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Edited by Scott Herring
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THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
AMERICAN GAY AND LESBIAN LITERATURE

This *Companion* examines the connections between LGBTQ populations and American literature from the late eighteenth to the twenty-first century. It surveys primary and secondary writings under the evolving category of gay and lesbian authorship and incorporates current thinking in U.S.-based LGBTQ studies as well as critical practices within the field of American literary studies. The *Companion* also addresses the ways in which queerness pervades persons, texts, bodies, and reading, while paying attention to the transnational component of such objects and practices. In so doing, it details the chief genres, conventional historical backgrounds, and influential interpretive practices that support the analysis of LGBTQ literatures in the United States.

Scott Herring is Associate Professor of English at Indiana University, Bloomington. His previous books include *The Hoarders: Material Deviance in Modern American Culture* (2014); *Another Country: Queer Anti-Urbanism* (2010); and *Queering the Underworld: Slumming, Literature, and the Undoing of Lesbian and Gay History* (2007). Herring's articles have also appeared in such journals as *American Quarterly*, *Modern Fiction Studies*, *GLQ*, and *PMLA*.

A complete list of books in the series is at the back of this book

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EDITED BY
SCOTT HERRING
Indiana University



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NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

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MICHAEL COBB is Professor of English at the University of Toronto. He is the author of three books: *Racial Blasphemies: Religious Irreverence and Race in American Literature* (Routledge, 2005); *God Hates Fags: The Rhetorics of Religious Violence* (New York University Press, 2006); and, most recently, *Single: Arguments for the Uncoupled* (New York University Press, 2012). Currently, he is working on two new projects: one on goodness, "The Good Book," and another on endurance, "Fragments, or Your Love Life in Ruins." He is also cowriting a small trade book with *The Atlantic Monthly's* Kate Bolick on friendship and treacherous love addiction entitled *More*.

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MELISSA JANE HARDIE is Associate Dean (Undergraduate) in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney, where she teaches literary and film studies. She is completing a book on the closet and queer theory, and she recently published a chapter on Djuna Barnes's *Nightwood* in the collection *Modernism and Masculinity*, as well as articles on the closet and Lindsay Lohan, true crime, and *Mad Men*.

SCOTT HERRING is Associate Professor of English at Indiana University, Bloomington. His books include *The Hoarders: Material Deviance in Modern American Culture* (University of Chicago Press, 2014); *Another Country: Queer Anti-Urbanism* (New York University Press, 2010); and *Queering the Underworld: Slumming, Literature, and the Undoing of Lesbian and Gay History* (University of Chicago Press, 2007).

LUCAS HILDERBRAND is Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies and Director of Visual Studies at the University of California, Irvine. He is the author of *Inherent Vice: Bootleg Histories of Videotape and Copyright* (Duke University Press, 2009) and *Paris Is Burning: A Queer Film Classic* (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2013).

ERIC KEENAGHAN is the author of *Queering Cold War Poetry* (Ohio State University Press, 2009) and a contributing author to *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics* (4th ed., 2012) and *The Cambridge History of Gay and Lesbian Literature* (2014). He has published widely on modernist poetry, sexuality, and politics, and he is currently writing a new book on philosophical anarchism and the politics of affect in mid-century American poetry. He teaches at the University at Albany, SUNY.

SEAN METZGER is Associate Professor in the UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television. He is the author of *Chinese Looks: Fashion, Performance, Race* (Indiana University Press, 2014). His coedited volumes include *Embodying Asian/American Sexualities* (Lexington, 2009); *Futures of Chinese Cinema: Technologies and Temporalities in Chinese Screen Cultures* (Intellect, 2009); and special journal issues of *Cultural Dynamics* (2009) and *Third Text* (2014).

