








# The Aesop Queer Library, UK

## Book list




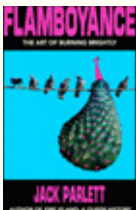



Please do not return these books—pass along to inspire another avid reader. Availability may vary by location.

A	Andrew Durbin		<p>Wonderful World...</p> <p>A dual biography of artist Paul Thek and photographer Peter Hujar, exploring their intense relationship, rivalry, and immense creative influence on the New York art scene from the 1950s until their tragic deaths from AIDS in the 1980s.</p>
	Anthony Delany		<p>Queer Georgians</p> <p>A fascinating historical account using deep archival research to recover the hidden lives of Molly House patrons, trans figures, and same-sex couples who boldly defied legal and social conventions in 18th-century Britain.</p>
	Anthony Shapland		<p>A Room Above a Shop</p> <p>A tender, secret love story between two men, M and B, in a small Welsh village during the late 1980s. They navigate their clandestine relationship in a room above a hardware shop against the backdrop of Section 28.</p>
B	Brandon Taylor		<p>Minor Black Figures</p> <p>Follows Wyeth, a young Black painter in New York struggling with a deep creative block, who begins a passionate relationship with a former priest over a hot summer while grappling with artistic representation and forgotten histories.</p>
C	Caro de Robertis		<p>The Palace of Eros</p> <p>A lush, queer feminist retelling of the Greek myth of Psyche and Eros. In this version, Eros is Aphrodite's nonbinary daughter who falls in love with the mortal Psyche, exploring desire, identity, and the heavy price of secrecy.</p>
	Catherine Lacey		<p>Biography of X</p> <p>A brilliant, alternative-history mock biography. The narrator, CM Lucca, investigates the mysterious past and hidden lives of her late wife, the enigmatic and controversial artist known only as "X," uncovering radical secrets across a fractured America.</p>
	Claire Lynch		<p>A Family Matter</p> <p>An emotional novel moving between 1982 and 2022, following Dawn's life-changing lesbian affair in the 1980s and her adult daughter Maggie's modern-day journey to uncover the deep family prejudices and secrets that tore them apart decades earlier.</p>

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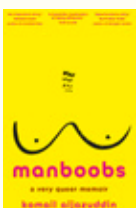

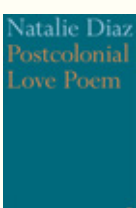

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E	Eliana Ramage		<p><b>To the Moon and Back</b></p> <p>A poignant coming-of-age story about a brilliant Cherokee girl in Oklahoma who dreams of becoming an astronaut. Spanning several decades, it explores her queer identity, indigenous heritage, and complex relationships with her mother and sister.</p>
	Eloghosa Osunde		<p><b>Necessary Fiction</b></p> <p>Set in the vibrant city of Lagos, Nigeria, this kaleidoscopic and sprawling novel features more than two dozen queer characters who must construct "necessary fictions" and found families to safely navigate, survive, and find love in a conservative society.</p>
H	Henry Van Dyke		<p><b>Ladies of the Rachmaninoff...</b></p> <p>A witty and tragicomic 1965 novel following Oliver, a precocious and young gay Black man living with two elderly women—one wealthy and Jewish, the other her Black housekeeper—in 1950s Michigan, whose lives are disrupted by an eccentric psychic.</p>
J	Jack Parlett		<p><b>Flamboyance</b></p> <p>Part cultural history and part personal memoir, Parlett traces "flamboyance" as an empowering and vital political force, tracking its expression through historical and modern figures ranging from Oscar Wilde to Lil Nas X.</p>
	James Baldwin		<p><b>Giovanni's Room</b></p> <p>James Baldwin's landmark 1956 novel centers on David, an American man in Paris struggling with his sexuality, who begins a passionate but doomed affair with an Italian bartender, Giovanni, in a cramped room that symbolizes his emotional entrapment.</p>
	Jason Okundaye		<p><b>Revolutionary Acts</b></p> <p>A powerful social history documenting the lives of Black gay men in Britain from the 1970s onward. Through interviews, Okundaye highlights stories of legendary nightlife, political activism, and the community's resilience against institutional racism and homophobia.</p>
	Justin Torres		<p><b>Blackouts</b></p> <p>A highly experimental, National Book Award-winning novel about an aging man sharing his life and a redacted 1941 medical study on "Sex Variants" with a young narrator, beautifully exploring the erasure and recovery of queer history.</p>

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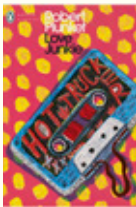




