

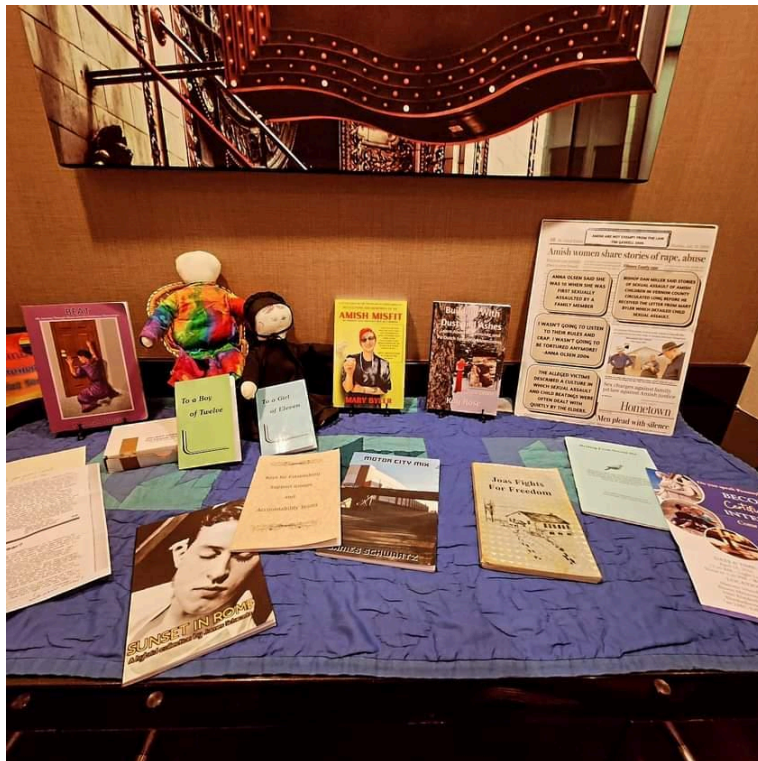


**The Misfit Amish Reading List
& RESOURCES
For LGBTQ AMISH & ANABAPTIST READERS**

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themisfitamish.com

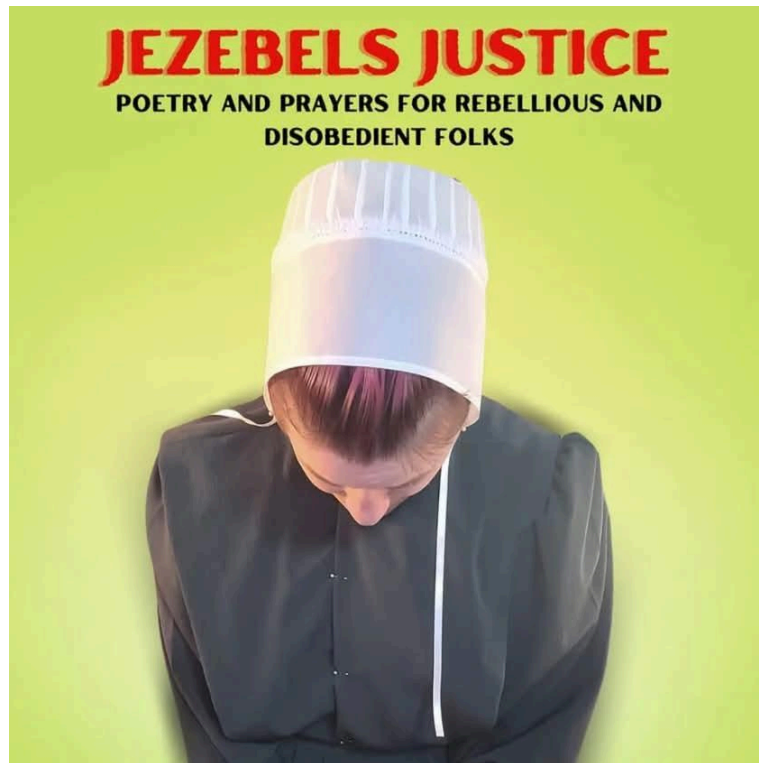
NOTE:

A sample list of books curated for LGBTQ Amish and Anabaptists. Not everyone may benefit from reading these books, however all books are LGBTQ affirming.

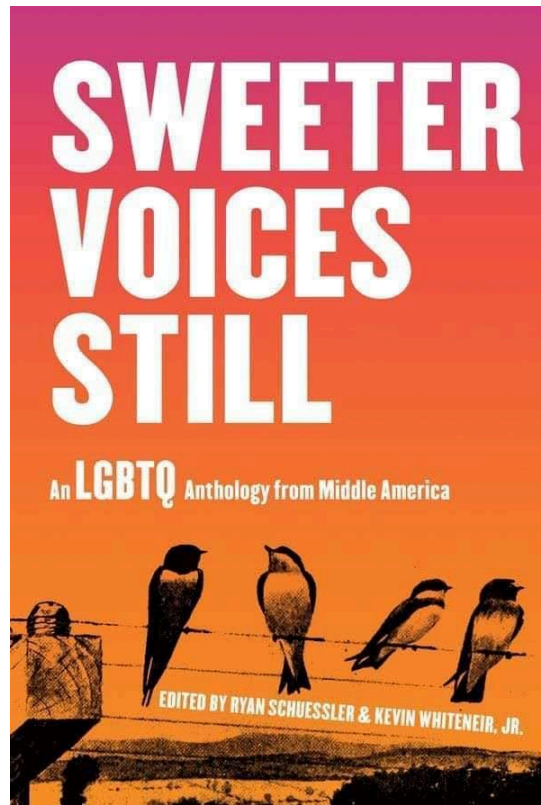


BOOKS

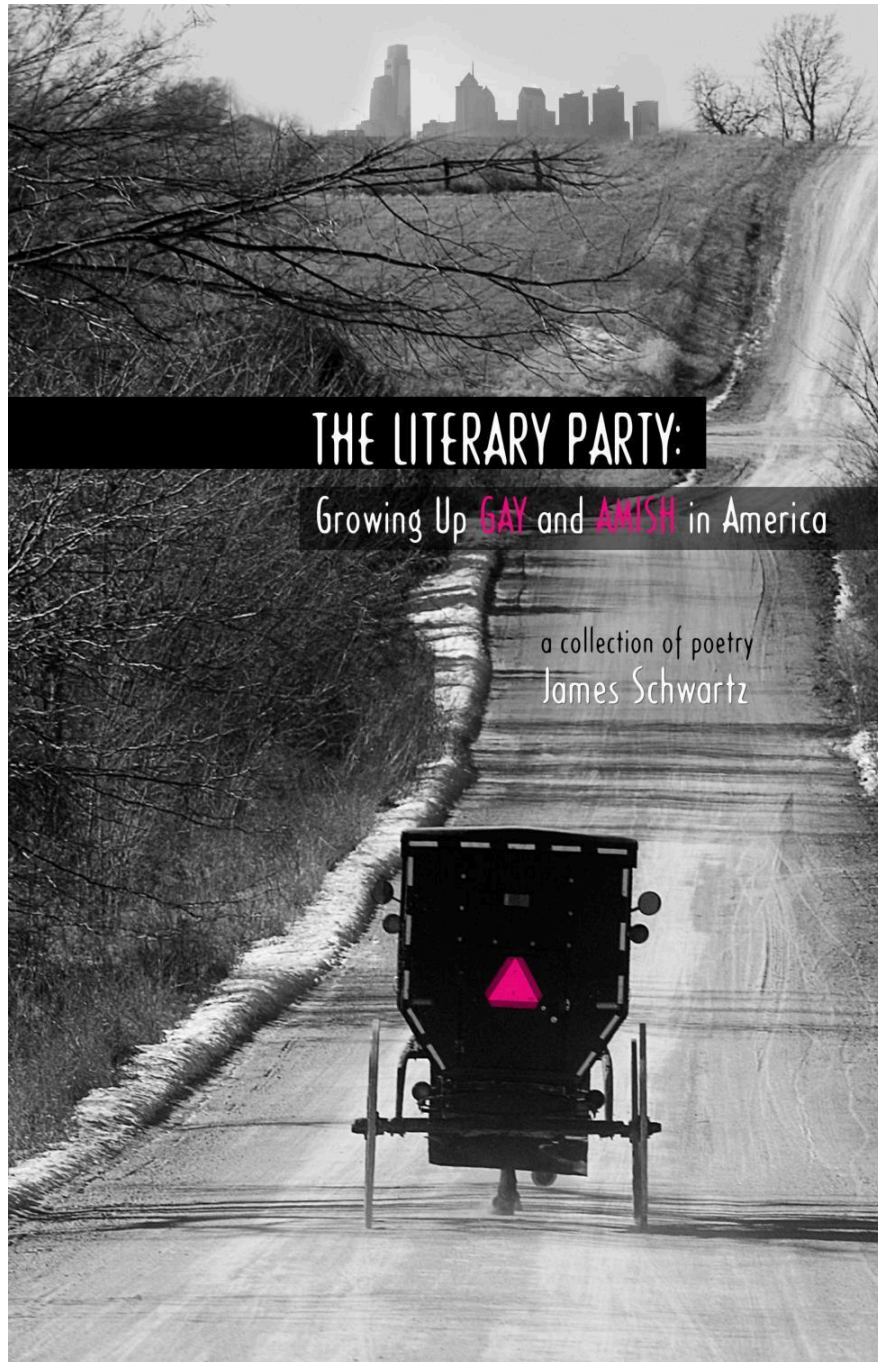
GENRE: POETRY



Jezebel's Justice: Poetry and Prayers for Rebellious and Disobedient Folks
by Mary Byler (Amazon, 2025)



Sweeter Voices Still: An LGBTQ Anthology from Middle America (Belt Publishing, 2021) including poetry by James Schwartz and non-fiction by an Anonymous gay Amish writer.



The Literary Party: Growing Up Gay and Amish in America (Kindle, 2011) by James Schwartz

Lambda Literary Award nominee and recommended by the American Library Association Rainbow Reading list.