JULIE AVRIL MINICH is Assistant Professor of English, Mexican American and Latina/o Studies, and Women and Gender Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. She is the author of *Accessible Citizenships: Disability, Nation, and the Cultural Politics of Greater Mexico* (Temple University Press, 2014). Additionally,

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JUDITH ROOF is William Shakespeare Chair in English at Rice University. She is the author of *A Lure of Knowledge: Lesbian Sexuality and Theory* (Columbia University Press, 1991); *Come as You Are: Sexuality and Narrative* (Columbia University Press, 1996); *All about Thelma and Eve: Sidekicks and Third Wheels* (University of Illinois Press, 2002); and the forthcoming *Remaking Gender* (University of Minnesota Press), among other monographs.

L. H. STALLINGS is Associate Professor of Gender Studies at Indiana University. She is the author of *Mutha' Is Half a Word: Intersections of Folklore, Vernacular, Myth, and Queerness in Black Female Culture* (Ohio State University Press, 2007) and coeditor and contributing author to *Word Hustle: Critical Essays and Reflections on the Works of Donald Goines* (Black Classic Press, 2011). Her second book, *Funk the Erotic: Transaesthetics and Black Sexual Cultures*, is forthcoming from the University of Illinois Press.

KYLA WAZANA TOMPKINS is Associate Professor of Gender Studies and English at Pomona College. She is the author of *Racial Indigestion: Eating Bodies in the Nineteenth Century* (New York University Press, 2012), which won the Lora Romero Prize for best first book from the American Studies Association.

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CHRONOLOGY

1799–1865

- 1799 Charles Brockden Brown, *Ormond; or, The Secret Witness*
- 1808 Leonora Sansay, *Secret History; or, The Horrors of St. Domingo*
- 1810 Anonymous, *Rosa; or, American Genius and Education*
- 1823–1841 James Fenimore Cooper, “Leatherstocking Tales”
- 1830 Emily Dickinson born; letters to sister-in-law Susan Huntington Gilbert taken as evidence of lesbian desire by feminist critics in later twentieth century
- 1835 Augustus Baldwin Longstreet, “A Sage Conversation”
- 1839 Edgar Allan Poe, “William Wilson”
- 1841 Walt Whitman, “Bervance: or, Father and Son” and “The Child’s Champion”
- 1846 Herman Melville, *Typee: A Peep at Polynesian Life*
- Late 1840s Julia Ward Howe, *The Hermaphrodite* (unpublished until 2004)
- 1851 Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The House of the Seven Gables*
- 1851 Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick; or, The Whale*
- 1852 Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Blithedale Romance*
- 1854 Bayard Taylor, *A Journey to Central Africa; or, Life and Landscapes from Egypt to the Negro Kingdoms of the White Nile*

CHRONOLOGY

- 1855 Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass* (first edition)
- 1857 Anonymous, “The Man Who Thought Himself a Woman”
- 1858 Rose Terry Cooke, “My Visitation”
- 1863 Harriet Elizabeth Prescott Spofford, “The Amber Gods”

1866–1889

- 1866 Augusta Jane Evans, *St. Elmo*
- 1869 Bret Harte, “Tennessee’s Partner”
- 1870 Bayard Taylor, *Joseph and His Friend: A Story of Pennsylvania*
- 1871 Frederic W. Loring, *Two College Friends*
- 1875 Henry James, *Roderick Hudson*
- 1876 Constance Fenimore Woolson, “Felipa”
- 1880 Alice French, “My Lorelei”
- 1882 Oscar Wilde tours United States
- 1884 Sarah Orne Jewett, *A Country Doctor*
- 1885 Oliver Wendell Holmes, *A Mortal Antipathy*
- 1885 Charles Warren Stoddard, *The Lepers of Molokai*
- 1886 Henry James, *The Bostonians*
- 1886 Richard von Krafft-Ebing, *Psychopathia Sexualis, with Especial Reference to Contrary Sexual Instinct: A Medico-Legal Study* (English translation published in the United States in 1892)
- 1887 Mary Eleanor Wilkins Freeman, “Two Friends”
- 1888 James Lane Allen, “Two Gentlemen of Kentucky”
- 1889 Alfred J. Cohen (Alan Dale), *A Marriage Below Zero: A Novel*

