Book Club

About Book Club

The LGBTQ Center Book Club is a twice-monthly meeting of lit nerds and casual readers who love to discuss books, fanfic, and other readings with LGBTQIA+ themes. We meet on a pattern of discussing things we love/late to read on the 1st Friday and meeting to discuss the group’s chosen works on the 3rd Friday. We stay in touch and discuss readings using a dedicated GroupMe chat in between meetings.

Spring 2021 Schedule

1st and 3rd Friday starting 8/21 from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm via Zoom.

January

Meeting Schedule

- **January 8th:** Reading recs meeting. What are you reading? Tell us what you’ve loved, as well as what you’ve hated!
- **January 22nd:** We’ll be discussing What’s Normal Anyway (2011 archive) and Zami. Read whichever one interests you (or read both)!

Reads of The Month

**What’s Normal Anyway (web comic) by Morgan Boecher**

How would you define normal? Is it when you wear shoes on your feet at the mall or eat toast for breakfast? Is it when you’re female and feel like a woman? What happens when you go somewhere else and they don’t even have shoes or toast, or when you’re in a group of people who are female and don’t feel at all like women?

What’s Normal Anyway? is a comic that discusses the trans male experience through the story of Mel, who takes the big risk of being himself and transitioning from female to male. This comic aims to add another voice representing a part of the wide spectrum of
human diversity. And be funny about it too.

(Archive available online [1])

Zami: A New Spelling of My Name (biomythography) by Audre Lorde

"ZAMI is a fast-moving chronicle. From the author's vivid childhood memories in Harlem to her coming of age in the late 1950s, the nature of Audre Lorde's work is cyclical. It especially relates the linkage of women who have shaped her . . . Lorde brings into play her craft of lush description and characterization. It keeps unfolding page after page."-- Off Our Backs

(Full text available online via UNC Libraries [2])

February

Meeting Schedule

- **February 5th:** Reading recs meeting. What are you reading? Tell us what you’ve loved, as well as what you’ve hated!
- **February 19th:** We’ll be discussing Black Sun and Feminist, Queer, Crip. Read whichever one interests you (or read both)!

Reads of The Month

Black Sun (novel) by Rebecca Roanhorse

From the New York Times bestselling author of Star Wars: Resistance Reborn comes the first book in the Between Earth and Sky trilogy, inspired by the civilizations of the Pre-Columbian Americas and woven into a tale of celestial prophecies, political intrigue, and forbidden magic.

(Full text available online via UNC Libraries [3])

Feminist, Queer, Crip by Alison Kafer

In Feminist, Queer, Crip Alison Kafer imagines a different future for disability and disabled bodies. Challenging the ways in which ideas about the future and time have been deployed in the service of compulsory able-bodiedness and able-mindedness, Kafer rejects the idea of disability as a pre-determined limit. She juxtaposes theories, movements, and identities such as environmental justice, reproductive justice, cyborg theory, transgender politics, and disability that are typically discussed in isolation and
envision new possibilities for crip futures and feminist/queer/crip alliances. This bold book goes against the grain of normalization and promotes a political framework for a more just world.

(Full text available online via UNC Libraries [4])

March

Meeting Schedule

- March 5th: Reading recs meeting. What are you reading? Tell us what you’ve loved, as well as what you’ve hated!
- March 19th: We’ll be discussing Every True Pleasure: LGBTQ Tales of NC () and Boyfriends (https://www.webtoons.com/en/challenge/boyfriends/track-01/viewer?title_n... [5]). Read whichever one interests you (or read both)!

Reads of The Month

Every true pleasure : LGBTQ tales of North Carolina (fiction anthology) edited by Wilton Barnhardt

Some of North Carolina’s finest fiction and nonfiction writers come together in Every True Pleasure , including David Sedaris, Kelly Link, Allan Gurganus, Randall Kenan, and more. Within the volume--featuring writers who identify as gay, trans, bisexual, and straight--are stories and essays that view the full spectrum of contemporary life through an LGBTQ lens. These writers, all native or connected to North Carolina, show the multifaceted challenges and joys of LGBTQ life, including young love and gay panic, the minefield of religion, military service, having children with a surrogate, family rejection, finding one’s true gender, finding sex, and finding love. One of the only anthologies of its kind, Every True Pleasure speaks with insight and compassion about living LGBTQ in North Carolina and beyond.

(Full text available online via UNC Libraries [6])

Boyfriends (comic) by Ray Pratiwi

Boyfriends is comic about getting yourself a boyfriend. Or multiple boyfriends

(Available online via WebToons [5])
April

Meeting Schedule

- April 9th: Reading recs meeting. What are you reading? Tell us what you’ve loved, as well as what you’ve hated!
- April 23rd: We’ll be discussing Plain Bad Heroines () and Cosmoknights (https://www.cosmoknights.space/comic [7])

Reads of The Month

Plain bad heroines (novel) by emily m danforth

The award-winning author of The Miseducation of Cameron Post makes her adult debut with this highly imaginative and original horror-comedy centered around a cursed New England boarding school for girls--a wickedly whimsical celebration of the art of storytelling, sapphic love, and the rebellious female spirit

(Full text available online via UNC Libraries [8])

Cosmoknights (comic) by Hannah Templer

Pan’s life used to be very small. Work in her dad’s body shop, sneak out with her friend Tara to go dancing, and watch the skies for freighter ships. It didn’t even matter that Tara was a princess… until one day it very much did matter, and Pan had to say goodbye forever. Years later, when a charismatic pair of off-world gladiators show up on her doorstep, she finds that life may not be as small as she thought. On the run and off the galactic grid, Pan discovers the astonishing secrets of her neo-medieval world… and the intoxicating possibility of burning it all down.

(Available via website [7])

May

Meeting Schedule

- May 7th: Reading recs meeting. What are you reading? Tell us what you’ve loved, as well as what you’ve hated!
- May 21st: We’ll be discussing High Class Homos and Legendborn. Read whichever one interests you (or read both)!
Reads of The Month

High Class Homos (web comic) by momozerii

A lesbian princess and a gay prince get married to appease their royal families.

High Class Homos is a fantasy, romance and comedy webcomic revolving around Prince August and Princess Sapphia. To stop their parents trying to marry them off to opposite-gender suitors, Sapphia suggests they marry each other to throw their royal families off.

(Available online [9])

Legendborn by Tracy Deonn

After her mother dies in an accident, sixteen-year-old Bree Matthews wants nothing to do with her family memories or childhood home. A residential program for bright high schoolers at UNC-Chapel Hill seems like the perfect escape—until Bree witnesses a magical attack her very first night on campus.

A flying demon feeding on human energies.
A secret society of so called “Legendborn” students that hunt the creatures down.
And a mysterious teenage mage who calls himself a “Merlin” and who attempts—and fails—to wipe Bree’s memory of everything she saw.

(Full text available online via UNC Libraries [10])

How to Join

View Calendar Event [11]

RSVP on HeelLife [12] for Zoom link (must sign in)

Join Book Club GroupMe [13]

Sign up [14] for the LGBTQ Center’s twice monthly News and Notes newsletter or follow us [15] for updates on each event theme.