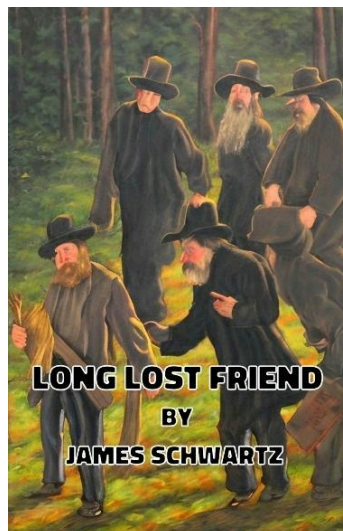
Additional work from James Schwartz with LGBTQ Amish themes:

Among the Leaves: Queer Male Poets on the Midwestern Experience (Squares & Rebels Press, 2012)

QDA: A Queer Disability Anthology (Squares & Rebels Press, 2015)



Sunset in Rome (Alien Buddha Press, 2022)



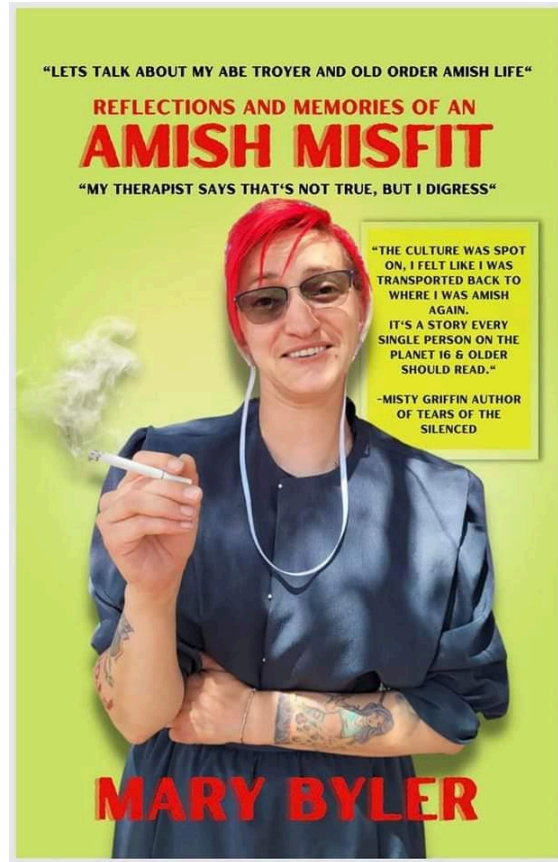
Long Lost Friend (Alien Buddha Press, 2023)

Some Are and Most Aren't and It's Always Been Like That: Selected Poems 2004-2024 (Alien Buddha Press, 2024)

Big Island Beatnik: Poetry & Photography from the Lower East Rift Zone (Alien Buddha Press, 2025)



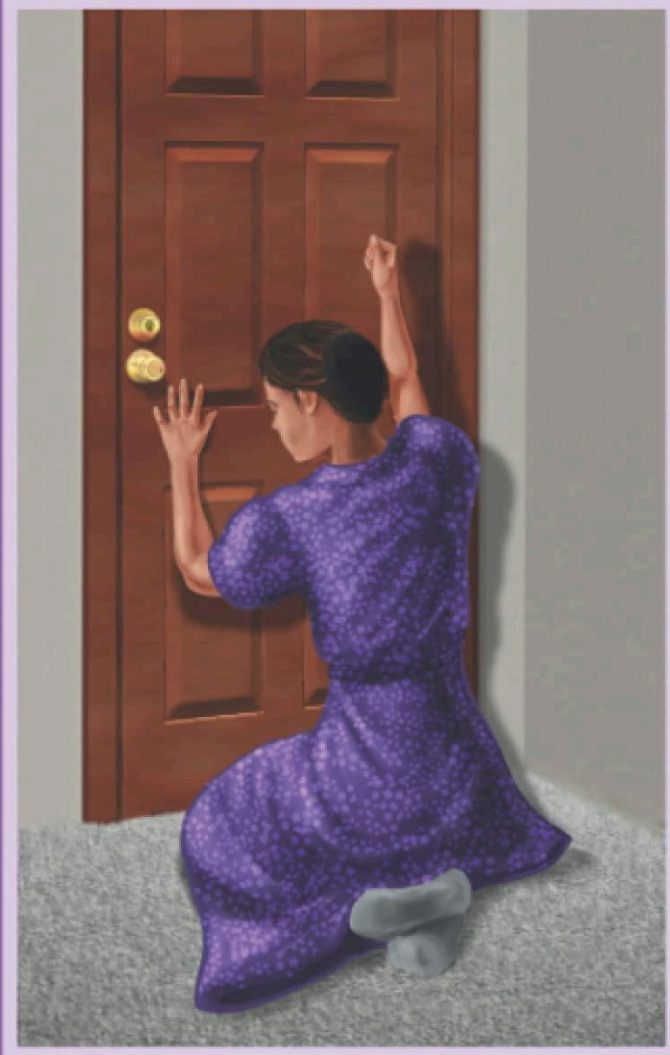
GENRE: TRUE CRIME / NON-FICTION



REFLECTIONS AND MEMORIES OF AN AMISH MISFIT
My Therapist Says That's Not True But I Digress
by Mary Byler (Amazon / Kindle, 2022)

BEAT

My Journey Through Abuse and the Holdeman Mennonites



Hannah Prosser

***BEAT:
MY JOURNEY THROUGH ABUSE AND THE HOLDEMAN MENNONITES***

BY HANNAH PROSSER (KINDLE, 2021)

I was born to an abusive doctor named Ahaz in Kentucky, homeschooled and not even allowed to have friends. When I was nine, Ahaz discovered The Church of God in Christ, Mennonite (Holdeman) in Tennessee, and he forced us to move there.

The Holdeman's were religious exempt from education beyond the eighth grade, and I was beat for begging to go to a high school.

As a minor, I had to kiss approximately 200 different people on the lips, some of whom were complete strangers, for the sake of something called The Holy Kiss; only it didn't feel holy.

Ahaz determined to break my independent, inquisitive nature through severe beatings and worse, including deadbolting me within my bedroom and nailing my windows shut. Multiple Holdeman Mennonites were aware of what was being done to me, yet no one reported it. Instead, I was made out to be mentally ill; a liar.

After years of suffering through emotional, physical, physiological and sexual abuse, how could I even survive?

No one could hear me then... will YOU hear me now?



MichelleStewartAuthor.com

JUDAS GIRL

My Father, Four Cults & How I Escaped Them All

By Michelle Stewart (2025)

Building With Dust and Ashes

Learn About Nationwide and
Pa Dutch Speaking Mennonites



True Crime

Kay Rose

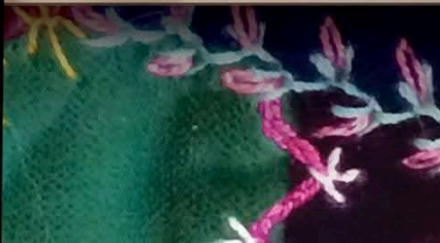
BUILDING WITH DUST AND ASHES
by KAY ROSE (Amazon, 2024)



CRAZY QUILT

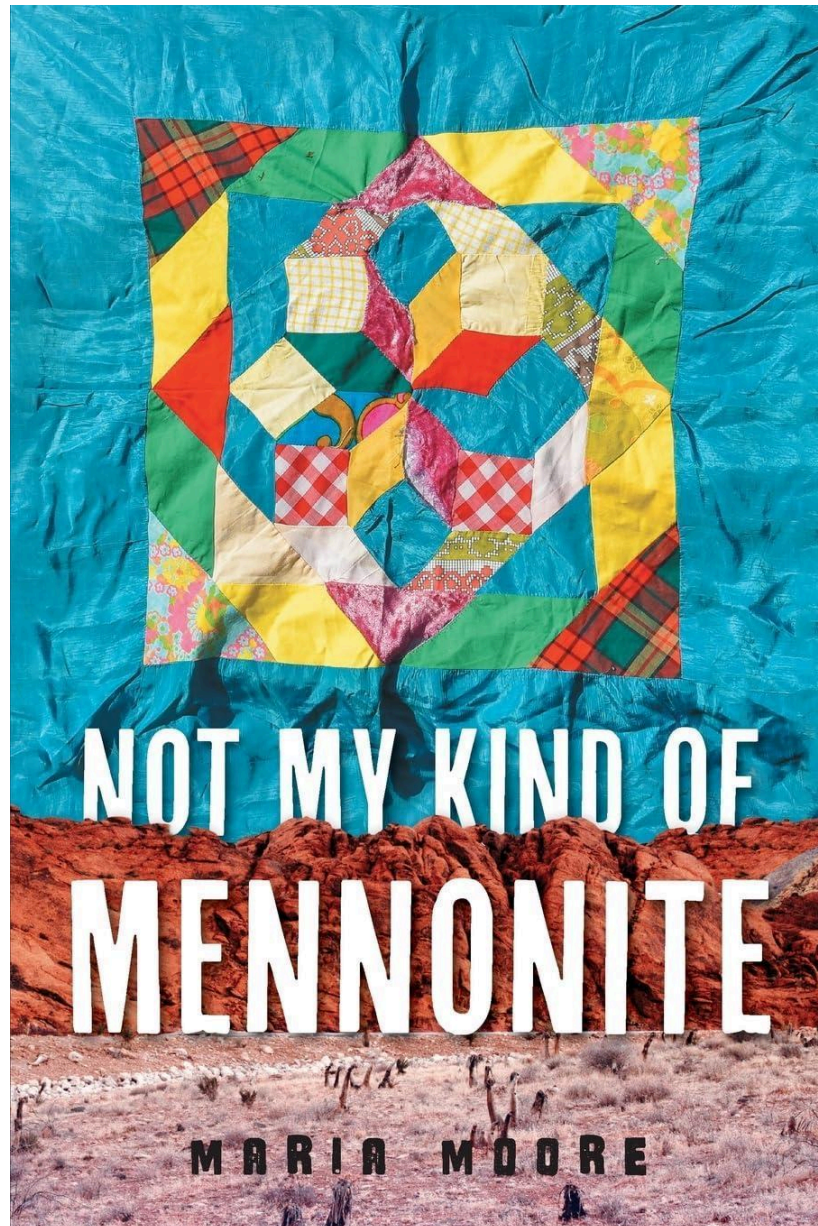
PIECES OF A
MENNONITE
LIFE

CYNTHIA
YODER



CRAZY QUILT: PIECES OF A MENNONITE LIFE
by Cynthia Yoder

Author & Writing Coach: CynthiaYoder.com



NOT MY KIND OF MENNONITE

By Maria Moore (Friesen Press, 2023)

On a cold and snowy night in January 1972, George Peters was shot by his brother-in-law and left to die on a back road in rural Ontario. The investigation and trial of his murder would tell a story that compelled a jury to let his killer walk free. But his children and family were left to seek answers the judicial system couldn't provide. Who was George Peters, and what life had he lived before meeting his untimely end?