1890–1899

- 1890 Harriet Riddle Davis, *Gilbert Elgar’s Son*
- 1896 S. Weir Mitchell, *Hugh Wynne: Free Quaker*

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CHRONOLOGY

- 1897 Alice Brown, “There and Here”
- 1897 Sarah Orne Jewett, “Martha’s Lady”

1900–1909

- 1900 Pauline Hopkins, *Contending Forces: A Romance Illustrative of Negro Life North and South*
- 1902 Pauline Hopkins, *Winona: A Tale of Negro Life in the South and Southwest*
- 1902 Henry James, *The Wings of the Dove*
- ca. 1902 Mark Twain, “How Nancy Jackson Married Kate Wilson”
- 1903 Henry James, “The Beast in the Jungle”
- 1903 Gertrude Stein, *Q. E. D.*
- 1903 Charles Warren Stoddard, *For the Pleasure of His Company*
- 1905 Willa Cather, “Paul’s Case: A Study in Temperament”
- 1909 Gertrude Stein, *Three Lives*

1910–1919

- 1910 Jane Addams, *Twenty Years at Hull-House*
- 1910 Sigmund Freud, *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality* (English translation)
- 1912 Edith Maude Eaton (Sui Sin Far), *Mrs. Spring Fragrance*
- 1912 James Weldon Johnson, *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*
- 1914 Gertrude Stein, *Tender Buttons*
- 1915 Djuna Barnes, *The Book of Repulsive Women*
- 1915 Willa Cather, *The Song of the Lark*
- 1916 Angelina Weld Grimké, *Rachel*
- 1917 Edna St. Vincent Millay, *Renascence and Other Poems*

CHRONOLOGY

- 1918 Willa Cather, *My Ántonia*
- 1918/1919 Ralph Werther (other aliases include Earl Lind and Jennie June), *Autobiography of an Androgyne*

1920–1929

- 1921 Zitkala-Ša, *American Indian Stories*
- 1924 Marianne Moore, *Observations*
- 1925 Willa Cather, *The Professor's House*
- 1925 Countee Cullen dedicates “Heritage” to Harold Jackman
- 1925 Robert McAlmon, *Distinguished Air (Grim Fairy Tales)*
- ca. 1926–1935 Harlem (New Negro) Renaissance supports queer artists, such as Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, Claude McKay, Nella Larsen, Carl Van Vechten, Wallace Thurman, and Richard Bruce Nugent
- 1926 Richard Bruce Nugent, “Smoke, Lilies and Jade,” published in avant-garde journal *FIRE!!*: *A Quarterly Devoted to Younger Negro Artists*, edited by Wallace Thurman et al.
- 1927 Mae West, *The Drag*
- 1928 Djuna Barnes, *Ladies Almanack*
- 1928 Claude McKay, *Home to Harlem*
- 1928–1929 Obscenity trial for Radclyffe Hall’s 1928 *The Well of Loneliness* in America
- 1929 Nella Larsen, *Passing*

1930–1939

- 1930 Hart Crane, *The Bridge*
- 1930 Carl Van Vechten, *Parties: Scenes from Contemporary New York Life*
- 1931 Blair Niles, *Strange Brother*
- 1932 Wallace Thurman, *Infants of the Spring*

CHRONOLOGY

- 1933 Charles Henri Ford and Parker Tyler, *The Young and Evil*
- 1933 Gertrude Stein, *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*
- 1933 José Garcia Villa, *Footnote to Youth: Tales of the Philippines and Others*
- 1934 Lillian Hellman, *The Children's Hour*
- 1935 H. T. Tsiang, *The Hanging on Union Square*
- 1937 Djuna Barnes, *Nightwood* (American publication)
- 1938 Gertrude Stein, *Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights*

