

APRIL 11, 2023 • VOL XIV • ISSUE#8

# GRAB **MAGAZINE**

**CHICAGO'S BIWEEKLY  
LGBTQ+ PUBLICATION**



**PLANET SEX**  
**WITH CARA DELEVINGNE**



# Elevate Your Pride Game at Pride Toronto 2023

Toronto is home to one of the largest pride celebrations across the globe. With more than 2.4 million attendees in 2022, Pride Toronto came out of the pandemic with a fierce and thunderous roar! With one of the most diverse populations in the world, Pride Toronto is a massive celebration of diversity, inclusion, and all things queer. If you're looking to elevate your pride game, Pride Toronto is an absolute must!

Pride has been a long time in the making, from a small gathering of dedicated activists fighting for their right to love and be seen to the vibrant celebration we know and love today. Since 1970, the pride movement has supported 2SLGBTQ+ communities in pursuing the unequivocal right to be heard, understood, accepted, and respected.

From the first picnic organized by Toronto's first queer activist organizations that became the "Gay Day Picnic" to the first Toronto Pride Week march in 1974 and the addition of the Trans March in 2009, Pride Toronto celebrates the communities that have continued to gather and celebrate the beauty and confidence that comes from being your most authentic self.

Pride Toronto was founded on the fundamental truth that love prevails, and we are all deserving of it. It continues a legacy that is deeply intertwined with the rich, progressive history of Toronto's queer community.

"While we celebrate how far we have come as a community, Pride Month is also a critical time to lift up and advocate for many vulnerable groups within the 2SLGBTQ+ community who continue to be marginalized and left behind," shared Board Co-Chairs Grant Gonzales and Yuri Hernandez.

Pride Toronto is a celebration of love and diversity, but there is always room to include important conversations about how we can help change our world for the better and improve acceptance and accessibility across our communities.

Toronto starts to celebrate all things queer with the coming

of June, also known as Pride Month. The Pride festivities culminate on Festival Weekend—June 23-25—when the city's world-renowned Pride Parade takes over Yonge Street, the longest street in the world.

The weekend is known for being the best celebration in the country, and hotels and flights to the city book up well in advance. Make sure you book early to get in on the best deals and experiences Pride Toronto has to offer. In addition to the city's famous Pride Parade, Pride Toronto offers other exciting flagship events during Festival Weekend, including the Trans March, Dyke March, and StreetFair. With everyone wanting to get in on the celebration, Pride Toronto provides opportunities to experience some of the best DJs and performers in the world. And if drag is your thing, Pride Toronto has a vibrant Drag Ball planned as well! Toronto also offers some of the country's best cultural and culinary experiences.

Toronto is extremely accessible to Chicago. A flight to Toronto is just over an hour and a half, and you can land directly in the city center by flying into the airport. Come for the parade and stay for the whimsical and exciting performances, thought-provoking conversations, and immersive art installations.

Supporting Pride Toronto means amplifying these voices and prioritizing local, community-focused advocacy. With an even bigger and more fabulous festival in the works for 2023, make sure to firm up your plans soon, and elevate your Pride game!



CENTRAL STAGE © MEGAN MOORE

## Pride Toronto 2023

### Festival Weekend June 23-25, 2023

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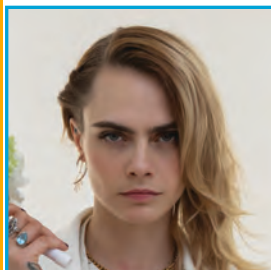
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# GRAB AARON

## Havana hard time: An interview with gay writer Aaron Hamburger

By Gregg Shapiro

Even though it only spans two years in the life of immigrant Pearl, Aaron Hamburger's third novel "Hotel Cuba" (Harper Perennial, 2023) has the feel and weight of an epic. Opening in 1922, as Pearl and her kid sister Frieda set sail for a better life in America from their home in Russia, only to be waylaid in Havana, Cuba, with their futures hanging indefinitely in the balance, Hamburger paints a vivid picture of time and place. While the novel is sure to appeal to a wide audience, gay writer Hamburger has made sure to feature significant queer characters in the storyline.

**Gregg Shapiro:** Aaron, your new novel "Hotel Cuba" is arriving at a moment when LGBTQ historical fiction is having a resurgence along with the novels "The New Life" by Tom Crewe and "In Memoriam" by Alice Winn. Why do you think this is occurring at this time?

**Aaron Hamburger:** I read somewhere about "presentism," meaning this bias we have, thinking of ourselves as so modern and enlightened in comparison to people of the past. And yet, in the writing of this book, I was struck by the many links I found between life in the past and our present. Just as an example, I was inspired to write this story when I came across a picture of my grandmother in full male drag from 1922. As my good friend and LGBTQ literary legend, Leslea Newman said when I showed her the photo, "Your grandmother looks like a butch lesbian! I have such a crush on her!" As I delved into the research, I was surprised to read about a raucous gay bar in Havana from the late 1800s. And I was struck by the fact that the conversation about immigration one hundred years ago was almost exactly the same as that of our time, just with different

immigrant populations.

**GS:** How much of your own family's immigrant story is in the pages of "Hotel Cuba"?

**AH:** Quite a bit of it is in there in the broadest outlines. My grandmother was desperate to escape the chaos of Russia after the Russian Revolution and join a sister in America, but new and discriminatory immigration laws closed the borders to her, and she decided to go to Cuba instead. We have recorded interviews with my grandparents about their immigration stories, mostly focused on my grandfather's story, and a small part about my grandmother, who appears as the protagonist, Pearl, in the book. She was a woman of few, but choice, words, and while she left a lot of hints about her time in Cuba, I was intensely curious to fill in the details. I wanted to know what it felt like to go from a war-torn wintry sheltered shtetl to sultry Havana with the music, the food, the language, all of it so unfamiliar to her. The novelist in me got the chance to flesh out that picture.

**GS:** Were you able to travel to Cuba for research?

**AH:** Yes, I went to Havana and immediately noticed the heat, the intensity of the sunlight, the atmosphere. Many people who were in my grandmother's situation, European immigrants, came across the ocean in their best woolen clothes and struggled to adjust to the tropical weather, often getting awful heat rashes, for example. Also, when I was in Havana, I had a wonderful guide who told me stories about her grandmother strolling down Havana's main street and looking at the fashions in the high-end department store windows, which made me imagine my fashion-



Photo Courtesy of DC Event

loving main character Pearl, based on my grandmother, taking that same walk.

