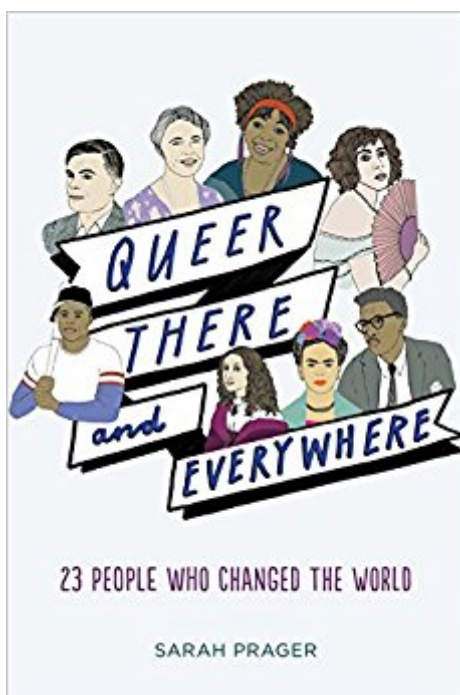


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# Queer, There, And Everywhere: 23 People Who Changed The World



## Synopsis

This first-ever LGBTQ history book of its kind for young adults will appeal to fans of fun, empowering pop-culture books like *Rad American Women A-Z* and *Notorious RBG*. Three starred reviews! World history has been made by countless lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals—and you’ve never heard of many of them. Queer author and activist Sarah Prager delves deep into the lives of 23 people who fought, created, and loved on their own terms. From high-profile figures like Abraham Lincoln and Eleanor Roosevelt to the trailblazing gender-ambiguous Queen of Sweden and a bisexual blues singer who didn’t make it into your history books, these astonishing true stories uncover a rich queer heritage that encompasses every culture, in every era. By turns hilarious and inspiring, the beautifully illustrated *Queer, There, and Everywhere* is for anyone who wants the real story of the queer rights movement. A Junior Library Guild Selection

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Should be placed in the hands of every LGBTQ teen so they’ll know that not only are they not alone, but they have a rich and diverse history. Presented in a breezy, conversational tone that will engage teens and make them laugh.” (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))

“Prager delivers a rich exploration of gender identity and sexuality across time and nation. These snapshots—sometimes irreverent in tone, but always respectful of the people and relationships they discuss—offer strong insight into the lives of individuals who broke barriers or simply lived life on their own terms.” (Publishers Weekly

(starred review))

“Written with a pop culture sensibility that will appeal to teen readers, the collection is a fascinating look at history through a different lens than what most history books provide. Hurray for Sarah Prager’s own splendid contribution to queer history!” (Shelf Awareness)

“A lively and informative introduction to queer history.” (Booklist)

“Well written, timely, and interesting; the profiles include a thoughtful, varied mix of queer historical figures .... Prager has captured moments from thousands of years of queer history-making in a captivating, illuminating read.” (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA))

“Queer, There, and Everywhere is so conversational, fast paced, and infused with pop culture sensibilities that it tricks you into forgetting it’s a series of (incredibly timely) biographies. An absolute must-read for people interested in their queer forebears.” (Meredith Russo, author of the Stonewall Award winner *If I Was Your Girl*)

“Accessible, irreverent, and meticulously researched, at times heartbreaking and just as often wildly funny, this stunningly diverse survey of queer histories is a nourishing and inspiring addition to our arsenal of queer possibilities. Should be required reading for all of us, queer or not.” (Sarah McCarry, author of the Lambda Award-nominated *About a Girl*)

“A valuable resource for all those queer kids out there. Let them know they are not alone. Let them know they have a history. This book is a lifeline and a gift.” (Justin Sayre, writer, performer, and author of *Husky*)

“Wow. It isn’t easy to tell stories from across time and space of lives we would now call queer. Much less in an I-can-put-this-book-down way. Sarah Prager has done it, showing us all how to live bravely.” (Leila J. Rupp, author of *Sapphistries: A Global History of Love between Women*, co-editor of *Understanding and Teaching U.S. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History* and professor at UC Santa Barbara)