1940–1949

- 1944 Charles Jackson, *The Lost Weekend*
- 1946 Carson McCullers, *The Member of the Wedding*
- 1947 Kenneth Anger, *Fireworks* (film)
- 1947 Edith Eyde (Lisa Ben) edits and publishes *Vice Versa*
- 1948 Truman Capote, *Other Voices, Other Rooms*
- 1948 Alfred Hitchcock, *Rope* (film)
- 1948 Alfred C. Kinsey, Wardell B. Pomeroy, and Clyde E. Martin, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*
- 1948 Gore Vidal, *The City and the Pillar*
- 1949 Thomas Hal Phillips, *The Bitterweed Path*

1950–1959

- 1950s Height of what historian David K. Johnson refers to as the “Lavender Scare,” or the extreme scrutiny and oppression of U.S. government–affiliated lesbians and gays
- 1950 Mattachine Society founded
- 1951 Langston Hughes, “Café: 3 a.m.”
- 1951 Edward Sagarin (Donald Webster Cory), *The Homosexual in America: A Subjective Approach*

CHRONOLOGY

- 1952 Patricia Highsmith (Claire Morgan), *The Price of Salt*
- 1952 ONE, Inc., founded in Los Angeles
- 1952 *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* lists homosexuality as “Sexual Deviation” alongside “transvestitism, pedophilia, fetishism and sexual sadism”
- 1953 William S. Burroughs (William Lee), *Junkie: Confessions of an Unredeemed Drug Addict* (subsequently released as *Junky*)
- 1953 Alfred C. Kinsey, Wardell B. Pomeroy, Clyde E. Martin, and Paul H. Gebhard, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*
- 1954 Tennessee Williams, *Hard Candy: A Book of Stories*
- 1955 Elizabeth Bishop, *Poems: North & South/A Cold Spring*
- 1955 Tennessee Williams, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*
- 1955 Daughters of Bilitis formed
- 1956 James Baldwin, *Giovanni’s Room*
- 1956 Jeannette Howard Foster, *Sex Variant Women in Literature: A Historical and Quantitative Survey*
- 1956 Allen Ginsberg, *Howl and Other Poems*
- 1957 Jack Spicer, *After Lorca*
- 1957 Ann Weldy (Ann Bannon), *Odd Girl Out* (published under pen name A. Bannon); Weldy launches first in series “The Beebo Brinker Chronicles” (1957–1962)
- 1958 Tennessee Williams, *Suddenly, Last Summer*
- 1959 Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*

1960–1969

- 1962 Edward Albee, *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*
- 1962 James Baldwin, *Another Country*
- 1962 William S. Burroughs, *Naked Lunch* (American publication; originally published in Britain in 1959)
- 1963 John Rechy, *City of Night*

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1963	Jack Smith, <i>Flaming Creatures</i> (film)
1963	Guy Strait publishes <i>The Lavender Baedeker</i>
1963	John Kennedy Toole, <i>A Confederacy of Dunces</i> (published in 1980)
1964	Christopher Isherwood, <i>A Single Man</i>
1964	Frank O'Hara, <i>Lunch Poems</i>
1964	Susan Sontag, "Notes on 'Camp'"
1964	Andy Warhol, <i>Blow Job</i> (film)
1965	Elizabeth Bishop, <i>Questions of Travel</i>
1966	Samuel M. Steward (Phil Andros), <i>\$tud</i>
1966	Queer protest riots at San Francisco's Compton's Cafeteria
1967	Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop opens in New York City's Greenwich Village
1968	Gore Vidal, <i>Myra Breckinridge</i>
1969	Queer protest riots at New York City's Stonewall Inn