**GS:** How's your Spanish?

**AH:** I've studied Spanish, but I actually speak much better Italian because I lived in Rome for a year thanks to a prize I received for my first book. So, when I was in Cuba, if I didn't know a Spanish word I would reach for an Italian equivalent and give it a Spanish spin. Fortunately for me, the Cubans I met were uniformly generous and would meet me halfway!

**GS:** You mentioned your Havanan guide and the fashions in the department store windows. Pearl, the main character in "Hotel Cuba" is a milliner and seamstress, and you incorporate a lot of detail when writing about her work. Have you always had an interest in fashion or was it something you had to research for the book?

**AH:** Definitely something I had to research, which was a lot of fun. I never realized I would learn so much about women's hats in the 1920s [laughs]. My grandmother and my mother both had a talent for sewing, so it was something I grew up with, but sad to say, I can't even sew a button onto a shirt [laughs]. However, I identified with my grandmother's sewing as a creative and expressive act. A lot of Pearl's



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thoughts about sewing are actually mine about the artistic process.

**GS: Antisemitism is at the heart of the novel. It's the driving force behind Pearl and her sister Frieda's departure from their homeland in Turya, and it's something they continue to encounter in other places. Can you please say a few words about writing about antisemitism at a time when it's on the rise?**

**AH:** It is sad that we can't quite seem to shake our addiction to all sorts of hatreds, and antisemitism is one of the most persistent and pernicious of those hatreds. More than anything, Pearl, as well as my grandmother, simply wanted to live her life in peace. However, then, as now, political figures have found that stoking fear of Jews, LGBTQ+ people, immigrants, and on and on is a convenient way to accrue power. Even more tragic is that they find a willing audience for their hate. That's one thing we can do, resist vigorously any leader who might try to appeal to us through the language of division.

**GS: Anti-immigrant sentiment is also woven throughout. In chapter eight, one character says "Republicans hate the immigrants." Is this a way of saying that not much has changed since the early 1920s?**

**AH:** It's actually that character's opinion of the politics of that time, as eerily familiar as that might sound to some contemporary readers. The Republicans in the 1920s were advocating for a tough stance on immigration. By the way, the immigration laws of the early 1920s laid the foundations for much of the debate we're having now. Back then, many Americans worried that the people fleeing Communism (many of them Jewish) were actually Communist infiltrators coming to bring chaos and revolution to our shores. Compare that to the plight of Syrian refugees fleeing ISIS. I also read in the National Archives letters from everyday citizens demanding that the government do more to keep out immigrants in order to "protect the blood pool." Disgusting.

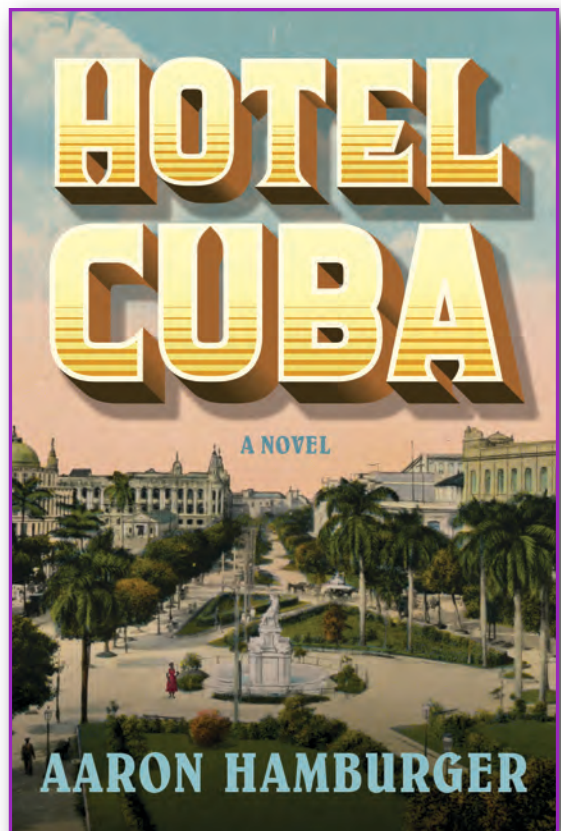
**GS: In chapter 11, Pearl pays a visit to a bar in Havana called the Gold Dollar where she encounters**

**"inverts and hussies." There she encounters butch dyke Señora Martin and Martin's associate, the "Queen of England." Later, in New York, she works for Safaya, who introduces Pearl to her lesbian social circle. Being a gay writer, why was it important to you to include queer characters in what is primarily a straight story?**

**AH:** I would say it's important not only for gay writers to do this but for any writer who wants to write accurately about human beings. I see Pearl as bisexual, though she would not have had the language to label her feelings or identity in that way. Because of that, I wanted Pearl to meet people who would have been more open about their same-sex attractions, which would show her a different way of life from what she might have known back home. It's part of the theme of the book, this idea that coming to Cuba was an accidental stop on her journey to America, a "hotel," as many Jewish immigrants called it. But that experience turned out to shape the rest of her life in ways she couldn't have expected.

**GS: After being in Cuba, Key West and New York, Pearl finds herself in Detroit, where Frieda has relocated. Parts of chapter 18 read like a promotional brochure for Detroit (in a good way), where you grew up. Do you think that city can ever return to its former glory, the one you write about in the novel?**

**AH:** I was amazed to learn that Detroit was considered the Paris of the West. Money was pouring in because of the new car industry that had sprouted up there, so the city attracted people from all walks of life who wanted to take advantage of those opportunities. I really don't



know if Detroit could return to the past, but maybe instead of that it could be something new and wonderful that hasn't yet been invented. Right now, all kinds of exciting things are happening there. Go visit!

**GS: "Hotel Cuba" is very cinematic. Do you think there might be a movie adaptation? If so, I kept picturing Murray Hill as Martin. Do you think that's a good choice?**

**AH:** Murray Hill as Martin is genius! Perfect. Will this book be a movie? There's a word in Spanish, "Ojala" or in Yiddish you might say "From your lips to God's ears." I think it would be a terrific film, but I'll leave the casting of it to others.