George Peters and his wife, Anna, were born in Mexico and raised with the strict upbringings of the Old Colony Mennonite Church. At every stage of their life, they faced abuse but endured in silence for fear of excommunication and punishment. In order to try and find his family a better life, George decided to make the move to Canada. But with his wife suffering from severe undiagnosed mental illnesses and six children that were repeatedly being taken away by CAS for their own safety, it had been a constant uphill battle for him to do what he truly wanted: provide for his family.

Not My Kind of Mennonite is a personal dive into the history, culture, and religious and social pressures faced by one Mexican Mennonite family. Maria Moore, one of George's own children, blends her research about the Mennonite community with firsthand accounts about her family to fully explore her father's legacy, life, hopes, and dreams.

Maria Moore was born in Mexico but she has spent her life in southwestern Ontario. She has had a fulfilling career as a registered nurse with a focus on mental health, addictions and advocacy. She enjoys hiking, storytelling and writing. With her first book, she hopes to bring awareness of the specific traumas and abuse in the private world of Mennonites and make it safe to disclose and seek treatment without shame.

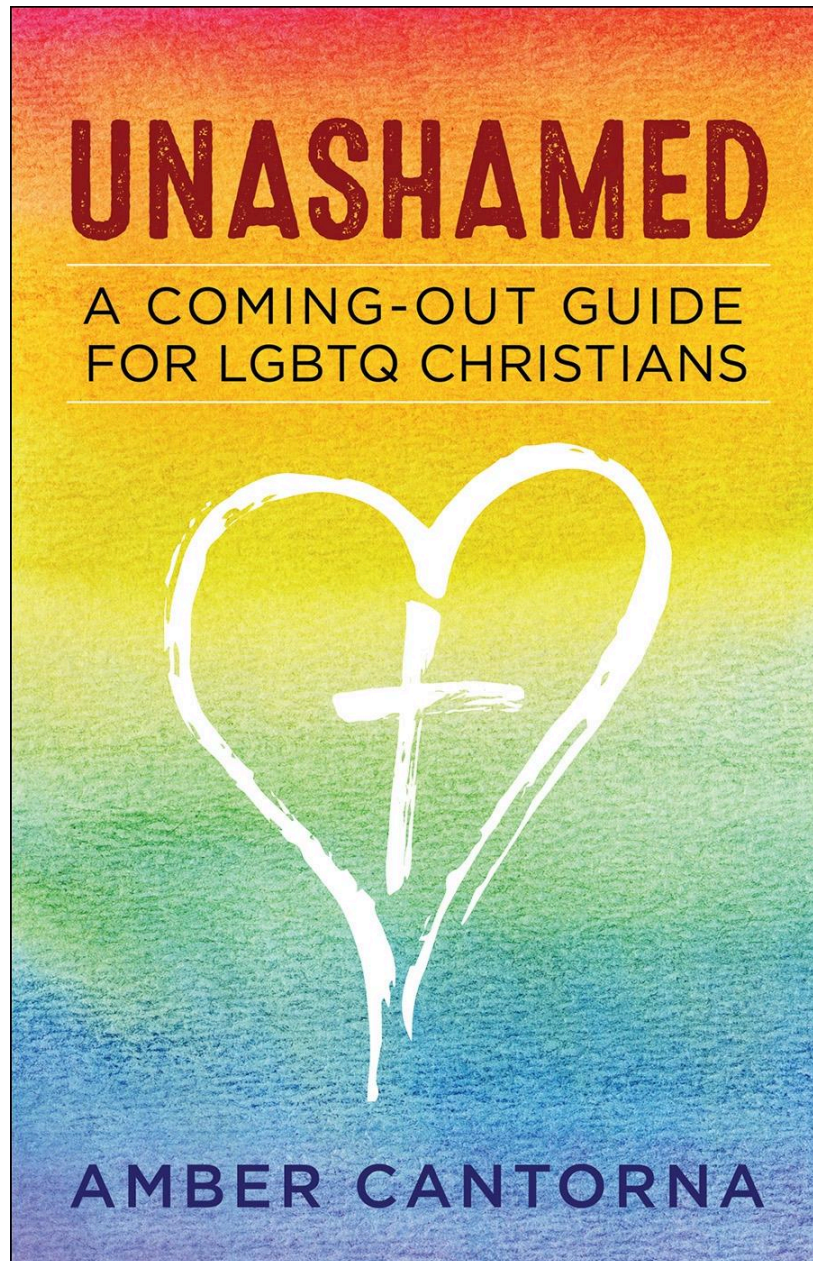
The Biblical Case in
Support of Same-Sex
Relationships

GOD AND THE GAY CHRISTIAN

"This book is a game changer. Winsome, accessible, and carefully researched, every page is brought to life by the author's clear love for Scripture and deep, persistent faith. Matthew Vines emerges as one of my generation's most important Christian leaders."
—RACHEL HELD EVANS, author of *A Year of Biblical Womanhood* and *Faith Unraveled*

MATTHEW VINES

GOD AND THE GAY CHRISTIAN
By Matthew Vines matthewvines.com



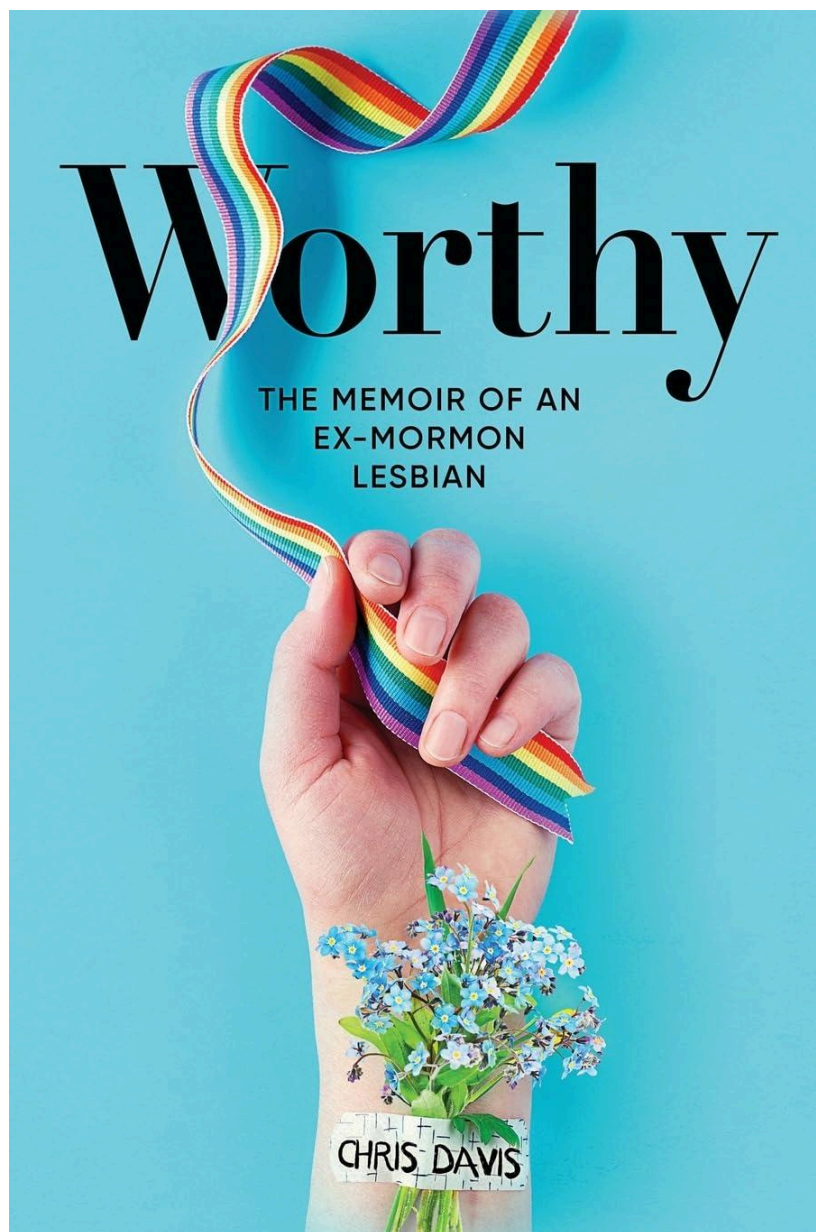
UNASHAMED

By Amber Cantorna

(2019, Westminster John Knox Press)

Amber Cantorna-Wylde (she/her) is an LGBTQ+ advocate, a gatherer of outcasts and misfits, and the author of ***Unashamed: A Coming-Out Guide for LGBTQ Christians*** and *Refocusing My Family: Coming Out, Being Cast Out, and Discovering the True Love of God*. As a gay woman living with late-stage Lyme disease, Cantorna-Wylde specializes in bringing messages of diversity, hope, and self-acceptance to those who have been pushed to the margins. She is the host of the Unashamed Love Collective –

a safe haven for LGBTQ+ people and allies that fosters supportive community. She also leads Cultivating Community retreats—small, intimate group gatherings that build lasting relationships with like-minded people. Follow her on social media at @AmberNCantornaWylde and learn more about her work at AmberCantornaWylde.com.