1970–1979

1970s	Rise of lesbian and gay independent presses
1970	William Friedkin, <i>The Boys in the Band</i> (film)
1970	Radicalesbians, "The Woman-Identified Woman"
1971–1972	The Furies Collective, a Washington, DC-based lesbian separatist organization; Rita Mae Brown a notable member
1972	Sidney Abbott and Barbara Love, <i>Sappho Was a Right-On Woman: A Liberated View of Lesbianism</i>
1973	Rita Mae Brown, <i>Rubyfruit Jungle</i>
1973	Toni Morrison, <i>Sula</i>
1974	Ann Allen Shockley, <i>Loving Her</i>
1974	Gay Caucus for the Modern Languages founded within the Modern Language Association

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- 1975 John Ashbery, *Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror*
- 1975 Joanna Russ, *The Female Man*
- 1976 Lisa Alther, *Kinflicks*
- 1976 Bertha Harris, *Lover*
- 1977 María Irene Fornés, *Fefu and Her Friends*
- 1977 Barbara Smith, “Toward a Black Feminist Criticism”
- 1977 Anita Bryant launches Save Our Children campaign, which advances rise of New Christian Right
- 1978 Andrew Holleran, *Dancer from the Dance*
- 1978 Harvey Milk assassinated
- 1979 *Conditions: Five*, special issue titled “The Black Women’s Issue”; includes essay on Angelina Weld Grimké’s queerness
- 1979 Moral Majority, an antigay Christian organization, founded by Jerry Falwell

1980–1989

- 1980 Howard Cruse releases first issue of *Gay Comix*
- 1980 William Friedkin, *Cruising* (film)
- 1980 Adrienne Rich, “Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence”
- 1980 Edmund White, *States of Desire: Travels in Gay America*
- 1980 Split Britches Company founded
- 1980 WOW (Women on Women) Café founded
- 1980 Human Rights Campaign Fund founded
- 1981 Audre Lorde, *Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power*
- 1981 Cherríe Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa coedit *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*
- 1981 *The New York Times* publishes article “Rare Cancer Seen in 41 Homosexuals,” the newspaper’s first notification of what would later become standardized as HIV/AIDS

CHRONOLOGY

- 1982 Audre Lorde, *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name: A Biomythography*
- 1983 Alison Bechdel, *Dykes to Watch Out For*
- 1984 David Leavitt, *Family Dancing*
- 1984 Charles Ludlam, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*
- 1985 Beth Brant, *Mohawk Trail*
- 1985 Larry Kramer, *The Normal Heart*
- 1986 Joseph Beam edits *In the Life: A Black Gay Anthology*
- 1986 *Bowers v. Hardwick* affirms U.S. sodomy laws
- 1987 Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*
- 1987 Michelle Cliff, *No Telephone to Heaven*
- 1987 Randy Shilts, *And the Band Played On*
- 1987 ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) founded in New York City
- 1988 Samuel R. Delany, *The Motion of Light in Water: Sex and Science Fiction Writing in the East Village, 1960–1965*
- 1988 David Henry Hwang, *M. Butterfly*
- 1989 First annual Lambda Literary Awards

1990–1999

- 1990 Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*
- 1990 Jessica Hagedorn, *Dogeaters*
- 1990 Jennie Livingston, *Paris Is Burning* (film)
- 1990 Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, *Epistemology of the Closet*
- 1990 Pomo Afro Homos performance group organized
- 1990 Queer Nation, an AIDS activist organization, founded in New York City