**GS: The Key West setting made me wonder if there was any chance you would be heading there to read at Books and Books, which is co-owned by Judy Blume.**

**AH:** Not as of yet, but Judy Blume was one of my first favorite authors. If you're reading this, Judy Blume, I'd love to visit your store!



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### Important Facts About DOVATO

This is only a brief summary of important information about DOVATO and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and treatment.

#### What is the most important information I should know about DOVATO?

If you have both human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) infection and Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection, DOVATO can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Resistant HBV.** Your healthcare provider will test you for HBV infection before you start treatment with DOVATO. If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B, the HBV can change (mutate) during your treatment with DOVATO and become harder to treat (resistant). It is not known if DOVATO is safe and effective in people who have HIV-1 and HBV infection.
- **Worsening of HBV infection.** If you have HBV infection and take DOVATO, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking DOVATO. A "flare-up" is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.
  - Do not run out of DOVATO. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your DOVATO is all gone.

- Do not stop DOVATO without first talking to your healthcare provider.

- If you stop taking DOVATO, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your liver function and monitor your HBV infection. It may be necessary to give you a medicine to treat hepatitis B. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking DOVATO.

For more information about side effects, see "What are possible side effects of DOVATO?"

#### What is DOVATO?

DOVATO is a prescription medicine that is used without other HIV-1 medicines to treat human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) infection in adults: who have not received HIV-1 medicines in the past, or to replace their current HIV-1 medicines when their healthcare provider determines that they meet certain requirements. HIV-1 is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). It is not known if DOVATO is safe and effective in children.

Please see additional Important Facts About DOVATO on the following page.

**Ask your doctor about staying undetectable with fewer medicines in 1 pill.**



## Important Facts About DOVATO (cont'd)

### Who should not take DOVATO?

#### Do not take DOVATO if you:

- have ever had an allergic reaction to a medicine that contains dolutegravir or lamivudine.
- take dofetilide. Taking DOVATO and dofetilide can cause side effects that may be serious or life-threatening.

### What should I tell my healthcare provider before using DOVATO?

#### Tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- have or have had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection.
- have kidney problems.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. One of the medicines in DOVATO (dolutegravir) may harm your unborn baby.
  - Your healthcare provider may prescribe a different medicine than DOVATO if you are planning to become pregnant or if pregnancy is confirmed during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.
  - If you can become pregnant, your healthcare provider may perform a pregnancy test before you start treatment with DOVATO.
  - If you can become pregnant, you and your healthcare provider should talk about the use of effective birth control (contraception) during treatment with DOVATO.
  - Tell your healthcare provider right away if you are planning to become pregnant, you become pregnant, or think you may be pregnant during treatment with DOVATO.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you take DOVATO.**
  - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
  - DOVATO passes to your baby in your breast milk.
  - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

#### Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Some medicines interact with DOVATO. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

- You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with DOVATO.
- **Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take DOVATO with other medicines.

### What are possible side effects of DOVATO?

#### DOVATO can cause serious side effects, including:

- See “What is the most important information I should know about DOVATO?”

### What are possible side effects of DOVATO? (cont'd)

- **Allergic reactions. Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop a rash with DOVATO. Stop taking DOVATO and get medical help right away if you develop a rash with any of the following signs or symptoms:** fever; generally ill feeling; tiredness; muscle or joint aches; blisters or sores in mouth; blisters or peeling of the skin; redness or swelling of the eyes; swelling of the mouth, face, lips, or tongue; problems breathing.
- **Liver problems. People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with DOVATO. Liver problems, including liver failure, have also happened in people without a history of liver disease or other risk factors. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your liver. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:** your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark or “tea-colored” urine; light-colored stools (bowel movements); nausea or vomiting; loss of appetite; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Too much lactic acid is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms that could be signs of lactic acidosis:** feel very weak or tired; unusual (not normal) muscle pain; trouble breathing; stomach pain with nausea and vomiting; feel cold, especially in your arms and legs; feel dizzy or lightheaded; and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Lactic acidosis can also lead to severe liver problems, which can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the signs or symptoms of liver problems which are listed above under “Liver problems.”**
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female or very overweight (obese).**
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after you start taking DOVATO.**
- **The most common side effects of DOVATO include:** headache; nausea; diarrhea; trouble sleeping; tiredness; and anxiety.

These are not all the possible side effects of DOVATO. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

### Where can I find more information?

- Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Go to [DOVATO.com](http://DOVATO.com) or call 1-877-844-8872, where you can also get FDA-approved labeling.

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# GRAB CARA



## Cara Delevingne Can Finally Be Her Queer Self

**‘Planet Sex’ host is unlearning queer shame and, with her new show, helping others do the same**

By Chris Azzopardi

‘Planet Sex’ host is unlearning queer shame and, with her new show, helping others do the same

By Chris Azzopardi

On Zoom, where I recently met with Cara Delevingne, my ‘90s-retro, rainbow-speckled button-down was, to my surprise, the first thing that came up.

“Nice shirt,” the model-actress told me, gushing when I mentioned picking it out of my closet in honor of just how queer “Planet Sex” is. The six-episode Hulu docuseries, which features Delevingne as sex-curious host, is still gayer than even the gayest rainbow shirt; within the first few minutes, Delevingne is judging a queer twerking contest. In fact, the entire series, dedicated to the “sexy queertastic people of the world,” is devoted to investigating various realms of queerness — and in doing so, illuminating parts of Delevingne’s own sexuality as a queer genderfluid person. Over the course of the series, she attends her first-ever Pride festival and, with the help of Gottmik, the first openly trans performer on “RuPaul’s Drag

Race,” transforms into a butch drag king.

In our recent interview, Delevingne talked about how Hollywood affected her feelings on being queer, unlearning the shame around her sexuality, and why her identity now as a public figure is more authentic than ever.

**Chris Azzopardi:**How much did the current political climate right now play into just how queer and sex positive you made this show?

**Cara Delevingne:** I think that’s how I wanted it to be. Because I think queer under the umbrella, it all can mean anything. It just means being different, however way. Everyone is different; we are not all the same. We wanna fit in, we wanna belong. But at the same time we wanna be individuals. So I wanted it to include everyone. And I think in that is queerness. And I love that, that’s my favorite thing in the world and I think leading with that, it brought me so much freedom. It brought me so much relief and love and, you know, it’s where I learned how to love myself.