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K	Kae Tempest		<p><b>Having Spent Life Seeking</b></p> <p>A raw and powerful story about Rothko, a trans man who returns to his seaside hometown after serving a long sentence in prison. The novel deeply explores redemption, forgiveness, and the difficult search for belonging within a fractured family.</p>
	Kate Young		<p><b>Experienced</b></p> <p>A hilarious and heartwarming queer romantic comedy about Bette, who realizes she is queer and embarks on a chaotic “dating odyssey” to gain the relationship experiences she feels she missed out on earlier in life.</p>
	Katie Baskerville		<p><b>Beyond Belief</b></p> <p>A sharp, engaging non-fiction work that defends and reclaims gossip as a crucial political and social tool. Baskerville argues that “tittle-tattle” historically allowed women and queer communities to build networks, share warnings, and speak out against injustice.</p>
	Komail Aijazuddin		<p><b>Manboobs</b></p> <p>A humorous, moving memoir about growing up gay in Pakistan and moving to America. Aijazuddin candidly discusses his search for self-acceptance, the trials of navigating dual cultures, and his journey toward radical body positivity and self-love.</p>
L	Lee Lai		<p><b>Cannon</b></p> <p>A beautifully illustrated graphic novel set during a suffocating Montreal heatwave, following a queer Chinese restaurant worker nicknamed Cannon who reaches an emotional breaking point as she navigates her shifting boundaries and a complicated friendship.</p> <p>2026 Stella Prize Winner</p>
N	Natalie Diaz		<p><b>Postcolonial Love Poem</b></p> <p>A stunning, Pulitzer Prize-winning poetry collection that explores indigeneity, desire, and the body. Diaz uses lush, lyrical language to confront the legacy of colonial violence while celebrating the pleasure, power, and sacredness of queer love.</p>
	Nicola Dinan		<p><b>Disappoint Me</b></p> <p>Follows Max, a trans woman in London who, dissatisfied with her life, decides to try “heteronormativity” by dating a corporate lawyer. The novel deeply explores the compromises of domesticity, modern relationships, race, and forgiveness.</p>

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P	Portia Elan		<b>Homebound</b> A sweeping, speculative novel featuring five interlocking lives across centuries—from a young programmer coding a computer game in 1983 to a salvage ship captain in a drowned future—exploring how stories, rituals, and human connection endure.
R	Rebecca K Reilly		<b>Greta and Valdin</b> A witty and charming debut novel following siblings Greta and Valdin, members of an eccentric Māori-Russian-Catalonian family in Auckland, as they navigate their messy, complicated love lives with deadpan humor and radical mutual acceptance.
	Robert Plunket		<b>Love Junkie</b> A cult classic reissue about Mimi, a bored suburban housewife in the 1980s who accidentally falls into the vibrant gay subculture of New York City and becomes obsessed with a handsome, enigmatic adult film star.
	Ryan Gilbey		<b>It Used to be Witches</b> A non-chronological, deeply personal exploration of queer cinema. Gilbey blends memoir with director interviews to examine how films shape sexual identity and how cinema acts as a powerful weapon of resistance and social change.
S	Sam Morris		<b>Pieces of a Boy...</b> A raw and unfiltered collection of essays and memoir from a former child actor. Morris explores his intense experiences with estrangement, neurodivergence, addiction, and sex work, offering an honest look at modern queer life in Britain.
	Sara Ahmed		<b>No Is Not a Lonely Utterance</b> An insightful activist and scholarly exploration of the “anatomy of a complaint.” Ahmed examines how institutions silence those who speak up and how the act of complaining can become a form of collective power and survival.
	Seán Hewitt		<b>Open, Heaven</b> A lyrical, beautifully written debut novel about James, who returns to his hometown after a divorce and becomes consumed by memories of an intense, unrequited first love with a rebellious boy during the summer of 2002.

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Selali Fiamanya



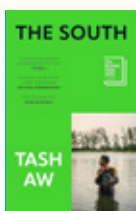
Before We Hit the Ground

A rich, multi-generational novel following a Ghanaian family that migrates to Glasgow in the 1980s. Centering on the life and unexpected death of their son, Elom, the book explores the intersection of race, faith, and queerness.

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T

Tash Aw



The South

Set in 1990s rural Malaysia, this evocative novel follows Jay as he experiences a transformative sexual awakening and a secret romance with Chuan, the farm manager's son, amidst shifting family and social dynamics.

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W

W. Koestenbaum



My Lover, the Rabbi

A volatile, highly psychosexual novel detailing an intense, obsessive affair between an unnamed narrator and an older, disorderly rabbi, examining how erotic devotion can easily shift into institutional control and managed loss.

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Y

Yrsa Daley-Ward



The Catch

A captivating novel about twin sisters, Clara and Dempsey, separated as infants. Years later, they encounter a woman who looks exactly like their long-lost mother but has seemingly never aged, forcing them to confront dark family secrets.

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Z

Zmith & Walker



The Log Books

A moving social history based on the handwritten archives of Switchboard, a pioneering LGBTQ+ telephone helpline running since 1974, sharing the real, poignant stories of callers and volunteers over several decades of queer history.

2026 Aesop UK Spotlight Title