CHRONOLOGY

1990	Phrase “queer theory” coined by academic scholar Teresa de Lauretis
1990	National Endowment for the Arts revokes funding for “NEA Four” (Karen Finley, John Fleck, Holly Hughes, and Tim Miller)
1991	Dennis Cooper, <i>Discontents: New Queer Writers</i>
1991	Melvin Dixon, <i>Vanishing Rooms</i>
1991	Jewelle Gomez, <i>The Gilda Stories: A Novel</i>
1991	E. Lynn Harris, <i>Invisible Life</i>
1991	Essex Hemphill edits <i>Brother to Brother: New Writings by Black Gay Men</i>
1991	Eileen Myles, <i>Not Me</i>
1991	Carla Trujillo, <i>Chicana Lesbians: The Girls Our Mothers Warned Us About</i>
1991	David Wojnarowicz, <i>Close to the Knives: A Memoir of Disintegration</i>
1992	Dorothy Allison, <i>Bastard Out of Carolina</i>
1992	Essex Hemphill, <i>Ceremonies: Prose and Poetry</i>
1992	Paul Monette, <i>Becoming a Man: Half a Life Story</i>
1992	Cherríe Moraga, <i>Heroes and Saints</i>
1992	Sandy Stone, “The <i>Empire</i> Strikes Back: A Posttranssexual Manifesto,” published in academic journal <i>Camera Obscura</i>
1992	Phrase “New Queer Cinema” coined by critic B. Ruby Rich; associated directors include Todd Haynes, Cheryl Dunye, Kimberly Pierce, and Rose Troche
1993	Henry Abelove, Michèle Aina Barale, and David M. Halperin coedit <i>The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader</i>
1993	Leslie Feinberg, <i>Stone Butch Blues</i>
1993	David M. Halperin and Carolyn Dinshaw coedit first volume of <i>GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies</i>

CHRONOLOGY

- 1993 Part One of Tony Kushner, *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*, Millennium Approaches, wins Pulitzer Prize
- 1993 March on Washington for Gay, Lesbian, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation
- 1993 Intersex Society of North America (ISNA) launched by Cheryl Chase (Bo Laurent)
- 1994 Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT), a U.S. government policy punitive toward out lesbians and gays in the military, initiated
- 1995 R. Zamora Linmark, *Rolling the R's*
- 1995 Andrew Sullivan, *Virtually Normal: An Argument about Homosexuality*
- 1996 Holly Hughes, *Clit Notes: A Sapphic Sampler*
- 1996 Cherríe Moraga, *Watsonville: Some Place Not Here*
- 1996 Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) defines marriage as "only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife"
- 1997 Rafael Campo, *The Poetry of Healing: A Doctor's Education in Empathy, Identity, and Desire*
- 1997 Sex Panic! activism begins in New York City
- 1998 Lawrence Chua, *Gold by the Inch*
- 1998 Michael Cunningham, *The Hours*
- 1998 Stephen Trask and John Cameron Mitchell, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*
- 1999 José Esteban Muñoz, *Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics*

2000—

- 2001 Naomi Iizuka, *36 Views*
- 2001 Craig Womack, *Drowning in Fire*
- 2002 Jeffrey Eugenides, *Middlesex*

CHRONOLOGY

2002	Richard Greenberg, <i>Take Me Out</i>
2003	Monique Truong, <i>The Book of Salt</i>
2003	<i>Lawrence v. Texas</i> strikes down <i>Bowers v. Hardwick</i> ; includes amicus brief coauthored by LGBTQ historians and social critics, such as George Chauncey, Estelle B. Freedman, Mark D. Jordan, John Howard, and Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy
2005	Ang Lee, <i>Brokeback Mountain</i> (film); screenplay adapted from E. Annie Proulx's 1997 short story
2006	Alison Bechdel, <i>Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic</i>
2009	Terry Galloway, <i>Mean Little Deaf Queer: A Memoir</i>
2010	Justin Spring, <i>Secret Historian: The Life and Times of Samuel Steward, Professor, Tattoo Artist, and Sexual Renegade</i>
2011	Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) repealed
2012	Kate Bornstein, <i>A Queer and Pleasant Danger: A Memoir</i>
2012	Samuel R. Delany, <i>Through the Valley of the Nest of Spiders</i>
2013	<i>United States v. Windsor</i> overturns Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)
2013	Gender Identity Disorder relisted as Gender Dysphoria in fifth edition of <i>Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5)</i>