So from the bottom of my heart, that’s what I wanted. I wish this kind of show existed when I was a kid. It would’ve made [it] so much easier. But I think the journey and the struggle and the adversity was something that made me who I am. But I just hope, especially in terms of people’s families or when people watch this, that they can have conversations that may be tricky. Because they can at least find the right wording or identify with a person that they see.

CA: Can you remember something — a film, a TV show — that you clung to that really made you feel more comfortable with being queer?

CD: I don’t know. The thing is... I guess I sought a lot of, like, Elton John or musicians. But there weren’t a lot of female ones. It was men. And so that still kind of made me feel a little... less. I mean... [laughs] Billie Jean King? I met her.

I was 22, though. So, it was a bit late. But not really. I think a lot of the things I surrounded myself were like... I guess porn was the first time I saw two gay women. But it wasn’t



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good, and it was definitely... they weren't gay. I got scared of it, because I probably liked it.

**CA: You are a big deal star. And this is important because of your platform.**

**CD:** I thought you were about to say, "You're a big gay." I was like, thank you.

**CA: You are a big gay.**

**CD:** A big ol' gay.

**CA: As someone with a massive following, though, I was wondering what are your feelings on how you've seen yourself versus how the media has portrayed who you are when it comes to gender identity and sexuality?**

**CD:** I think a lot of the times in the media, I was playing a part, always. But I was comfortable doing that because it meant I could kind of keep my own life to myself. But then to be honest, I didn't really ever process or actually deal with anything. Or see what I was going through as I was going through it because inside I felt just confused and very lost, and very... without an identity, almost, because my identity was work. My identity was the parts I was given or the person I was meant to be or the brand I was working for. It wasn't really ever me. It was a whole, big old mess, really. It didn't really make sense. But then I think in the show, looking back on it, I realized how much I love being a woman. I am genderfluid, for sure, but I liked playing between masc and femme and all those things. And I just think the binary of gender was so constricted when I was younger. "Boys play with this and girls play with that." And I didn't like what girls played with. But that didn't make me a boy. But I got confused within that because I just wanted the same opportunities.

But again, I like to now decide when I really wanna be super femme or not. I like to be able to decide that because generally as a person I just like to be comfortable in what I look like and what I wear. But inside, I'm a woman and I'm sensitive. But I think it's a lot deeper than that. I have a lot of masculine energy in me. We all have feminine and



masculine energy, every human being. So I think that was a big thing for me, because I did question it a lot. I was like, "Am I non-binary? What am I?" But I'm not. But I love anyone being and feeling how they [are]. I do think that gender is too binary. But then, for me, I was very happy to have my pronouns.

**CA: It sounds like you learned a lot about yourself through making this show, and maybe got to the truth of who you are?**

**CD:** Yeah. I guess especially in terms of relationships and kind of abolishing the shame. Which I didn't really have, but it made me realize how much I used to have and how much I hadn't dealt with it. And how much I just kind of brushed it aside when actually I was like, "What am I really looking at here?" But the narrative I had wasn't my own; it was other people's. So that shame wasn't really mine to hold and I had to give it back to the people who put it on me.

**CA: You say in the show that growing up famous can stunt a person's growth, even when it comes to sexuality. I'm wondering specifically about Hollywood, because some people might think, "Oh Hollywood, it's so queer. It's a great place to immerse yourself if you're queer, to be accepted."**

**How did that affect your journey to discovering your sexuality?**

**CD:** It was not like that for me at all.

One of my first experiences with it was actually Harvey Weinstein who said to me, "You cannot be with a woman." He was just like, "We need to find you a beard." And I was like, "Who is this fucking stupid fat man?" He wasn't nice. He was just a horrible man. Obviously we know that now. But he was like, "You'll never work. No one will believe you as a straight character." And I was like, "Oh, fuck. That's bad."

So there was just stuff like that, especially I think as a model no one cared either way. But they weren't gonna celebrate it. I think it just stunts your growth a lot as in you don't have time to be yourself. Or at least I did not. I felt like everything that was happening in my life, emotions and things, I just had to shove it down and keep going. Which is no one else's fault but my own. I just... it was an easy way to run away from my stuff.

**CA: What was the most valuable takeaway for you from the whole experience of immersing yourself in queerdom through "Planet Sex"?**

**CD:** I think how much community and support is important. How much we can't do this alone, anyone. Life, I'm talking about, generally. That through community and through connection, we can do the things that were not possible to do alone. And loving that and appreciating that. But also being vulnerable in that. I think a lot of times I would just





Photo Courtesy Hulu





show up kind of giving a surface experience [of] myself and it wasn't real. Because I was just so scared of being rejected and so scared of people leaving, I guess.

But I love myself. I'm me. Messy, done up, all the things. It just makes me who I am. And if I love that then that's the most important thing. I think a lot of this is more to do with self-love. I was just in a place of complete discovery. I was like, "Oh, what do I believe about relationships? What do I believe about all of these things?"

Sometimes it's OK not to know either. It's OK not to know; it's OK to keep discovering. It's OK to question and wanna change.

There were so many moments where I thought I had it all figured out or I wanted to so badly have it figured out because I was like, "Then I'll feel safe." But the problem is it doesn't work like that. And sometimes you end up running into a dead end when you think you know it and you just don't. And it's OK.

**CA:** Aside from "Planet Sex," there's your part in "Only Murders in the Building," where you play artist and gallerist Alice Banks, the love interest of Mabel Mora,

**played by Selena Gomez. Both shows feature queer representation, but "Only Murders" reaches people who may not see queer representation, or may not seek it out.**

**CD:** That's why shows like that are so brilliant because it's not a gay show where people go, "Oh this, I know, it's 'The L Word.' We know what we're getting here." I think that's why mainstream media and mainstream shows should do that more often where it's not the main two characters or the whole story is based around queerness. It's like, queerness is everywhere. So that's how a show should be. It should be slipped in and it should be a conversation and it should be a part of it. When we wanna make queer content and we push it very hard, it's gonna reach just other queer people and not what we want it to be: more normalized. So that's why I was so grateful for that show and I think it was such an incredible way to do it.

