisexual writers is one of the first books I read after coming out as bisexual. It was very validating for me to find a book about bisexual people with so many positive things to say after enduring the negation of my identity from a number of people. I would like to see contemporary bisexual people update the important and groundbreaking work done in this book by writing in an anthology on bisexual issues that speaks to the current state of bisexual people's lives and our more recent history.

Real Supergirl says

This book was pretty important when I was first coming out as bisexual. It's a good book to help get a sense of the variety and ways people can come to identify as bisexual, which helps you find your place for your own identity.

Jennie says

Bi Any Other Name is an excellent and comprehensive read for anyone who identifies as bisexual and/or is interested in activism. This collection of experiences covers a wide range of topics and types of people. I found it to be encouraging and enlightening, although I really wish bisexual writers (pornographers/educators/activists/etc) could restrain themselves from punning the word bi.

Abbey says

[checked this out from my college's library for winter break, Dec/Jan 2016. I wrote the below then and lightly edited it now.]

A LIST OF THOUGHTS:

-it hasn't discussed gender/sex so far, and i'm... not rlly clear what they're defining bi as, bc they situate trans ppl as in-between n define bi-ness as attraction to m & f, so. idk whats going on. is attraction to trans ppl inherently bi? where does that leave trans ppl, can trans ppl only be bi?

-“Another [lover] is a female-to-male transsexual/hermaphrodite — the perfect playmate for bi-sex!” – Anne Sprinkle “Beyond Bisexual” section 2 p103

-even though the authors seem very focused on the thematic similarities between the ways they conceptualize bi, intersex, and trans. (p2-3, p90)...

-good citations to other works! the only one i've heard of so far is d'emilio's intimate matters, and it's the only one being cited as having no mention whatsoever of bisexuality (the claim is that intimate matters talks abt even bestiality but not bisexuality (haven't read/checked so can't attest)). haven't heard of any of the bi-centered books lol

-list of topics touched on: science's unwillingness to break gay/straight binary; bi myths/facts

-uh weirdass race/sexuality segregation analogy on p8. idk man it seems like forcibly preventing a group of people from accessing physical and social resources and spaces is diff from saying that bi people don't exist

-one basic case: sexuality in reality is fluid and complex re: gender-categories, it has been overset with a monosexual framework w enables oppression by categorization (and thus assurances of safety for privileged ppl). same basic structure works for race, ability, class, etc.

-“bisexuality is trendy now” myth was around even in 1991 lol

the writing styles of the book's participants are all v v similar. like... mayb there was heavy editing, or they requested maximal efficiency, or w/e. most of the stories are 2-5 pages.

i sorta like this bc it makes it more easy to trace similarities across writers? like they have diff vocabs and stories and experiences, but i think i'm struck by the continuity of many themes in a way i wouldn't be if the voices of different pieces were very disparate.

ugh i hate the psychologists.

sections: psychology (stories of coming out, re/considering identities, and coming to terms with oneself); spirituality ()

Favorite quotes:

-“Today [1991] there is a renewed sense that sex is spiritual without contradiction; that sex can be a sacred art, a spiritual discipline. Sex desperately needs to be re-envisioned as such so we may reclaim our bodies from the degraded, trivialized way they and their responses have been represented.” (Overview for pt 2, p91)
— I feel like this understanding has vanished (if it was ever present) from all the modern (2016) lgbtq spaces and groups I've been in. This viewpoint about the sacredness of sex, the transformative and centering power of sex, was one of the most interesting things for me in this book, although the woo-woo language in some of the pieces (“mystical tongues of healing” yikes) left me rolling my eyes... and its presentation still left me with many doubts about how to fit sexual violence and sex work in this framework.

we (i.e. the select groups in my college social circles in 2016 lol) now seem to think that sex includes rape and other forms of sexual violence, misogyny and white supremacy and ableism. rape isn't a separate phenomenon from sex which is a twisted presentation of sex; rape is a form of sex. on the other hand, I have found this sacredsexsacredconnections viewpoint in an informal leftist-y co-op in which I live currently; I wonder whether the ill feeling towards sex in lgbtq spaces is in part a product of increasing liberalization/capitalism-ation of these movements? it may also be influenced by the available of mainstream porn and how mainstream porn treats (fetishizes, objectifies, hates) m/m sex, f/f sex, trans ppl, and ppl of color on-camera and culturally??