“Reading this book is like discussing history with a really good (and really smart) friend—free of pretentiousness, full of wisdom, dispatched in a casual, but informative way. *Queer, There, and Everywhere* is a desperately needed and absolutely brilliant breath of fresh air. A must-read!” (Shane Bitney Crone, activist and producer/subject of the *Bridegroom* documentary)

“Sarah Prager tells us 23 fascinating stories, some of them new twists on familiar ones (like Abraham Lincoln) as well as ones about figures that history has nearly forgotten (like the Roman Emperor Elagabalus), mixing light-hearted humor with impeccable scholarship.” (Kevin Jennings, founder of GLSEN, former Assistant Deputy Secretary of the US Department of Education, and author of *Becoming Visible*)

“A powerful, educational book about the lives of 23 LGBTQ people who made important contributions to our society. This is an essential tool to educate the world about our LGBTQ heroes and leaders.” (Jose Gutierrez,

founder of the Latino GLBT History Project and co-founder of the Rainbow History Project) “In this delightful and accessible book, Prager introduces us to a wide and diverse assortment of 23 historical figures who challenged the gender and/or sexuality norms of their time and place and changed the world. I enjoyed every story.” (Robyn Ochs, educator and co-editor of *Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals around the World*) “This is a great book about some remarkable people who show us the actual diversity of real life. Gender isn’t nearly as straightforward as most people pretend it is!” (Dr. Susan Stryker, author of *Transgender History* and co-director of the Emmy-winning film *Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton’s Cafeteria*)

Sarah Prager is an activist, public speaker, and writer with a B.A. from Boston University and a Certificate of Communications from Emerson College. She is the founder and director of Quist, a free mobile app that aims to bring queer history to the world in an interesting and interactive way. Sarah came out as a lesbian at the age of fourteen and taught herself LGBTQ history as a means of gaining a sense of community. She has been an activist since that time, working for marriage equality, bisexual visibility, HIV prevention, sexual assault prevention, and basic LGBTQ human rights abroad. She has written about LGBTQ history for the Huffington Post, The Advocate, the It Gets Better Project’s blog, and QED: A Journal of LGBTQ Worldmaking. She lives in Connecticut with her wife and their child. This is her first book.

Sarah Prager’s *Queer, There, and Everywhere: 23 People Who Changed the World* is a delightful romp through history, picking out a double dozen minus one of notable individuals who fit under what is now the LGBTQ umbrella. It is designed for a young adult audience, but would serve very well to enlighten many who may be older in chronological age but perhaps more than a bit naïve due to the deliberate misinformation our culture has promulgated. Although this book doesn’t specifically relate to LGBT spiritual connections, it is another one I added to my library based on recommendation from author Kittredge Cherry. Cherry’s blogspot contains a continually-updated list of relevant books all the way from the classics to the newest releases. I highly recommend Prager’s mini anthology as a “starter” for those just beginning to become aware of the historical and cultural wealth recently available in the LGBTQ genre. Prager’s book, while not “academic,” does contain a very useful glossary and a

bibliography of sources and notes. Above all, it is fun to read!

I purchased this book for my own 13 year old son and for another teenager in my life. I want them to have queer role models and to see the richness and diversity of humanity throughout history, rather than just as a recent phenomenon. The stories are excellent. The writing is engaging and accessible. It is well researched. It's a wonderful book.

While Sarah Prager wrote this book for a teen audience, I sure wish I'd had these fascinating, powerful histories of queer people who changed the world when my kid was discovering their gender self and sexuality. It would have helped me be so much more of an uplifter for my child. I think it's a must-read for every straight parent on the planet and belongs in every middle and high school library. All kids should understand the tremendous contributions queer people have made to world history. Highly recommended.

Thank you, Sarah Prager, for illuminating the stories of these kick-ass queers!

Excellent book. Fascinating, well written, eye-opening stories of historical figures that will make you look at history differently. I highly recommend this book!!

\*I received this book as an eARC from Harper Collins via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review\*This book is an excellent look at just 22 amazing people who shaped what it means to be queer now. There need to be more non-fiction books like this for young readers. The people described in this book are so different from each other, but they all have one thing in common. They were different. They were queer. And they found a way to use that to their advantage in a world where so many were against them.This book is inspirational, funny, sad, educational, and so much more. I hope this book finds its way into every library's Young Adult section.I give this book a 5/5 and HIGHLY RECOMMEND it! The stories are short enough that this would make a perfect coffee table or waiting room book.