**CA:** What's it like to bring that sort of representation to the screen with one of your closest and dearest friends, Selena Gomez?

**CD:** I mean, it's an easy day of work, isn't it? It's great. Especially when you love each other and I respect

her so much as an actress and as a person. So it was just fun. It was great. And that show in general. Steve [Martin] and Martin [Short], everyone. It was just brilliant. I was basically playing myself too. Apart from I'm not that evil. I'm not a psycho.

**CA:** Will we see you in the next season?

**CD:** No, I wish. The lesbian went too overboard.

**CA:** I think people had complicated feelings about that relationship in that last season.

**CD:** Yeah, they did. It happens. I get it. Alice Banks is a nutcase.

*This interview has been condensed and edited for clarity.*

*Chris Azzopardi is the Editorial Director of Pride Source Media Group and Q Syndicate, the national LGBTQ+ wire service. He has interviewed a multitude of superstars, including Cher, Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey and Beyoncé. His work has also appeared in The New York Times, Vanity Fair, GQ and Billboard. Reach him via Twitter @chrisazzopardi.*





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# GRAB SAMANTHA

## Bewitched by Samantha: An interview with queer writer Samantha Irby

By Gregg Shapiro

The best part about reading a book by Lammy Award-winning queer humor essayist Samantha Irby, including her new one, “Quietly Hostile” (Vintage, 2023), is the way she makes you laugh out loud. The next best part is when people who hear you laughing ask what you’re reading and get to spread the hilarious gospel of Irby. Renowned for her use of body humor (IBS and vomit in the essay “Oh, so you actually don’t wanna make a show...”) and oversharing (practically every essay, including “Body Horror”), Irby makes you laugh, even when you didn’t think it was possible. While humor is the driving force in her work, the essay “O Brother, Where Art Thou?” takes a more serious turn, showing another side of the writer. Samantha was generous enough to make time for an interview in advance of the release of the new book. [On 5/18, Samantha Irby will be at Mundelein Auditorium in Chicago and on 5/19, she’ll be at Evanston Township High School in Evanston.]

**Gregg Shapiro: Samantha, in prepping for this interview, I was thinking about the popularity of queer humor essayists – from Fran Lebowitz to David Sedaris to you – and how you have all struck a chord with readers from all walks of life. Can you say something about the use of humor as a device by the LGBTQ+ community?**

**Samantha Irby:** I’m going to throw black people in here, too [laughs]. Not that every queer person or black person has a rough life. But I think people who grow up kind of on the margins, whatever margins in which we exist, we all have this through line of tentativeness and fear of rejection. Not knowing how people feel until you get to know them can be stressful [laughs]. For me, my

approach with everything is if I don’t turn it into a joke, I will die. I feel like all of my queer friends are that way. They’re about to dismantle gay marriage. There are hate crimes. They’re about to do this and that. I don’t have an activism bone in my body, but what I can do is mine it for a joke. I think that for a lot of us who have had trouble getting through life, humor, at least finding the one little point, the one little part of it that’s funny, can help you not to lose your mind.

**GS: What’s involved in your process for selecting essays for a collection such as your new one “Quietly Hostile”?**

**SI:** At this point in my career, I’m with the same publisher, so I don’t have to tell them what I’m doing. My agent pitches them a book: “Sam’s gonna do the same shit she always does. Is that cool?” [Laughs] They’re like, “Oh, yeah, funny.” I never know when it’s pitched what’s gonna be in it. Then I ignore it for months. I’m like, “Oh, I have plenty of time to write this book. I’m not going to think about it and stress myself out.” I should think about it and stress myself out because I always turn my books in late. The galleys that went out are missing an essay about QVC, about how I feel like the hosts are my friends [laughs] because I spend so much time with them. My process is generally like I can see the deadlines on the horizon. I’m like, “Oh, here she comes. It’s getting close enough to see it. Then I sit down and think about what’s interesting to me. What I have a lot of things to say about and any big things that have happened to me. For this one, I was like, “Oh, I went into anaphylactic shock [laughs]. I’m going to write about that. I don’t really have bladder control anymore; I’m gonna write about that.” The piece about the nun



Photo By Lori Morgan Gottschling

– I have to put a sex thing in there. My current sex is very boring – old lesbian sex – but I can write about this porn I watch all the time. Once I have kind of an idea, if it’s enough stuff, I feel good. If not, my editor will say, “So, it’s been a minute since you’ve talked about step-parenting or whatever. She will fill in the gaps and I’ll think of a way to approach it that’s not your standard. “Hey, I married a lady, and she had some kids.” It’s kind of a mishmash of what I can come up with is desperation, big things have happened that people might be interested in. I worked on the “Sex and the City” reboot (“And Just Like That”), and I wrote about it, but not in the way that people would think I was gonna write about it.

Stuff like that. I kind of know what people want to know and then I fill them in on the happenings in my life, and then maybe a cultural or a TV thing or a love letter to Dave Matthews.

**GS: The book’s title comes from the essay “My Firstborn Dog.” Why was it chosen?**

**SI:** Let me tell you. This is like the least sexy answer in history. I learned the hard way with my first book from Random House. You don’t really get to pick your book title. I wanted to call “We Are Never Meeting in Real Life” (from 2019) “Everything is Garbage,” but my editor at the time – she’s not my current editor – was





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like, "I don't know that people are going to buy that." Sales and marketing weren't sure about having a book with the word garbage on the cover. What she did was go through the manuscript and pull out two or three-word phrases, although "We Are Never Meeting in Real Life" was longer, and she presented them to me. I picked what I liked, my agent and everybody in sales and stuff weighs in. This time, I had no title in mind. I threw everything at Maria, my editor. She read it and sent me a list of options. I hated them all except for "Quietly Hostile" [laughs]. Luckily everyone signed off on it.

