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# Thinking Straight Robin Reardon

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The Books in My Life State  
University of New York Press  
Epstein explores why sex,

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sexuality and gender non-conformity is something that many writers and publishers of children's and young adult lit appear to shy away from. She demonstrates that the information children get from literature matters, and that so called 'difficult' topics can be communicated in entertaining and informative ways. Uses ideas from queer theory and other research to interrogate the ways LGBTQ characters are portrayed in books for children and young people, and to analyse what messages readers of such

books might receive. Includes detailed analysis of over 60 picture books, middle-grade books and young adult novels by authors such as Nancy Garden, Julie Ann Peters, Alex Sanchez, David Levithan, Lesléa Newman, Marcus Ewart, Cris Beam and many others. This book brings together literary studies, sociology, queer studies and other academic fields in an accessible manner, where the research supports the detailed analyses of over 50 books for children and young adults. Epstein

looks at a range of topics, such as the lack of diversity in many of these works, how same-sex marriage is portrayed, the relative absence of bisexual and transgender characters, the way that many of these books are marketed and intended as 'issue books', and more. A practical and informative book to inspire writers and publishers to produce better LGBTQ literature for young readers.

The Diary of Ellen Rimbauer  
Kensington Publishing Corp.  
“ Carefully researched and

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lovingly written, Rinaldi ' s latest presents a girl indentured to John and Abigail Adams during the tense period surrounding the 1770 Massacre. . . . Fortuitously timed, a novel that illuminates a moment from our past that has strong parallels to recent events. Bibliography. " —Kirkus

Reviews

**Critique of Black**

**Reason** Kensington Publishing Corp.

One woman must make the hardest decision of her life in this unforgettably moving story of

resistance and faith to come knocking on during one of the darkest times in history. Santa Cruz, 1953. Jean-Luc is a man on the run from his past. The scar on his face is a small price to pay for surviving the horrors of Nazi occupation in France. Now, he has a new life in California, a family. He never expected the past

to come knocking on his door. Paris, 1944. A young Jewish woman's past is torn apart in a heartbeat. Herded onto a train bound for Auschwitz, in an act of desperation she entrusts her most precious possession to a stranger. All she has left now is hope. On a darkened platform, two destinies become intertwined, and

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the choices each person makes will change the future in ways neither could have imagined. Told from alternating perspectives, *While Paris Slept* reflects on the power of love, resilience, and courage when all seems lost. Exploring the strength of family ties, and what it really means to

love someone unconditionally, this debut novel will capture your heart. Includes a Reading Group Guide.

[Educating Simon](#) Penguin  
In this unique work, Henry Miller gives an utterly candid and self-revealing account of the reading he did during his formative years.

[The Red Umbrella](#) Yearling  
*The Red Umbrella* is a moving tale of a 14-year-old girl's journey from Cuba to America as part of

Operation Pedro Pan—an organized exodus of more than 14,000 unaccompanied children, whose parents sent them away to escape Fidel Castro's revolution. In 1961, two years after the Communist revolution, Lucía Álvarez still leads a carefree life, dreaming of parties and her first crush. But when the soldiers come to her sleepy Cuban town, everything begins to change. Freedoms are stripped away. Neighbors disappear. And soon, Lucía's parents make the heart-wrenching decision to send her and her little

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brother to the United States—on their own. Suddenly plunked down in Nebraska with well-meaning strangers, Lucía struggles to adapt to a new country, a new language, a new way of life. But what of her old life? Will she ever see her home or her parents again? And if she does, will she still be the same girl? The Red Umbrella is a touching story of country, culture, family, and the true meaning of home. “Captures the fervor, uncertainty and fear of the times. . . . Compelling.”  
—The Washington Post

“Gonzalez deals effectively with separation, culture shock, homesickness, uncertainty and identity as she captures what is also a grand adventure.” —San Francisco Chronicle  
**The Evolution of Ethan Poe** Laurel Leaf  
NATIONAL BESTSELLER  
• “Steven Pressfield brings the battle of Thermopylae to brilliant life.”—Pat Conroy At Thermopylae, a rocky mountain pass in northern Greece, the feared and admired Spartan soldiers

stood three hundred strong. Theirs was a suicide mission, to hold the pass against the invading millions of the mighty Persian army. Day after bloody day they withstood the terrible onslaught, buying time for the Greeks to rally their forces. Born into a cult of spiritual courage, physical endurance, and unmatched battle skill, the Spartans would be remembered for the greatest military stand in history—one that would not

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end until the rocks were awash with blood, leaving only one gravely injured Spartan squire to tell the tale. . . .