WORTHY: THE MEMOIR OF AN EX MORMON LESBIAN
BY CHRIS DAVIS (PYP, 2023)
chrisdavisproud.com

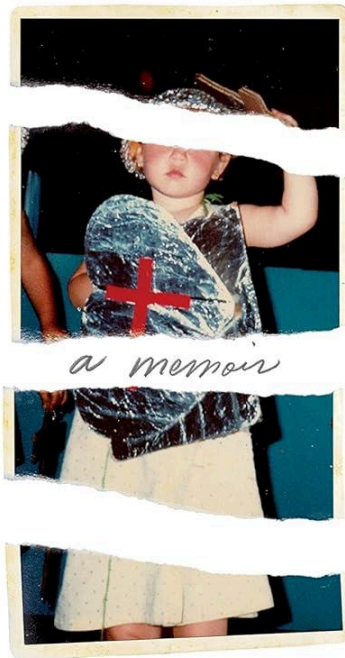
Chris's other works include contributing the essay Five Stories on Why I Don't Belong, about her experience of being queer in the LDS church in an anthology called I Spoke to You with Silence: Essays from Queer Mormons of Marginalized Genders, published in 2022 by the University of Utah Press. A local Maine anthology called Rivers of Ink: Literary Reflections on the Penobscot, which includes her essay called Follow the River Home in which she relates a nostalgic story from her childhood in Bangor, Maine, in 1978. And another essay contribution to North Woods At Night, which is titled Hold It: Potty Talk for the Northern Maine Woods Camper.

In 2025, Chris will release the audiobook for Worthy, appear in a documentary about CSA coverup in the Mormon church, and complete the first draft of her next book.

She lives quite happily in her home state of Maine.

*"A tremendous story of grit and determination."
— Julia Scheeres, New York Times bestselling
author of Jesus Land*

uncultured



Daniella Mestyanek Young

UNCULTURED

BY DANIELLA MESTYANEK YOUNG (ST. MARTIN'S, 2023)

Dear Reader,

A few days after I woke up blind from a brain tumor pressing on my left eye, made only more intense because I was a soldier deployed to Afghanistan, my commander said to

me, "Write it all down. Find the thread in the story of your life."

Until then, I hadn't thought of myself as a writer, only a voracious reader. After a life of being trafficked and abused throughout Asia and Latin America as a child born into the third generation of the religious sex cult, the Children of God, everything I knew about the outside world was through select Disney movies and surreptitious reading. I longed for the life of the typical American teenager, but when I got excommunicated and enrolled myself in a Houston high school, I felt like I was from another planet. Books saved my life then, and I read my way into college, into an honors degree in literature, into learning how to approach the world with a mind open to diverse viewpoints, rather than the extremist perspectives under which I'd been raised.

As a kid who'd been denied books, I wanted to read—everything. As a kid who'd been beaten for asking questions, I wanted to analyze arguments, understand the phrases chosen, and question—everything. And when I commissioned into the Army, in a time of war, it was to do just that. To study the world and groups of people in it, analyze the intelligence, and attempt to help predict what the bad guys would do next.

But a woman in the Army is never the good guy no matter how hard we play the game, and I carried my experience as a cult survivor along with the heavy duffel bag I hoisted toward the sky for hours while the drill sergeants yelled. I noticed the similarities to my earlier life from the first moment I boarded the Army bus that would take me to my new life.
I just joined another cult.

What I came to understand, through writing, is that the military and the cult had a lot more in common than I ever wanted to admit—more than any of us strong, proud Americans would like to admit. And in both of those worlds, trying to fit myself into the mold of what was expected of women nearly killed me.

But I survived.

UNCULTURED is a memoir; the almost-unbelievable story of my life in closed-off groups operating in secrecy throughout the world. But I hope **UNCULTURED** is more than that, and gives you a new perspective from which to examine the groups you love and see how you might be contorting and defining yourself by the group's rules, ones that aren't your own.

Groups can be a prison, but they can also be a place for our liberation. The difference is freedom.

UNCULTURED tells the story of my life in groups, and of my attempt to find that thread...toward freedom.

Sincerely, Daniella Mestyaneck Young

GENRE: FICTION

ELISA TABER



AN
ARCHIPELAGO
IN A
LANDLOCKED
COUNTRY

A LYRIC ETHNOGRAPHY

AN ARCHIPELAGO IN A LANDLOCKED COUNTRY
A LYRIC ETHNOGRAPHY (11:11 Press, 2020)

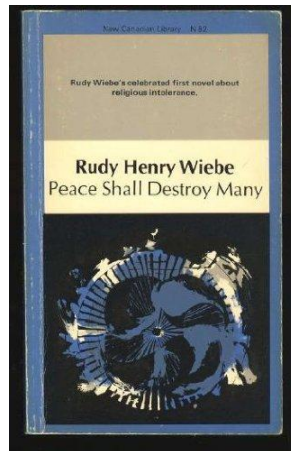
by Elisa Taber
1111press.com/archipelago

An Archipelago in a Landlocked Country is the lyrical storytelling of fieldwork conducted

in Neuland, a Mennonite colony in Paraguay's Boquerón Department, and Cayim ô Clim, the neighboring Nivaklé settlement. The author was conceived in Neuland in 1990, and returned in 2013 and in 2016.

This multi-sequentially read book shifts in genre from ekphrastic descriptions of thirty-second films shot in Asunción, Filadelfia, and Neuland; to a short story collection inspired by metonymically translated Nivaklé myths; and finally, a novella that mythologizes the life of a third generation Mennonite woman.

These three parts are not meant to be read in order. The hypertext gestures towards the omitted films and translations. This structure attunes readers to absent presences. The author's narratives render other kinds of realities—Nivaklé, Paraguayan, and Mennonite ways of being made over—and her own. This “unweaving” technique is inspired by ñandutí—a spider web pattern created by unraveling threads from a fabric.



PEACE SHALL DESTROY MANY
By Rudy Wiebe (New Canadian Library, 1972)

In 1944, as war rages across Europe and Asia, famine, violence and fear are commonplace. But life appears tranquil in the isolated farming settlement of Wapiti in northern Saskatchewan, where the Mennonite community continues the agricultural lifestyle their ancestors have practised for centuries. Their Christian values of peace and love lead them to oppose war and military service, so they are hardly affected by the war – except for the fact that they are reaping the rewards of selling their

increasingly valuable crops and livestock.

Thom Wiens, a young farmer and earnest Christian, begins to ask questions. How can they claim to oppose the war when their livestock become meat to sustain soldiers?

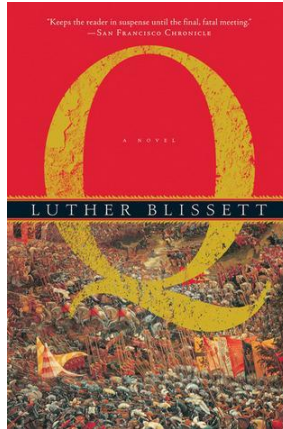
How can they enjoy this free country but rely on others to fight to preserve that freedom? Within the community, conflicts and broken relationships threaten the peace, as the Mennonite tradition of close community life manifests itself as racism toward their “half-breed” neighbours, and aspirations of holiness turn into condemnation of others. Perhaps the greatest hope for the future lies with children such as Hal Wiens, whose friendship with the Métis children and appreciation of the natural environment offer a positive vision of people living at peace with themselves and others.

Wiebe’s groundbreaking first novel aroused great controversy among Mennonite communities when it was first published in 1962. Wiebe explains, “I guess it was a kind of bombshell because it was the first realistic novel ever written about Mennonites in western Canada. A lot of people had no clue how to read it. They got angry. I was talking from the inside and exposing things that shouldn’t be exposed.” At the same time, other reviewers were unsure how to react to Wiebe’s explicitly religious themes, a view which Wiebe found absurd. “There are many, many people who feel that religious experience is the most vital thing that happens to them in their lives, and how many of these people actually ever get explored in modern novels?”

The concept of peace is an important theme in Wiebe’s first three books. The attempt to live non-violently, one of the basic tenets of the Mennonite faith as taught by the sixteenth-century spiritual leader Menno Simons, is what has “caused the Mennonites the most difficulty in their relationship with everybody,” forcing them to move again and again. The theme of peace versus passivity is further explored in *The Blue Mountains of China*, where inner peace, a state of being, is contrasted with the earthly desire for a place of public order and tranquility where the church is “there for a few hours a Sunday and maybe a committee meeting during the week to keep our fire escape polished,” as

Thom, the protagonist puts it.. Wiebe has said, “To be an Anabaptist is to be a radical follower of the person of Jesus Christ . . . and Jesus Christ had no use for the social and political structures of his day; he came to supplant them.”

While *Peace Shall Destroy Many* takes place in a Mennonite community, its elements are universal, delineating the way young idealism rebels against staid tradition, as a son clashes with his father. In the face of violent confrontations between beliefs all over the world, the novel remains as compelling now as it was nearly forty years ago.



Q


By Luther Blissett (Einaudi, 1999)

In 1517, Martin Luther nails his ninety-five theses to the door of Wittenburg Cathedral, and a dance of death begins between a radical Anabaptist with many names and a loyal papal spy known mysteriously as "Q." In this brilliantly conceived literary thriller set in the chaos of the Reformation-an age devastated by wars of religion-a young theology student adopts the cause of heretics and the disinherited and finds himself pursued by a relentless papal informer and heretic hunter. What begins as a personal struggle to reveal each other's identity becomes a mission that can only end in death.