**GS: In the "My Firstborn Dog" essay, you write about getting what you called "a pandemic dog," which was a common occurrence when people were stuck at home during the COVID lockdown. How are things with Abe now?**

**SI:** He's the worst dog I've ever met in my life. We got this fancy trainer who came to the house. We spent \$500 on this woman, and he immediately latched onto her jeans. She's used to it and she was cool with it. He learned nothing. He's so dumb and bad. I take him three times a week to this place called Camp Fido where he runs around all day and gets very tired. They love him. He's good with other dogs; he loves playing, he loves wrestling. But the minute you walk into the house, he becomes a land shark. If I could do it over again, I would have just gotten another cat. But I do love him. He's oddly compelling. He pulls on the heartstrings. He's on the couch in the other room right now. He has taken a \$100 blanket, that we were given as a gift, and made it into a dog nest.

**GS: Well, at least he's got good taste.**

**SI:** He's living the dream.

**GS: In the essays "Superfan!" and "Oh, so you actually don't wanna make a show..." you touch on the laughable and unrealistic portrayals of author events and writers in movies and on TV. Do you think that has the potential to ever change?**

**SI:** I'm going to say, and this is based on nothing, there's probably a

tier of writers that I cannot touch, who get fancy parties [laughs]. I imagine there's someone out there who writes literature and wears a tweed coat, who gets a beautiful party in a chandelier-lit room with people sipping wine. I feel like that has to exist to have given people this idea that that's how it is. But it's only for Salman Rushdie [laughs]. People who have won book awards. I'm sure they get wine and cheese.

**GS: You mentioned Dave Matthews, do you know if he knows about the "David Matthews' Greatest Romantic Hits" essay?**

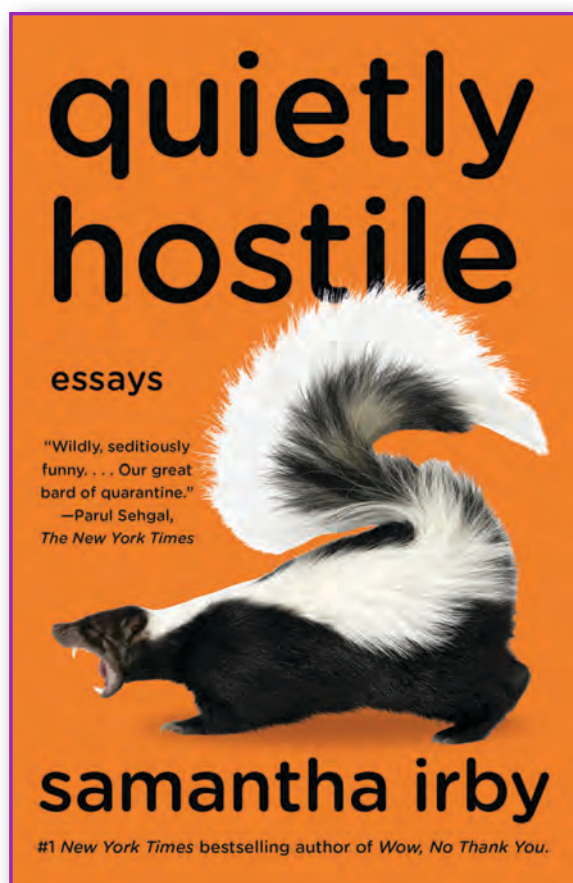
**SI:** He doesn't right now, but... this is like the biggest news of my life. You're hearing it first. He will hear about it tomorrow. My friend Alex writes celebrity profiles. He hit me up and said he's profiling Dave Matthews. I about fell over. He said he wanted to interview me. I said, "OK, in my upcoming book if have a whole essay about him!" My publisher sent Alex the book. He read it and interviewed me. We sent an extra copy for him to take to Dave, which he said he'll do.

**GS: That's fantastic! As a former Chicagoan, I loved the Chicago references – Schuba's and the corner of Touhy and Western where there used to be a Bakers Square.**

**SI:** I have had many slices of blueberry pie in that location.

**GS: Good! Me, too. How important is place to you and your writing?**

**SI:** Because I write about myself, it's always going to have a personal focus. Me in Los Angeles, me in New York. I don't know if this sounds corny, but I am such a product of Evanston, Illinois. It is in me. I feel like a suburban Chicagoan all the



time. My town heavily imprinted on me. I lived there for so long. You know what's the most important thing regarding place? As I've gotten older, I've realized I'm deeply Midwestern, and how that affects moving through the world. I hate going to New York because everybody's mean. I hate going to L.A. because nobody eats real food. I just want to be where it's flat and people are eating casseroles or know pot roast or whatever.

**GS: And drinking pop, not soda.**

**SI:** Correct! Every time I hear someone say "soda" I shudder. That's pop you're drinking [laughs].

**GS: Do you think that your own sense of humor derives from being a queer woman of color, or that one aspect of your identity takes prominence over the others?**

**SI:** I will tell you what it is. It comes from being fat and homely [laughs]. I don't think my humor comes from a racial place. I didn't grow up in abject racism. Racism is all around us, but it's not like I grew up



in abject racism. Racism is all around us, but it's not like I grew up somewhere that someone was going to call me the N-word.

**GS: Certainly not in Evanston.**

**SI:** No! When I was a chunky kid with buck teeth and was poor and dressing in Salvation Army clothes, if you don't have a Teflon response to being mocked and ridiculed, how can you make it? Early on, I learned that if I start laughing first, it takes the teeth out of whatever teasing or mocking I might be experiencing. My humor comes from that place. I've got to be the first to make the joke, so it doesn't hurt.





# GRAB A FILM



*"Of An Age" Photo Courtesy of Focus Features*

## Queer Love Onscreen, In All its Weird and Wonderful Forms

By Sarah Bricker Hunt

*"Of an Age"* lingers languidly over a hot summer day in Melbourne, where practically nothing of consequence happens, except the complete implosion of main character Kol's (Elias Anton) entire worldview and self-identity. Australian filmmaker Goran Stolevski is already winning prizes in his home country for the film, which streams on Peacock beginning April 7, and it's easy to see why.

The movie focuses mostly on just a handful of hours, as we see 18-year-old, Serbian-native Kol (short for Nikola) meet and fall — hard — for his terrible bestie's older brother, the more worldly Adam. It's not much of a surprise twist for anyone but Kol; many of the film's secondary characters assume he's gay, and Adam clearly has an inkling from the start. But Kol hasn't faced the facts yet, for a host of reasons, not the least of which is his deep-rooted, anti-queer immigrant family. By the end of their day and night together, he's "come of age," as they say. Love from this point forward will never be the same again. *"Of an Age"* is a little sad and

quite beautiful, like many such tales.