### Are the Kids All Right?

HarperCollins

I know God doesn't make mistakes, and if I'm gay it's because that's what he wanted. What you wanted. And I think the challenge is to get everyone else to see that. This is their test, not mine. If only Taylor Adams had kept on lying to his parents, none of this

would have happened. He wouldn't have been shipped off to Straight to God, an institution devoted to "deprogramming" troubled teenagers and ridding them of their vices--whether it's drugs, violence, or in Taylor's case, other boys. Not that Taylor has a problem with being gay, or with reconciling his love for God with his love for his boyfriend Will. . . . At Straight to God, such thoughts--along with all other reminders of Taylor's

former "sinful" life--are forbidden. Every movement is monitored, privacy is impossible, and no one--from staff to residents--is quite who they first appear to be. There's Charles, Taylor's clean-cut roommate, desperate to leave his past behind. . . . Nate Devlin, a handsome, inscrutable older boy who's alternately arrogant and kind. . . . gorgeous, secretive Sean, who returns to Straight to God each year to avoid doing

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prison time for drugs. Here, both who we are, and who where piety can be a mask we love. . .

for cruelty and the greatest Atlas Shrugged Welcome

crimes go unpunished, Taylor will learn more than he ever dreamed about love, courage, rebellion, and betrayal--but the most surprising lessons will be the truths he uncovers about himself. In this smart, insightful new novel, Robin Reardon presents a compelling exploration of the journey from boy to man, and a testament to the strength that comes with accepting

Books  
WHAT WOULD YOU DO if your best friend got pregnant? Fourteen-year-old Jaime is used to her best friend, Melissa, being the center of attention. Melissa wants to be a model—she's beautiful, popular, and talented. There's just one small problem—Melissa thinks she's pregnant, and she wants Jaime's help. But there's not much Jaime can do. Melissa refuses to tell

her parents; Jaime refuses to be the same old reliable doormat. She's got a lead in the school play and a new friendship with Zach. Jaime is changing, too. And she's sick of being stepped on! Fifteen-year-old Kelly McWilliams's debut novel is an inspiring story about friendship, choices, and learning how to shine. *Almost Like Being in Love* Kensington Books  
Gay high school sweethearts struggle to maintain their relationship when one of them relocates for a job in this

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witty, heartfelt debut. Somewhen Adam graduates and is looking for more than people spend their whole lives looking for the right partner. Nate Schaper found his in high school. In the eight months since their cautious flirting became a real, heart-pounding, tell-the-parents relationship, Nate and Adam have been inseparable. Even when local kids take their homophobia to brutal levels, Nate is undaunted. He and Adam are rock solid. Two parts of a whole. Yin and yang. But takes an off-Broadway job in New York—at Nate’s insistence—that certainty begins to flicker. Nate’s friends can’t keep his insecurities at bay, especially when he catches Skyped glimpses of Adam’s shirtless roommate. Nate starts a blog to vent his frustrations and becomes the center of a school controversy, drawing ire and support in equal amounts. But it’s the attention of a new boy who guidance that forces him to confront who and what he really wants. Tender, thoughtful, and unflinchingly real, *Don’t Let Me Go* is a witty and beautifully written account of young love, long-distance relationships, and learning to follow your heart. A Lambda Literary Awards finalist ALA Rainbow List (2013) “Don’t Let Me Go is a charming story. Trumble’s love for the characters is evident on every page,



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and it's contagious.”  
—Robin Reardon, author of  
*A Secret Edge* “Trumble’s  
debut is a deeply moving  
and in-depth look at the  
perils and anxieties of  
being gay in high school. .  
. . Told frankly and  
honestly from Nate’s point  
of view, the novel explores  
issues like coming out,  
parental acceptance (and  
its lack), antigay violence,  
and the attitudes of faculty  
and fellow students,  
whose ranks provide bo  
**Converting Kate** Univ of  
California Press

Starting a new life with his  
legendary psycho-poet  
mother in a sleepy New  
England town, seventeen-  
year-old Noah York  
uncovers clues to an age-old  
mystery in the walls of their  
old Victorian home, while  
falling in love with the boy  
next door, a relationship that  
sends shockwaves  
throughout the town. A first  
novel. Reprint. 15,000 first  
printing.

