

SNMA Library
May 22, 2021

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.

James Baldwin, *Tell Me How Long the Train's Been Gone* (New York: Dial Press, 1996).
A novel about a Black actor and his artistic and sexual relationships.

Marci Blackman, *Po Man's Child* (San Francisco: Manic D Press, 1999).
A novel about a Black lesbian grappling with family, failure, and survival.

Laurinda D. Brown, *Undercover* (New York: Strebtor Books, 2004).
The story of Nathaniel, a drag queen in Memphis.

Stanley Bennett Clay, *Looker* (New York: Atria Books, 2007).
An erotic novel about love, friendship, and murder.

Steven Corbin, *A Hundred Days from Now: A Novel* (Boston: Alyson Publications).
A novel about love, race, and sexuality in the age of AIDS.

Samuel R. Delany, *Dark Reflections* (New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers, 2007).
A novel about a Black gay poet living in New York City.

Larry Duplechan, *Blackbird* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1986).
A coming-of-age novel about growing up Black and gay in Southern California.

Jewelle Gomez, *The Gilda Stories: A Novel* (Ithaca, NY: Firebrand Books, 1991).
A speculative fiction vampire novel with a Black bisexual heroine.

James Hannaham, *God Says No* (San Francisco: McSweeney's Books, 2009).
The story of a young Black Christian struggling with his faith and sexuality.

James Earl Hardy, *A House is Not a Home: A B-Boy Blues Novel* (New York: Amistad, 2005).
The sixth novel in this series about a Black gay couple.

E. Lynn Harris, *I Say a Little Prayer* (New York: Doubleday, 2006).
A novel about romance, singing, and the Black church.

Langston Hughes, *Not Without Laughter* (Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, 2007 [1930]).
Hughes' debut novel about Black life in Kansas in the 1910s.

Asante Kahari, *Homo Thug* (Brooklyn: Black Print, 2003).

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

Gloria Naylor, *The Women of Brewster Place: A Novel in Seven Stories* (New York: Penguin Books, 1982).

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

Nik Nicholson, *Descendants of Hagar* (Bloomington: AuthorHouse, 2013).

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

Richard Bruce Nugent, *Gentlemen Jigger: A Novel of the Harlem Renaissance* (Philadelphia: Da Capo Press, 2008).

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

Joe Okonko, *Jazz Moon* (New York: Kensington Publishing, 2016).

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

Durrell Owens, *The Song of a Manchild* (New York: Southern Tier Editions, 2004).

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

Darryl Pinckney, *Black Deutschland* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016).

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

Brontez Purnell, *Since I Laid My Burden Down* (New York: Feminist Press at The City University of New York, 2017).

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

Nikki Rashan, *Double Pleasure, Double Pain* (West Babylon, NY: Urban Books, 2008).

An erotic Black lesbian novel.

J. E. Robinson, *Skip Macalester* (New York: Harrington Park Press, 2006).

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

Shawn Stewart Ruff, *Finlater* (New York: Quote Editions, 2008).

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

Sapphire, *Push: A Novel* (New York: Knopf, 1996).

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

Ann Allen Shockley, *Celebrating Hotchclaw: A Novel* (Rehoboth Beach, DE: A&M Books, 2005).

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

April Sinclair, *Ain't Gonna Be the Same Fool Twice* (New York: Hyperion, 1996).

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

Martha Southgate, *Third Girl from the Left* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005).

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

Alice Walker, *The Color Purple* (New York: Harcourt, 1982).

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

Eric Ware, *The Hollywood Colored* (Montgomery, AL: Wareworld Publications, 2003).

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

Bil Wright, *Sunday You Learn How to Box* (New York: Scribner, 2000).

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

Jacqueline Woodson, *Autobiography of a Family Photo* (New York: Dutton, 1995).

A book about family, childhood, and community.

Charles Wright, *Absolutely Nothing to Get Alarmed About: The Complete Novels of Charles Wright* (New York: HarperPerennial, 1993).

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

Fiona Zedde, *A Taste of Sin* (New York: Kensington Books, 2006).

A lesbian romance novel set in Miami.