Before seeing this latest entry in cinematic queer love stories, consider this mix of other movies focused on moments that follow queer characters as they navigate what love means to them.

### ***'The Perks of Being a Wallflower,' 2012***

Even the current woes of actor Ezra Miller can't overshadow the enduring message of 2012's *"The Perks of Being a Wallflower."* The film focuses primarily on Logan Lerman's Charlie, a teenager experiencing post-traumatic stress related to childhood molestation. But it's a subplot involving Miller's character, Patrick, that makes this film one of the best queer coming-of-age movies.

Gorgeous, painfully earnest Patrick loves Brad, the closeted football hero. When Patrick's father beats him after finding the two entangled in a loving embrace, Brad turns cold, Patrick suffers further physical assault from Brad's teammates and Charlie jumps in to protect him. Ultimately, *"Perks"* is a

story focused not just on the all-too-familiar pain of adolescent rejection within a homophobic high school culture, but on the importance of true, love-based friendship and reclaiming and actually loving the parts of ourselves that can be lost to trauma inflicted by people who are also in pain. As Charlie's English teacher Mr. Anderson (Paul Rudd) tells him, "We accept the love we think we deserve."

### ***'Moonlight,' 2016***

Few films so clearly frame the distinct eras marking a single character's life as definitively as *"Moonlight."* The film, oft-cited as one of the best films of the 21st century (period — not just in the "queer film" category), explores the main character's life in three stages: Little (his childhood, portrayed by Alex Hibbert), Chiron (his adolescence, played by Ashton Sanders) and Black (his adulthood, portrayed by Trevante Rhodes). Throughout each stage, we see Little/Chiron/Black wrestle with the very real repercussions of being a queer Black boy and, later, man. Love looks an awful lot like pain





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throughout.

Still, at the heart of it is his true self, which exists no matter how far he tries to run from it. In Act 2, Chiron has a sexual encounter with Kevin, who later hurts him immeasurably (physically and emotionally), but love, as it so often does, endures, even when we try to wish it away. When Kevin reappears in Act 3, everything has changed, but as is so often the case in life, “wherever you go, there you are.” Black reveals that he’s never touched another man besides Kevin and while Kevin is shocked to learn about Black’s life experiences, it’s clear that the love between the two has only grown during their years apart.

#### **‘Love, Simon,’ 2018**

“Love, Simon” broke new ground as the first mainstream queer-centered rom-com to hit the big screen. By most accounts, the movie managed to maintain its charm while ticking all the expected rom and com boxes — we all knew what would probably happen within the first 15 minutes, but you couldn’t help but root for sweet Simon Spier, played by Nick Robinson. Simon is a high schooler living in the closet but, in a distinctly modern twist, has fallen in love with an anonymous stranger online.

When a fellow classmate outs Simon, the moment pulls the audience out of its rom-com coma for a moment, and it’s that unexpected jolt of awkwardness that saves “Love, Simon” from fading into formulaic obscurity. Instead of playing it safe and keeping Simon’s pain on the surface, the film gets unexpectedly dark for a minute, forcing the audience to remember that this is a queer romance with accompanying challenges that just

didn’t pop up in your typical ‘90s Meg Ryan vehicle. Simon’s true despair in the moment when he realizes he won’t have control over his own outing makes his big kiss on the Ferris wheel that much sweeter.

#### **‘Booksmart,’ 2019**

In some ways, “Booksmart” may be the polar opposite of “Of an Age.” While the leads are whip-smart teens headed for the Ivy League, the film is more Judd Apatow than Ingmar Bergman, brimming with high school hijinks, binge drinking (and the ensuing ill-timed, iller-placed vomit) and random make-out sessions. But there’s substance here, too, and it’s Kaitlyn Dever’s lesbian character

Amy that turns this one into a meaningful story about queer love between best friends.

Amy’s queerness is baked into the plot, a refreshing and realistic portrayal against a seemingly modern high school backdrop. No one’s screaming “dyke” at her in the hall, but at the same time, no one seems to really know her, either. Partly, it’s because she’s been living in the shadow of her boisterously loving straight bestie, Beanie Feldstein’s Molly. The exploration of this relationship is at the heart of the film. Sometimes, the most loving thing to do for yourself and, even for the one you love the most, is to break free from what’s comfortable and familiar to make space to discover who you really are.



**“Of An Age” Photo Courtesy of Focus Features**





*"Of An Age" Photo Courtesy of Focus Features*

#### **'Ammonite,' 2020**

You could consider "Ammonite," loosely based on historical fact, a kind of later-in-life coming-of-age story. After all, the leads, brilliantly portrayed by powerhouse actors Kate Winslet and Saoirse Ronan, are full-grown women, but for Ronan's character, Charlotte, a queer romance is altogether new. In fact, it's not something she likely ever expected to experience in the 1840s, when the film is set. It's certainly not what her husband, geologist Roderick Murchison (played by James McArdle) expects when he delivers Charlotte, who is suffering from "melancholy," to the doorstep of a fellow geologist, Winslet's Mary Anning. Perhaps Anning can perk up Charlotte's mood with some time in the fresh air...

As the two women enjoy a whole lot more than fresh air and digging up old rocks, Charlotte comes alive, as we all tend to do when offered the chance to live as our full, real selves. Did Roderick suspect, all along? Perhaps not, but maybe his most loving act was giving Charlotte the freedom to truly live, if only for a moment in time.