See more of my reviews on The YA Kitten! My copy was an ARC I got as a reviewer for YA Books Central.As a queer chick, I think I'm qualified to say that queer people rock. We write your literature (Oscar Wilde), we start modern civil rights movements (Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson), and we've been so overwhelmingly present in the military

that in 1947, General Eisenhower found out lesbians were everywhere in the Women's Army Corps and gave up on "ferreting them out" because he'd lose a lot of people. (No seriously.) Too bad he banned LGBT people from occupying federal government positions when he became president. Now queer teens have their own small history book detailing queer people in history! Well, kinda. *Queer, There, and Everywhere* is a quick read you'll breeze through in one sitting thanks to simple yet engaging writing and short profiles. If one figure sparks your fancy, Prager has her sources cited at the end of the book and it might just start someone down the path to becoming a historian. More queer people to record queer history? Yes please! If we don't safeguard our stories and experiences, no one will. (You might be able to tell I have a deep love for history and the many ways we record, preserve, or destroy it.) More than a few entries genuinely surprised me and you're unlikely to have heard about some like MLK Jr.'s right-hand man Bayard Rustin and Jose Sarria, a San Francisco drag queen who fought to help fellow drag queens and even ran for public office. (The seat he lost was won sixteen years later by the more well-known Harvey Milk, so we really ought to thank Jose more.) Entries like Eleanor Roosevelt's (her "intimate friendship" with another woman earned her inclusion in the book; Abraham Lincoln had one too with a man) delighted me. Prager notes that Eleanor had very little to no interest in sex. If you hear something that sounds like a bell, that's my Ace Alarm gleefully going off. We may not be able to definitively put that label on her, but we can dream and speculate that she was a biromantic asexual woman, can't we? Or another romantic orientation, maybe. That's up for debate and history people love to debate stuff. Sadly, if you're looking for explicit statements of "this person was THIS specific identity," you're not going to get that for many entries beyond the modern ones supported by the people explicitly claiming their labels. For figures from further back in history like Kristina Vasa, we have little more than speculation based on written records. Prager herself admits we'll never truly know about Vasa's identity after suggesting different identities (cis woman, trans man, or genderqueer, among others) that might fit were Vasa living in the present. Jeanne D'Arc is probably the most questionable inclusion in the book. Prager writes that Jeanne dressed in men's clothing and took a vow of chastity, neither of which inherently make her a QUILTBAG person no matter how unprecedented women wearing men's clothing was then. Just about everything written on her agrees that both

choices were based in her religious fervor, not in anything to do with her gender or sexual identity. Chastity or celibacy  $\neq$  asexuality. Given that Prager suggests in the glossary that the A in QUILTBAG and similar acronyms can mean both "ally" and "asexual," that's especially disheartening. Asexual people are regularly pushed out of the movement and the acronym because we aren't "queer enough" to be there. See: the American Apparel incident from June 2016. When I emailed the author about this and another since-corrected issue, she said she tried to reflect how glossary terms are actually used in the world when she defined them. Understandable but still disappointing for ace readers. Now that I think about it, I'm a bit surprised there was only one entry from Old Hollywood (writer Mercedes de Acosta) because QUILTBAG people were everywhere in that place. Prager could write a companion YA nonfiction book just on those figures! Queer teens will be delighted to see their presence in history and their effects on the world. I may have a bit of a problem with the book as an aro ace woman, but I'm used to it at this point. Not necessarily recommended to other ace readers but definitely a must-read for most QUILTBAG teens.

i jumped to review this book as soon as it came out! i got to read an advanced copy and really feel that its a massively important book that everyone should read!!!this book is for anyone who is interested in learning about the parts of history that aren't taught in school -- historical figures whose identities have been largely erased in pop culture.it's of course especially relevant for any queer identified individuals to be inspired by, educated about, and connected to LGBTQ history. its accessible, fascinating and a fun and quick read. i read it in a few hours and couldn't put it down!

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