Black Queer Novels

Black novels are essential to the queer canon, and queer novels are essential to the Black canon. The SNMA has over three hundred novels by Black LGBTQ writers that explore important themes such as coming out, racism, homophobia, family, abuse, empowerment, and religion. Dating from the 1930s to the present day, these novels include coming-of-age narratives, historical fiction, science fiction, romance, and erotica.


The story of a Black man whose experience in prison impacts his sexual identity.

A novel about contemporary Black life that broaches the topic of homosexuality.

A work of historical fiction about a woman coming to terms with her sexuality.

Written between 1928 and 1933, a classic novel about two brothers living in Harlem and Greenwich Village.

A novel about love, race, and jazz in 1920s Harlem and Paris.

A novel about a Black gay police officer who gets pregnant.

A novel about a Black gay American man who relocates to Berlin in the early 1980s.

A novel about growing up Black and gay in 1980s Alabama.

An erotic Black lesbian novel.

A coming-of-age novel about an African American prep schoolboy.

The story of a Black kid finding lust and love in Cincinnati in the 1970s.

The story of Precious, a young Black girl from Harlem, who experiences sexual abuse.

A novel about life at a Historically Black College (HBC).

A novel about a bisexual woman’s adventures in 1970s San Francisco.

A novel about different generations of women in a Black family.

An epistolary novel about an abused African American woman’s struggle for empowerment.

A historical fiction novel about two friends in Alabama who flee to Hollywood for fame.

A novel about growing up Black, gay, and poor in the 1960s.

A book about family, childhood, and community.

Three lost classic novels about Black life in 1960s New York.

A lesbian romance novel set in Miami.