ASSORTED GENRES: ROMANCE / COMING OF AGE / COMEDY / NON-FICTION

BREE FRAM & LIZ CAVALLARO

FORGING QUEER LEADERS



**How the LGBTQIA+ Community
Creates Impact from Adversity**

**Forging Queer Leaders: How the LGBTQIA+ Community Creates Impact from
Adversity**

By Bree Fram and Liz Cavallaro (**Jessica Kingsley, 2024**)

LGBTQ+ individuals disproportionately encounter bias, adversity, stigma, and marginalization throughout their lives. It's an enormous obstacle - but also prepares them for leadership in a fast-moving, volatile, uncertain, complex, and adaptive working world.

The book explores the unique and inspiring developmental experiences of LGBTQ+ leaders, the amazing capabilities they bring to teams, and what that means for everyone pursuing positive and inclusive organizational strategy. With stories from the armed forces, lawyers, entrepreneurs, authors, academics, thought-leaders, medical professionals -you name it - this shows how queer folk everywhere are harnessing their hard-won power and resilience to excel.

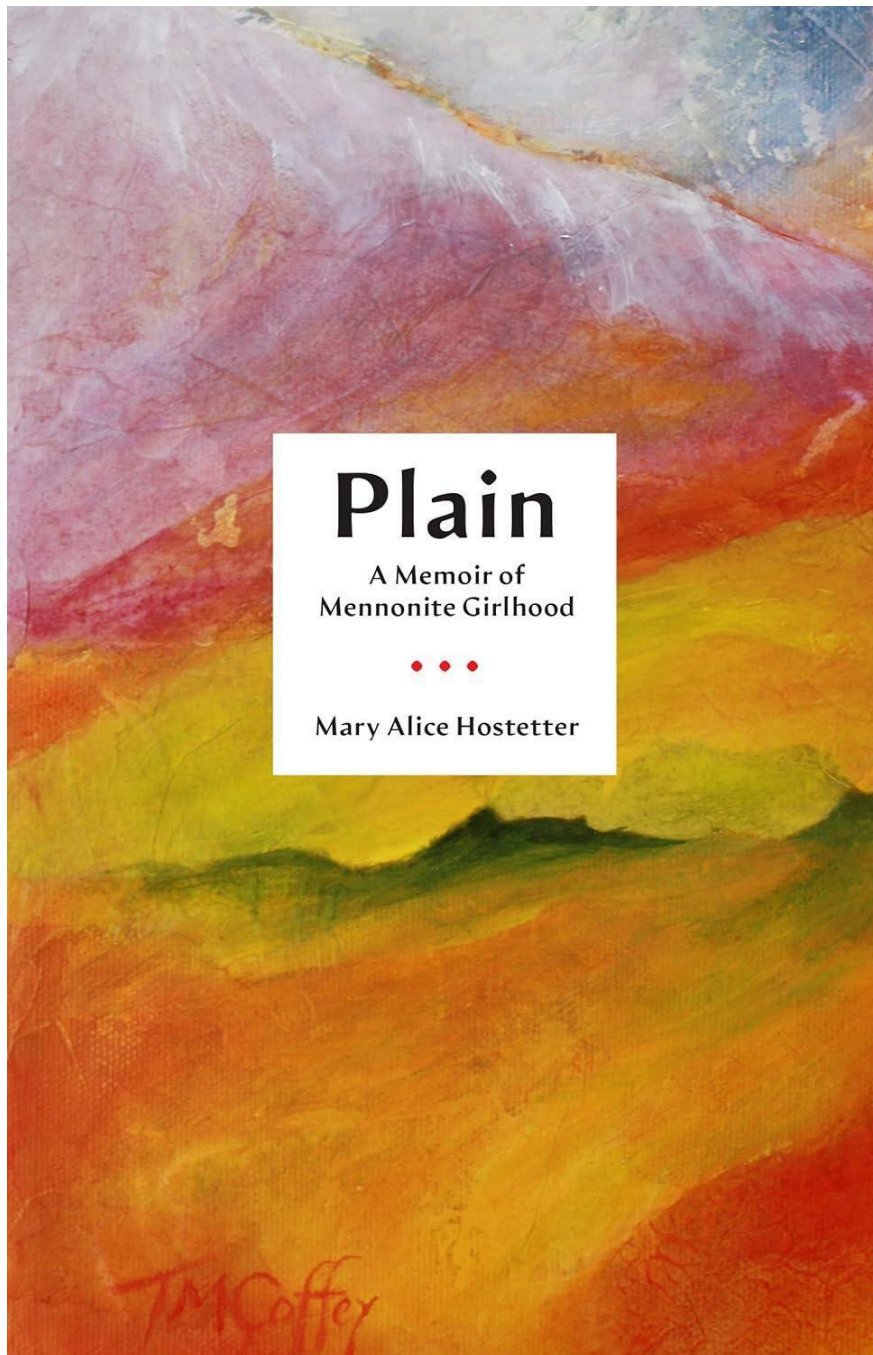
With a history of excellence in queer leadership, the contextual underpinning of adversity and resilience theory, and uplifting stories and soundbites from queer game-changers in every field - this is an essential resource for LGBTQ+ individuals, allies, advocates, business professionals and leaders of all kinds.

Dr. Liz Cavallaro is an adult development scholar and professional executive coach, who specialises in helping leaders thrive through the development of enhanced cognitive capacity. Through her work she's observed the powerful impacts of adversity on the development of leaders with unique personal and professional journeys. Forging Queer Leaders has provided her the opportunity to combine her professional expertise in leader development with her personal dedication to advocacy and support of the LGBTQ+ community.

Liz's research has been presented to the International Leadership Association and published in the Oxford Handbook of Meaningful Work and The Journal of Adult Development. Liz is based in Newport, Rhode Island.

Colonel Bree Fram is an active duty astronautical engineer in the US Space Force, and currently one of the highest ranking out transgender officers in the United States military. She co-led the Department of the Air Force LGBTQ+ Initiatives Team and is a former president of SPARTA, an organization dedicated to the support and professional development of transgender service members.

Bree's writing has been featured in the Washington Post, Military Times, Inkstick, and LGBTQ Nation. She's a keynote speaker on leadership, diversity and inclusion, and LGBTQ+ topics, and along with Liz Cavallaro, co-hosts the **Forged in Fire: LGBTQ+ Leadership podcast**. Bree is the co-editor of the book With Honor and Integrity: Transgender Troops in Their Own Words, which came out in 2021. Bree is based in Reston, Virginia.



PLAIN: A MEMOIR OF MENNONITE GIRLHOOD

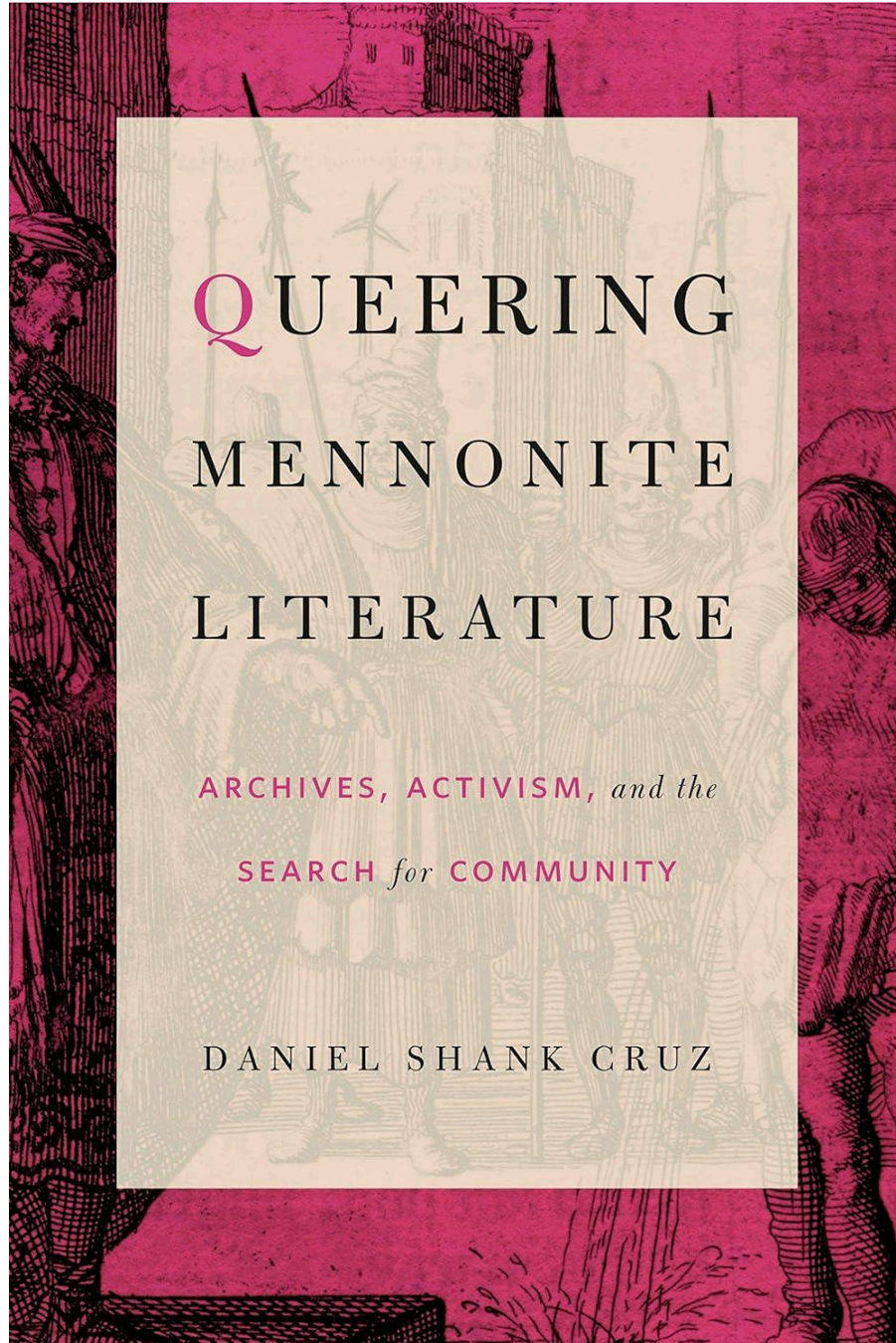
By Mary Alice Hostetter

(University of Wisconsin Press, 2022)

Plain tells the story of Mary Alice Hostetter's journey to define an authentic self amid a rigid religious upbringing in a Mennonite farm family. Although endowed with a personality "prone toward questioning and challenging," the young Mary Alice at first wants nothing more than to be a good girl, to do her share, and—alongside her eleven siblings—to work her family's Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, farm. She feels fortunate to have been born into a religion where, as the familiar hymn states, she is "safe in the arms of Jesus." As an adolescent, that keen desire for belonging becomes focused on her worldly peers, even though she knows that Mennonites consider themselves a people apart. Eventually she leaves behind the fields and fences of her youth, thinking she will finally be able to grow beyond the prohibitions of her church. Discovering and accepting her sexuality, she once again finds herself apart, on the outside of family, community, and societal norms.