**The Big Book of Words  
You Should Know**

Backinprint.com

I love the long distance  
run, when you feel like

you're about to die. . .and  
then you reach this place  
where you feel like there  
are no boundaries for you  
anywhere. . . In many  
ways, Jason Peele is like  
any other teenager. He  
hits the books, hangs with  
his friends, flirts with girls,  
and omits the full truth of  
his life from his Aunt  
Audrey and Uncle Steve,  
who have raised him since  
his parents died. But  
there's one way that Jason  
Peele is very different:  
when he dreams at night,  
it isn't about girls;it's about

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David Bowie. At sixteen-years-old, Jason is just beginning to understand that he might be gay. The one place Jason feels comfortable is on the track where he can run fast and hard. He loves the feel of the wind at his back, of his legs propelling him furiously around, the roar of the crowd in his ears. But now, even his sanctuary feels threatening. It isn't just the jerks who call him "faggot" in the locker room. A new guy has joined the team,

and everything about him will challenge the way Jason sees life. From late-night showings of "La Cage Aux Folles" to reading Gandhi, he's running a new race on an uncertain course, and only one thing's for sure--his senior year is going to be unforgettable. . . With *A Secret Edge*, Robin Reardon delivers a sexy, sensitive coming-of-age novel about identity and courage, love and honor, anger and hope, and the many ways the truth can

really set you free. "As sexy as it is surprising. *A Secret Edge* is a refreshing spin on the coming out story as well as a memorable new love story for the new millennium." --Brian Sloan, author of *A Tale of Two Summers*  
*White Knight, Black Swan*  
New Directions Publishing  
From the acclaimed author of *The Night Portrait* comes a stunning historical novel about two women, separated by five hundred years, who each hide

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Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa—with unintended consequences. France, 1939 At the dawn of World War II, Anne Guichard, a young archivist employed at the Louvre, arrives home to find her brother missing. While she works to discover his whereabouts, refugees begin flooding into Paris and German artillery fire rattles the city. Once they reach the city, the Nazis will stop at nothing to get their hands on the Louvre's art collection. Anne is quickly sent to the Castle of Chambord, where the Louvre's most precious

artworks—including the Mona Lisa—are being transferred to ensure their safety. With the Germans hard on their heels, Anne frantically moves the Mona Lisa and other treasures again and again in an elaborate game of hide and seek. As the threat to the masterpieces and her life grows closer, Anne also begins to learn the truth about her brother and the role he plays in this dangerous game. Florence, 1479 House servant Bellina Sardi's future seems fixed when she accompanies her newly married mistress, Lisa

to her home across the Arno. Lisa's husband, a prosperous silk merchant, is aligned with the powerful Medici, his home filled with luxuries and treasures. But soon, Bellina finds herself bewitched by a charismatic monk who has urged Florentines to rise up against the Medici and to empty their homes of the riches and jewels her new employer prizes. When Master Leonardo da Vinci is commissioned to paint a portrait of Lisa, Bellina finds herself tasked with hiding an impossible secret. When art

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and war collide, Leonardo da Vinci, his beautiful subject Lisa, and the portrait find themselves in the crosshairs of history.

*The Fifth Of March*

Kensington Publishing Corp. Jude Connor's rural Idaho hometown is a place of strong values and high expectations. For those who fit into the local church's narrow confines, there's support and fellowship. For those who don't, there's ostracism in this life and certain damnation in the next. Jude wants desperately to be saved—to

believe with the fervor of Reverend Amos King, whose sermons are filled with brimstone and righteousness. Yet it hasn't been easy. It's not just the forbidden friendship with his unconventional classmate, Pearl, or the difficulties of being orphaned and in his older brother's care. There are the restrictions governing how congregants should behave, the whispers that follow Gregory Hart, a man who cares for his wheelchair-bound sister and offers guidance Jude sorely needs. And there's Jude's

burgeoning need to decide for himself how to live, when to question, and who to love. When loyalty doesn't help Jude overcome his own temptations, he must confront the truth behind the church's façade and his willingness to follow his own path—even if it leads him far from everything he's known. . . Praise for the novels of Robin Reardon "Mesmerizing. . .A rare book that will appeal to young adults and adult readers alike." --Publishers Weekly on *The Evolution of Ethan Poe* "A compelling story well

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worth your time. . .Reardon is an author to watch." —Bart Yates on *A Secret Edge*

**Queer Externalities** Simon and Schuster

Exploring the porous boundary between mainstream literary fiction and the genres of fantasy, horror, and science fiction, this collection of short stories juxtaposes the conventional and the fabulist?with dazzling results. In Rikki Ducornet's "Lettuce," a petitioner in a futuristic totalitarian state pays with his life when he requests permission to grow

lettuce; "Birthday of the World," by Ursula K. Le Guin, is narrated by a woman whose brother destroys their culture when he decides he wants to be God; and the disillusioned wife in Carol Schwalberg's "The Midnight Lover" finds the perfect marriage partner in her dreams, only to be divorced by the dream lover. Containing 50 works by genre writers Kim Stanley Robinson and Michael Moorcock and noted literary authors Laird Hunt and Brian Evenson, this compilation expands the fiction subgenre

that has been called "speculative" and "slipstream."