-the entirety of David Loureau's piece on anger, AIDS, death, and Gd! good! Ideas I took: do what needs to be done; G-d is comprehensible; prayer is for gathering and drawing out strength, not getting what we want; anger (including botter desperate anger) is a worthy energy. tikkun olam.

i wish there were more stories from trans and gnc people. i think that centering transness and gender-nonconformity might have helped clarify some ideas of what bisexuality and transness were and how they relate to each other. and it... it seems sort of ironic that there's this constantly claimed connection between bi and trans issues but i didn't? see many trans OR gnc pieces in here?

I've noticed that the few older lgb people I know tend to assume that I'm either bi or at least Not A Proper Lesbian because my girlfriend is trans. It happens all the time with younger lgbq people too, but in a different way. Older lgb people see/assume we're together and just explicitly assume I'm bi; younger (teens/early-20s) lgb people see our relationship as inherently nonsexual, without labelling me.

Victoria says

The Bi Bible you say?

I believe that to consider a book as "bible" it needs to contain useful information and also be atemporal. This book is an anthology of bisexuals who mostly grew up during the 70's/80's so it's filled with people being oppressed and dying. It's awful.

I mean, it's great to know there are others bisexuals out there but it's not a very empowering book.

Sinta says

My impression of this book changed the more I read. At first, I had a few concerns - there were a few things that didn't age well. Though this is a bi-positive book meant to empower bi people, a lot of the content shocked me and came across as heterosexist, cissexist, and just plain sexist (not to mention even biphobic!). Though, that's just the curse of writing about a developing area of politics- especially identity politics. I didn't feel like it encapsulated my bisexual experience, especially with its obsession with binaries. I was especially disturbed about potentially not including men because 'their views of equality [are] ten years behind' (because women had the feminist movement). Seriously?

However, it definitely grew on me. My partner and I read out stories to each other before bed and we discovered some that we really related to. One thing that stuck out was bisexual women talking about the radical equality they experience being in a relationship with a woman that just isn't present/is much harder to foster in a relationship with a man. We can both relate to that.

However, since it was an interloan I had to return it today without finishing it. I was about 80 pages in. Maybe I'll finish it one day - probably not. There are much more valuable things I could read.

Christy Baker says

Having read this so long ago, I can't write a full review of it at this point, but what I remember was the relief I felt at the time to find a book that acknowledged the unique place and voices of those along the spectrum of Bi/Pan-identified individuals without forcing an either/or choice of sexual preference. A lot has changed for awareness and acceptance in the intervening years so I'm no longer sure how ground-breaking or relevant this would feel to read today, but I suspect that while there may be many who fall somewhere in between, the acceptance outside of major metropolitan or liberally leaning areas is still probably less than what it could be.

Joshua says

I've read plenty of theoretical works about the sexuality of gay men, and while this did help me get out of the closet, after a while I just wanted to read about men and women like me who found themselves attracted to more than one gender. Though before I continue I should make my position clear, though I came out as bisexual I now usually just tell people that I'm queer, mostly because my sexuality is so fluid that bisexuality just feels limiting whereas queer feels far more inclusive. I still will use bisexual as a label however if I need someone to understand the general trend of my desire.

This collection of essays and poems provides a wide variety of types of bisexual people. Whereas some have listed this book as a kind of "bible" for bisexuals, I think it would be more appropriate to just list this as a resource and a starting one at that. Many of the essays are from writers and political activists from an older generation of bisexual people and the reader is able to recognise this as many of the essays deal with the persecution of bisexuals from the gay and straight communities, or else dealing with the "fresh" issues with AIDS. These essays can be a good starting point from which young queer people can start to gain a sense of themselves before moving on to other works.

Bisexual people still face persecution from the gay and straight community, but the issues have started to change, and the queer community has become far more nuanced because of such changes. Though many of these essays remain relevant, some have aged and so the reader who approaches this book needs to understand that these are testimonies rather than guidelines.

Queer self examination requires time and thought, but it also requires validation from other people, and that's why this collection is so vital. It offers people like me the chance to observe someone else's desire and wonder if I don't see something of myself in them. It gives me the chance to determine if I agree or disagree with someone's assessment of what bisexuality actually is and what it can offer to the queer community at large. And most importantly, it shows me that I can write my desire into the discourse and contribute my own voice.

I can write about my sexual and emotional desires for other men and women, both cis and trans, and have it heard. This book just one of many great books, and like the best of them, it gives me links and ties to new books that will only deepen the discussion.

This book isn't a bible, it's a bridge to new communities and new ideas of sex and sexuality.