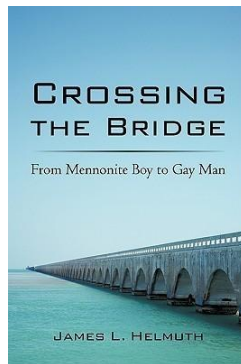
This quietly powerful memoir of longing and acceptance casts a humanizing eye on a little-understood American religious tradition and a woman's striving to grow within and beyond it.

Mary Alice Hostetter grew up the tenth of twelve children in a Mennonite farm family and is a fellow at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. While pursuing a career in education and human services, with a brief lapse into cheesemaking and restaurant management, she has studied writing whenever and wherever she could.



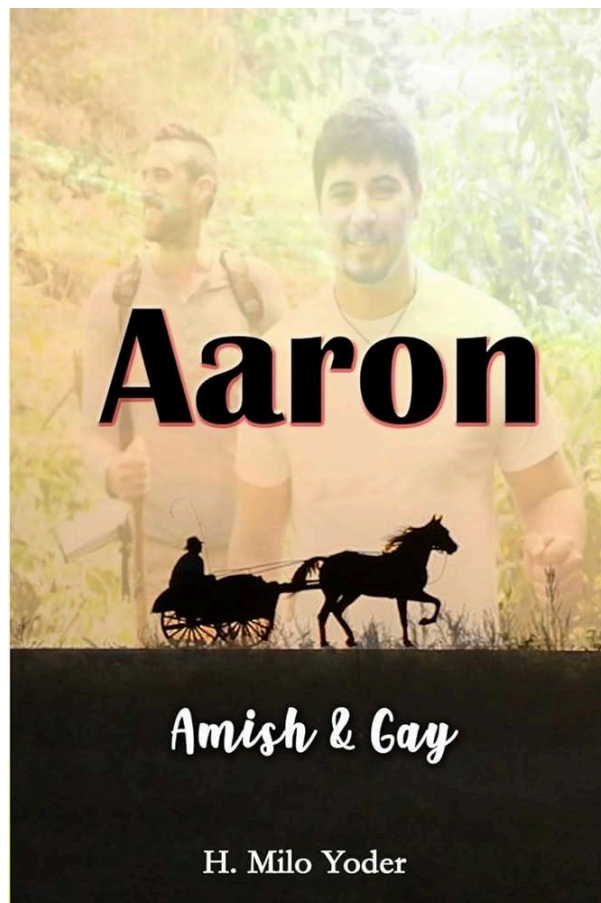
QUEERING MENNONITE LITERATURE:
Archives, Activism, and the Search for Community

By Daniel Shank Cruz
(Penn State University Press, 2019)



Crossing the Bridge: From Mennonite Boy to Gay Man (iUniverse, 2009)

By James L. Helmuth



AARON: AMISH AND GAY

by H. Milo Yoder

"I began writing my first novel, loosely based on my and other Plain People's experiences coming out gay. Aaron took on a life of his own and guided me through the complexities all gay people feel coming out of religious/cult circles."

from H. Milo Yoder, Amazon Author Bio

[Facebook.com/AaronAmishAndGay](https://www.facebook.com/AaronAmishAndGay)

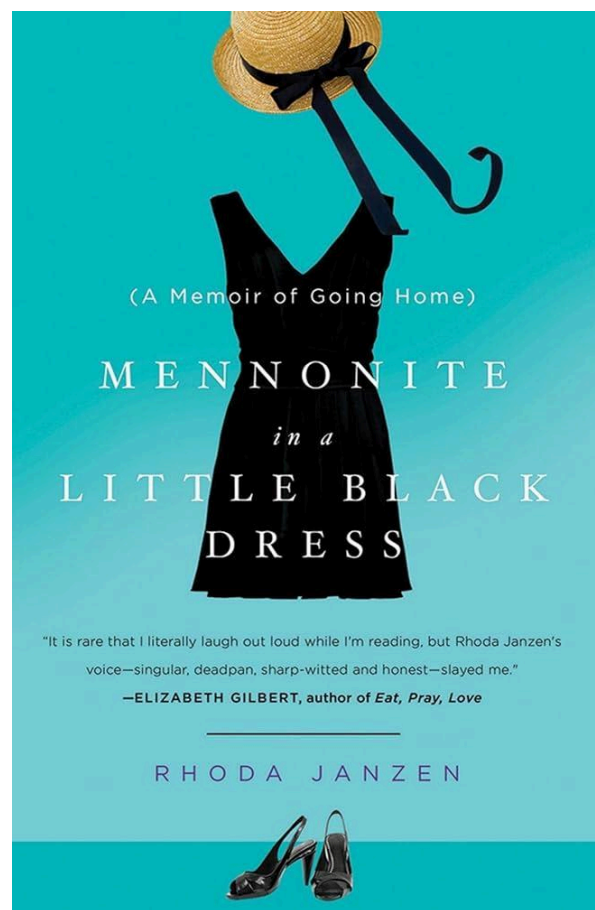


FINALLY FREE (Amazon, 2023)
By Seth Showalter

In *Finally Free*, Seth boldly and vulnerably chronicles his personal journey of self discovery and acceptance, sharing intimate details of his time in a conversion treatment

program aimed at changing his sexuality. He skillfully interweaves his actual journal entries from those tumultuous days with poignant reflections from his current perspective as a therapist, ten years later.

With a powerful and evocative narrative, Seth seeks to vividly illustrate the profound impact of anti-gay rhetoric and religious trauma on individuals, providing an unfiltered glimpse into the emotional upheaval and psychological strain caused by attempts to suppress one's innate identity.



***MENNONITE IN A LITTLE BLACK DRESS:
A MEMOIR OF GOING HOME***

By Rhoda Janzen (St. Martin's Griffin, 2024)

Hilarious . . . musings on Janzen's childhood, marriage, and eccentric family. . . mines

Mennonite culture for comic effect, but . . . does so with love." —Entertainment Weekly

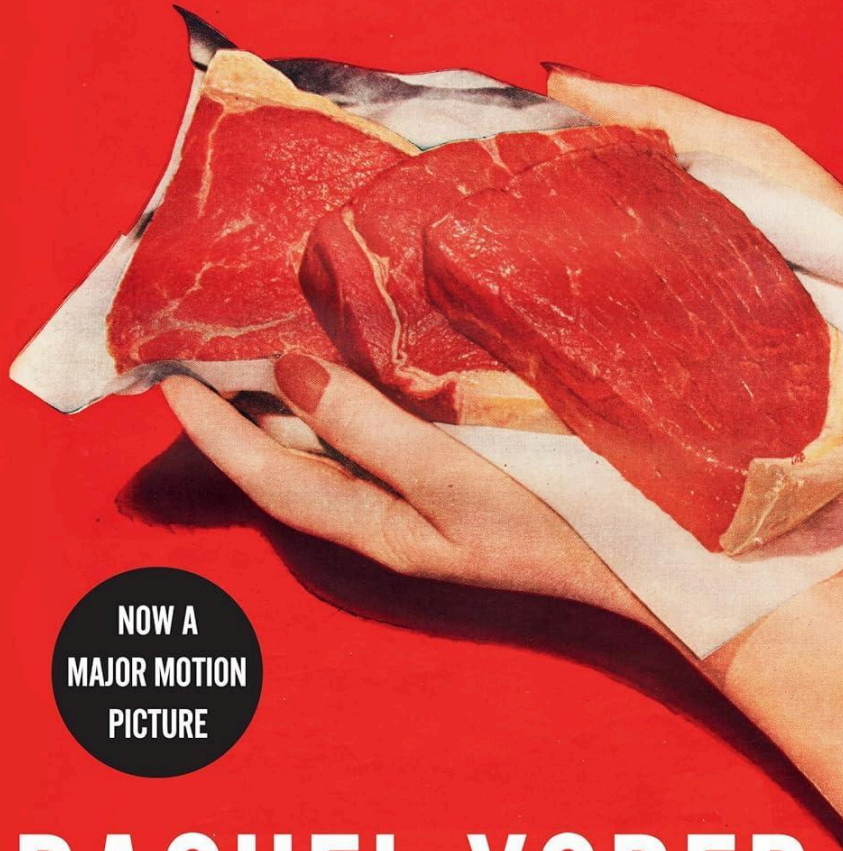
Not long after Rhoda Janzen turned forty, her world turned upside down. Her brilliant husband of fifteen years left her for Bob, a guy he met on Gay.com, and the same week a car accident left her with serious injuries. What was a gal to do? Rhoda packed her bags and went home. This wasn't just any home, though. This was a Mennonite home.

While Rhoda had long ventured out on her own spiritual path, the conservative community welcomed her back with open arms and offbeat advice. (Rhoda's good-natured mother suggested she date her first cousin—he owned a tractor, see.) It is in this safe place that Rhoda can come to terms with her failed marriage; her desire, as a young woman, to leave her sheltered world behind; and the choices that both freed and entrapped her.