*Doormat* Simon and Schuster

Cliches are overrated and loving the boy next door may not be as genuine as the love Flynn sacrifices along the way. Knowing he's gay and acting on it were two separate notions to Flynn Brewer until he'd met Keith, his first boyfriend, in high school. Before then, being gay wasn't as real as the pain of living day-to-day.

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Flynn's fear of coming out to his religious best friend Zach in their conservative community destroyed his relationship with Keith, but Flynn rationalized his avoidance and bottled up the truth until it was regrettably too late.

Zachary Mitchell was the perfect son and role model as far as the outside world could tell. Active in his church while attending college, Zach had a personality that could sell anything, do anything, or be anything. Except, he

couldn't sell the truth to himself. Just when he was ready to reveal his internal conflict to Flynn and expose the darkness lurking in his heart, and in his "perfect" family, Zach met a girl and got sucked deeper into his chasm of deception. Caught in a living Newton's Cradle of his own design, Flynn must choose between idealistic childhood fantasy, or a tempestuous passion that could ignite the very air he breathes.

**The Revelations of Jude**

**Connor** Intellect Books

After his mother remarries, Simon Fitzroy-Hunt must leave the life he loves in England for Boston, but when the young boy he is coaching for a spelling bee reveals that he feels he is really a girl, Simon realizes that others around him have their own perspective.

*Gay in America* Penguin

When Kerry McGrath- a smart, relentless prosecutor- takes her daughter to see a plastic surgeon following a car accident, she sees a woman in the surgery with

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a beautiful, hauntingly familiar face. On a subsequent visit, she sees the same face again- on a different woman. . . Suddenly she remembers: both woman look startlingly like Suzanne Reardon, the "Sweetheart Murder" victim whose husband, Skip, is now serving a life sentence for that murder. When Kerry starts asking questions, she discovers that just about everyone wants the case kept closed. Still she persists- but what she

doesn't know is that it is already too late. Her puzzled queries have triggered a response and she is in great, growing danger.

### **The Prophet's Wife**

Kensington Publishing Corp. Do you know what "quatrefoil" and "impolitic" mean? What about "halcyon" or "narcolepsy"? This book is a handy, easy-to-read reference guide to the proper parlance for any situation. In this book you will find: Words You Absolutely Should Know (covert, exonerate, perimeter); Words You Should Know But Probably Don't (dour,

incendiary, scintilla); Words Most People Don't Know (schlimazel, thaumaturgy, epergne); Words You Should Know to Sound Overeducated (ad infinitum, nugatory, garrulity); Words You Probably Shouldn't Know (priapic, damnatory, labia majora); and more. Whether writing an essay, studying for a test, or trying to impress friends, family, and fellow cocktail party guests with their prolixity, you will achieve magniloquence, ebullience, and flights of rhetorical brilliance.

### **Ballantine Books**

Presents a photographic survey documenting the

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lives of gay men from across the United States. A Question of Manhood Duke University Press  
A sweeping, lyrical tale of historical fiction that tells the unbelievable story of the early days of the Mormon church through the eyes of the woman who saw it all—Emma, the first wife of the prophet Joseph Smith. In 1825, in rural Pennsylvania, Emma Hale marries an itinerant treasure-digger, a man who has nothing but a peep-stone in his pocket and a conviction that he can speak directly to

God. His name is Joseph Smith and in a few short years, he will found his own religion, gather zealous adherents by the tens of thousands, and fracture Emma's life and faith. While the Mormon religion finds its feet and runs beyond the grasp of its founder, Emma struggles to maintain her place in Joseph's heart—and in the religion that has become her world. The Mormons make themselves outcasts everywhere they go. Joseph can only maintain his authority by issuing ever-stranger

commandments on God's behalf, culminating in an edict that men should marry as many women as they please. The Mormons' adoption of polygamy only sets them further apart, and soon their communities are ravaged by violence at the hands of their outraged fellow Americans. For Emma, things take a more personal toll as Joseph brings in a new wife—a woman whom Emma considers a sister. As Emma's family grows along with Joseph's infamy, she knows there will never be



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peace until Joseph faces the law. But on the half-wild edge of the frontier, he's more likely to find death at the hands of a vigilante posse than a fair trial. For the sake of her people—and her soul—Emma must convince the Prophet of God to surrender... and perhaps to sacrifice his life.