"A bold book, funny and bizarre and without comparison." —*Elle*

NIGHTBITCH

A Novel



NOW A
MAJOR MOTION
PICTURE

RACHEL YODER

NIGHTBITCH: A NOVEL

By Rachel Yoder

NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE STARRING AMY ADAMS

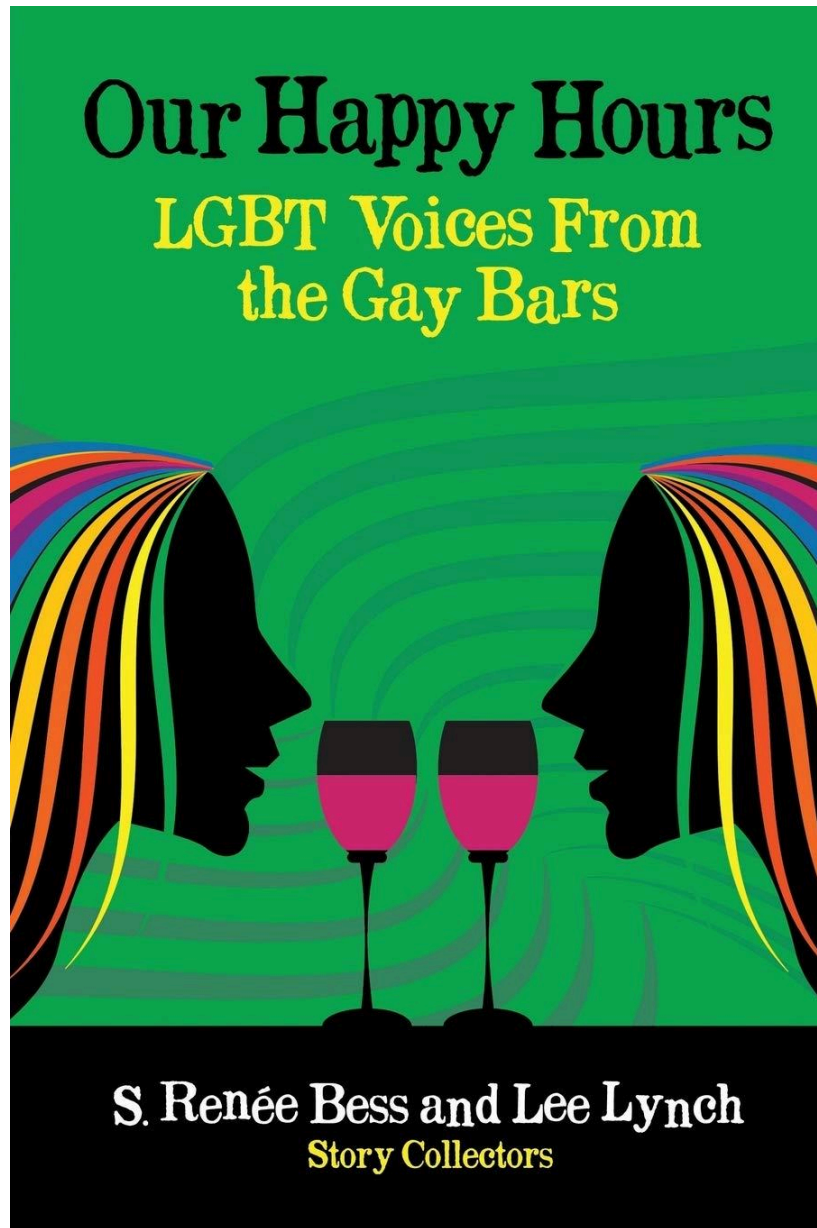
In this blazingly smart and voracious debut novel, an artist turned stay-at-home mom becomes convinced she's turning into a dog.

One day, the mother was a mother, but then one night, she was quite suddenly something else...

An ambitious mother puts her art career on hold to stay at home with her newborn son, but the experience does not match her imagination. Two years later, she steps into the bathroom for a break from her toddler's demands, only to discover a dense patch of hair on the back of her neck. In the mirror, her canines suddenly look sharper than she remembers. Her husband, who travels for work five days a week, casually dismisses her fears from faraway hotel rooms.

As the mother's symptoms intensify, and her temptation to give in to her new dog impulses peak, she struggles to keep her alter-canine-identity secret. Seeking a cure at the library, she discovers the mysterious academic tome which becomes her bible, *A Field Guide to Magical Women: A Mythical Ethnography*, and meets a group of mommies involved in a multilevel-marketing scheme who may also be more than what they seem.

An outrageously original novel of ideas about art, power, and womanhood wrapped in a satirical fairy tale, *Nightbitch* will make you want to howl in laughter and recognition. And you should. You should howl as much as you want.



OUR HAPPY HOURS: LGBT VOICES FROM THE GAY BARS (FLASHPOINT PUBLICATIONS, 2017)

During the days and nights following the massacre at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida, the world listened as various spokespersons attempted to explain to the general public exactly what the gay bar/club meant to LGBTQI people. The words "safe place," "refuge," "free to be ourselves" flew through the air.

We queer writers grappled with the tragedy alongside our brothers and sisters. How could we express our feelings about the places where we could drop all pretense of conforming to the hetero-normative society's rules? What words could we gather to let

the rest of the world know the pain we felt upon losing so many beautiful strangers on a night in June and in a place that had been one of our havens?

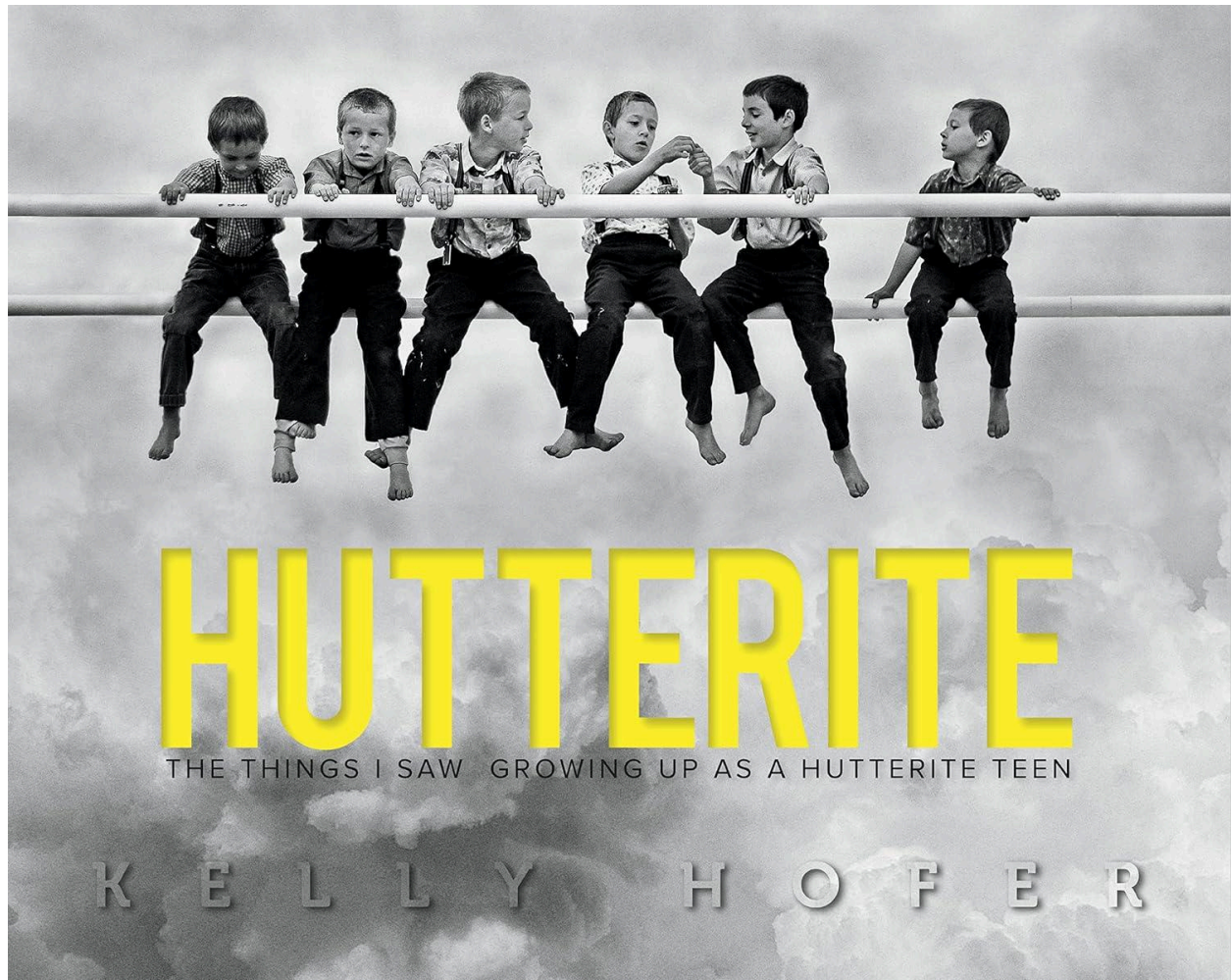
How and why does the gay bar intersect so many of our lives?

The stories and poems living between the covers of this book attempt to answer those questions. Spend a few happy hours with us in our gay bars.

All proceeds will be given to LGBTQI Youth charities.

Includes an essay by James Schwartz

GENRE: PHOTOGRAPHY



HUTTERITE
By Kelly Hofer (2021)

A visual storyteller in Calgary, Alberta.

I started my life as a Hutterite photographer and artist. I now work in the mediums of Photography, Film, Wearable Tech, Ceramics, Electrical Engineering, Furniture Design, and other experimental art forms. My creative process is bringing two traditionally unmarried concepts together. The techniques of electronics + pixels + physics + unexplored perspectives + Hope + culture + compelling light.

<https://www.kellyhofer.com/book>

RESOURCES



WALKING FREE FROM THE TRAUMA OF COERCIVE, CULTIC AND SPIRITUAL ABUSE

A Workbook for Recovery and Growth

GILLIE JENKINSON



ROUTLEDGE

By GILLIE JENKINSON (ROUTLEDGE, 2023)

This is an interactive self-help workbook and psychological road map to enable survivors of coercive, cultic and spiritual abuse to find healing, recovery and growth.

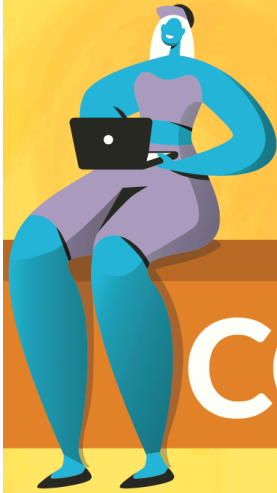
This book provides a comprehensive guide to recovery, based on a tested model of post-cult counselling, and years of research and clinical experience. It is designed to help survivors of diverse abusive settings, including religious and spiritual, political, gangs, business, therapy and wellness and one-on-one relationships. The reader follows a beautifully illustrated journey through four Phases of recovery and growth, one Milestone at a time, to make sense of what has happened to them, learn how to walk free from psychological control and find resources for healing. The author includes stories from her own experience, detailing her path towards recovery and how she learned to come to terms with and overcome what happened to her.

Written in accessible language, this workbook serves as both a self-help book for survivors and former members, and a guide for therapists working with them.

5 MINUTE REFLECTION JOURNAL
FREE DOWNLOAD

<https://www.walkwithdignity.org/resources>

THE **TREVOR** PROJECT
Saving Young LGBTQ Lives



COMING OUT

*A Handbook
for LGBTQ
Young People*



THE TREVOR PROJECT: COMING OUT HANDBOOK

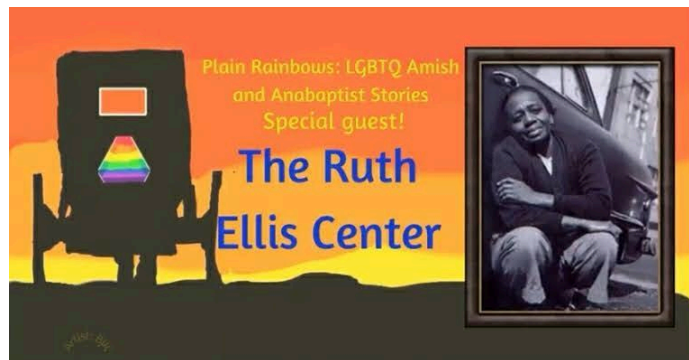
Free PDF:
www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/guide/the-coming-out-handbook

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a network for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
Amish and ex-Amish!



LGBTAmish.com facilitates a conversation within Amish communities about LGBT issues, a conversation which cannot be ignored.

LGBTAmish.com offers support, education, networking opportunities, and friendship to those who share in our mission. This is a safe place to share stories and struggles, a place to find understanding, support, and community.



www.ruthelliscenter.org

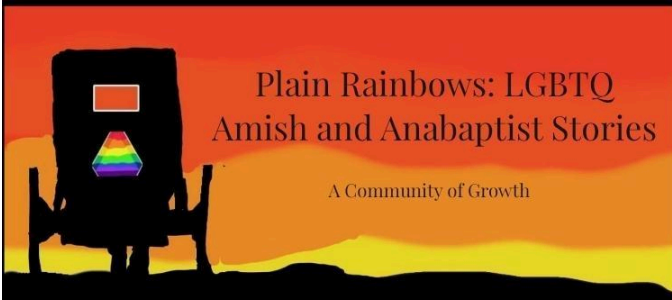
THE RUTH ELLIS CENTER

PODCASTS / MEDIA



PLAIN RAINBOWS: LGBTQ AMISH & ANABAPTIST STORIES

AVAILABLE VIA PODCAST STREAMING PLATFORMS & YOUTUBE



Plain Rainbows: LGBTQ Amish and Anabaptist Stories

A Community of Growth

BJK

Plain Rainbows is born of the desire to give a voice to Anabaptist and former Anabaptist LGBTQ! Plain Rainbows are a collection of people who raise awareness and visibility of LGBTQ Amish and Anabaptists while combatting crimes within Anabaptist and Plain communities to normalize the constitutional rights of all people to exist and live in authenticity.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Learning Not to Hate Yourself | Rev Raymond | Season 1 recap |
| Growing up Mennonite | Spiritual Health | Coming Out Day |
| Intro to Trans People | Jontel | LGBTQ Amish in America |
| The Ruth Ellis Center | Meet James | Meet Mary |
| Resources | Authenticity in Amish County | Special Guest: Edward |
| Meet Dr Lars Stoltzfus | Amish & Academia | Meet Marlin |
| Jacqui & Education | Meet Randall | |



"YOU ARE LOVED JUST AS YOU ARE, YOU ARE VALID!"

Plain Rainbows
LGBTQ Amish &
Anabaptist Stories

AMISH CHILDREN AND ADULTS NEED RESOURCES AND EDUCATION TO COMBAT CRIMES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. HELP US BRIDGE THE GAPS BETWEEN ENGLISH CULTURE AND AMISH CULTURE!

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LITERATURE | LEARNING | CULTURE | COMMUNITY

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DISPLAYING 1 OF 1



2023

Format: Book

Author: Schwartz, James.

Title: *Long lost friend* / James Schwartz.

Publisher, Date: [s.l.] : Alien Buddha Press, 22 cm

Description: 40 pages ; 22 cm

Summary: When an Amish man is suspected of vampirism, religious hysteria, hexing, misinformation and mayhem abound in *Long Lost Friend, a dark comedic micro-novella* by James Schwartz (author of *Sunset in Rome*).

Subjects: Amish -- Fiction. Vampires -- Fiction.

ISBN: 9798372718753

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Control Number: 173403

Subject: [American poetry -- 21st century.](#)
[Ex-church members -- Amish -- Poetry.](#)
[Rural gay men -- Michigan -- Poetry.](#)
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Summary

James Schwartz's collection of selected poems, "Some Are and Most Aren't and It's Always Been Like That," offers readers a compelling journey through the intersections of identity, society, and personal experience. Spanning two decades of poetic exploration from 2004 to 2024, Schwartz's work delves into themes of LGBTQ+ identity, cultural heritage, societal norms, and the human condition ([read more](#))



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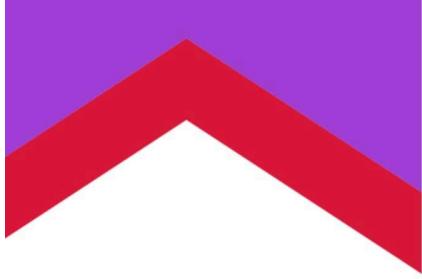
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[Rural gay men -- Michigan -- Poetry.](#)
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THE PLAIN PEOPLE'S
PODCAST

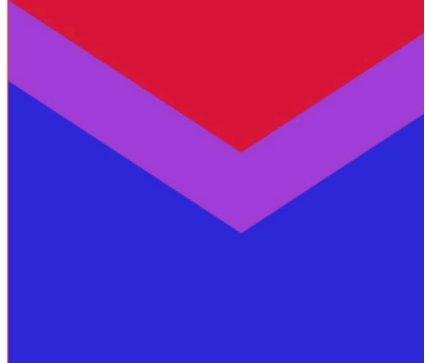


"Amish children and adults will have resources and education to combat crimes in their communities. We bridge the gaps between English (dominant culture) and Amish culture"

<https://www.themisfitamish.com>

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**Right to
Privacy,
and Safe
Touch**



Consent

Consent is when two people both talk about and agree (say "yes") to do something.

Consent is also when permission is asked by a person and granted by the person being asked.

Consent is always needed for sex (intercourse) to be ok. This means two main things:

- 1) It is of your own free will; no one can make you do anything you do not want to.
- 2) It is clearly given by you. The other person or people know if you said, "Yes", or "No".

A child cannot consent to sex or intercourse of any type. "Kinna kenna net ya saya fa intercourse, sie vissa net vas es even maint."

Consent cannot happen if you are unsure, hesitant, pressured, threatened, intimidated, unconscious, asleep, under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or if you have been hurt or scared.

Consent Laws

For more information about consent laws in any

- state, please go to the Rape, Abuse, Incest,

- National Network's Website:

<https://apps.rainn.org/policy/compare/consent-laws.cfm>

You can select the states you'd like to learn more about and read the legislation.

(Examples of "authority" could be parents, grandparents, brothers/sisters, uncles/aunts, legal guardians, church leaders/bishops, doctors/nurses, teachers, law enforcement/police, bosses, or anyone else who can tell you what to do).

Safe or Trusted People

Someone who is safe to talk to about anything. They do not have to be older people, and they do not have to be a minister, a parent or someone in authority. Ask yourself these questions to help you to decide if someone might be safe or trusted:

Do they listen to you?

Do they trust and believe what you say?

Will they get mad at you for talking to them?

You can try talking to someone about something else to see if they are safe to talk to about your abuse.

It does not have to be someone in your family or church.

Right to Privacy

You have the right to privacy in your own space. This means that your body and your things belong to you. Just like people should knock and receive permission to enter before coming into your room or your home, people also need to ask and receive permission to touch your body parts.

Safe Touch

Safe touch is any contact or touching of your body that makes you feel good, safe, comfortable, happy, and connected with another person or people.

Examples of safe touch might be hugs, holding hands, or any other kind of embrace from another person that makes you feel happy, safe, and comfortable.. **Safe touch might make you FEEL good, supported, comforted, happy, or safe**

Unsafe Touch

Unsafe touch is any contact or touching of your body that makes you feel sad, bad, unsafe, or uncomfortable. It can be from a stranger or even someone you know. If someone does not ask you for your permission before touching you, even putting a hand on your shoulder or hugging you, it can sometimes make you feel unsafe.

Examples of unsafe touch might be pinching, hitting, grabbing, hugging or other touch you don't want.

Serious examples of unsafe touch might be someone touching your private parts. This might be your buttocks, chest, and/or genital area without your permission. Unsafe touch might make you FEEL gross, ugly, uncomfortable, scared, weird, alone, embarrassed, hurt, angry, sad, terrified, mad, betrayed, or confused.