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|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MONDAY    | <p><b>2 Bears Tavern Uptown:</b> . \$5 Stoli Cocktails (Any Flavor), Everyday Specials: \$5Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball &amp; Darts. <b>@mosphere:</b> \$5 Well Cocktails &amp; Draft Beer 6-8pm. <b>Cell Block:</b> Open 4pm-2am. <b>Charlies:</b> Bingo 7 – 11 pm Dancing until close. <b>D.S.Tequila Co:</b> \$5 10oz Margaritas. <b>Hydrate:</b> Lips and Mascara Doors at 8pm Show at 10pm. <b>Lucky Horseshoe:</b> Open at 4pm, Dancers 8pm. <b>North End:</b> Open at 11am, \$5 Well Drinks. <b>Shakers on Clark:</b> Comedy Night \$1 off Well Drinks and Well Shots. <b>Sidetrack:</b> Open at 3pm, Musical Monday Show Tunes 8pm-2am. <b>Steamworks:</b> Every 3rd Monday TM4M (Trans Men For Men) 8pm-2am. <b>The Sofo Tap:</b> \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes &amp; Bourbons. Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's) Free Darts. <b>Touche:</b> Open 5pm-4am. 4/3 Game On! NCAA College Basketball Championship Game. 4/10 Euchre Night, Come out and Play 7-10pm Sports on our screens Club room Open!.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| TUESDAY   | <p><b>2 Bears Tavern Uptown:</b> . \$3 House Shots, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts Everyday Specials: \$5Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball &amp; Darts. <b>@mosphere:</b> \$5 Well Cocktails &amp; Draft Beer 6-8pm, Game Night with Tony. <b>Cell Block:</b> Open 4pm-2am. <b>Charlie's:</b> Tune Up Tuesday Karaoke 7 – 11PM, Tag Team Tuesdays 11p – 2am, Dancing until close. <b>D.S.Tequila Co:</b> . 50cent Wing Night 5pm-10pm, Must Purchase a drink for special. Dine in Only. <b>Hydrate:</b> TatTuesday XXL Doors open at 8pm. <b>Kit Kat Lounge:</b> Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis <b>Lucky Horseshoe:</b> Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. Open auditions for male dancers 7pm. \$5 drink specials. <b>Meeting House Tavern:</b> \$3 House Shots, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts. Happy Hour Specials 5pm-8pm: \$5 Stoli Mules (all flavors). Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort. Free Darts &amp; Pool. <b>North End:</b> Open at 11am, \$5 Canned Beers, Seltzers &amp; Ciders. <b>Shakers on Clark:</b> Trivia Night: \$3 Domestic Beers. <b>Sidetrack:</b> Open at 3pm, Trivia Tuesday 8-10pm, TRL Tuesday: Totally Rad Line-up of 90's-to-Now Music Videos 10pm-2am, OUTspoken LGBTQ+ Storytelling 1st Tuesday of the month from 7-9pm. <b>Steamworks:</b> Every Tuesday 4 pm – 4 am Guys Under 25 Get In Free* (*Free 30 day membership and free locker). <b>The Sofo Tap:</b> \$5 Amsterdam Cocktails, \$5 Tallboys Everyday Specials: \$5Jager, \$5 Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. <b>Touche:</b> Open 5pm - 4am.Hardcore Cruisin' No Cell Phones/Wifi.</p> |
| WEDNESDAY | <p><b>2 Bears Tavern Uptown:</b> \$ New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Tallboy Beers Specials: Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball &amp; Darts. <b>Cell Block:</b> Open 4pm-2am. <b>Charlie's:</b> Country Line Dancing 7 – 10pm, Sapphire's Secret Shadows 10pm – 1 am, Dancing until close. <b>Jackhammer:</b> \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes &amp; Bourbons, Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager &amp; Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR &amp; Hamm's. <b>Kit Kat Lounge:</b> Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis <b>Lucky Horseshoe:</b> Open at 6pm Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. <b>Meeting House Tavern:</b> \$4Miller Lite Drafts, \$5 Stolis (All Flavors). Happy Hour Specials 7pm-10pm: \$6 Any BIG drafts Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort. Free Darts &amp; Pool. <b>North End:</b> Open at 11am \$5 Lagunitas Draft &amp; Cans. <b>Shakers on Clark:</b> Karaoke Night \$1 Off Long Islands. <b>Sidetrack:</b> Open at 3pm, All Things Taylor &amp; Ariana 1st Wed of month, All Things Beyoncé 2nd Wed of month, All Things Gaga 3rd Wed of month, All Things Britney &amp; Rihanna last Wed of month: all 9pm-2am. <b>Steamworks:</b> Bear Hump Every second Wednesday 6-9pm A monthly mid-week gathering of Furry Men. <b>The Sofo Tap:</b> \$3 House Shots, \$5 Tito's Cocktails, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)FreeDarts <b>Touche:</b> Open 5pm - 4am.Jockstrap Night. Free Clothing Check.</p>                                                                               |
| THURSDAY  | <p><b>2 Bears Tavern Uptown:</b> \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes &amp; Bourbons . Everyday Specials:\$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball &amp; Darts. <b>@mosphere:</b> \$5 Well Cocktails &amp; Draft Beer 6-8pm, RuPaul Drag Race All Stars 6 Viewing Party - 7pm. <b>Charlie's:</b> Survivor 10 pm – 1 am, Dancing Until Close. <b>D.S.Tequila Co:</b> Bottomless Tacos! \$23.95 5pm-10pm , Must purchase a beverage for special. Dine in Only. <b>Jackhammer:</b> \$3 House Shots \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Miller Lit Tallboys Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager &amp; Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR &amp; Hamm's. <b>Kit Kat Lounge:</b> Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis..<b>Lucky Horseshoe:</b> Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. <b>Meeting House Tavern:</b> \$6 Tito Cocktails, Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort. Free Darts &amp; Pool. <b>North End:</b> Open at 11am, \$5 Deep Eddy Cocktails. <b>Shakers on Clark:</b> Darts Night \$1 off Fireball, Jager, Malort and Well Shots, \$2.50 PBR Cans. <b>Sidetrack:</b> Open at 3pm, Let's Go Thursdays with Alex Kay &amp; Friends 9pm-2am. <b>Steamworks:</b> Lights Out Thursdays, The Club goes Dark Every Thursday 4pm-4am. <b>The Sofo Tap:</b> \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails\$5 Tallboy Beers Everyday Specials: , \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. <b>Touche:</b> Open 5pm - 4am.Throwback Thursdays70's&amp; 80's Music &amp; Porn by BijouVideo.</p>                                                                                                  |



## FRIDAY

**2 Bears Tavern Uptown:** \$7.50 Big Miller Lite Drafts \$3 House Shots. Happy Hour Specials: 3pm-6pm: \$4 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Chicago Handshakes. Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Dancers 10pm-1am. **Baton Show Lounge:** Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. **Cell Block:** Open 4pm-2am. **Charlie's:** 1st and 3rd Fierce Fridays 10p - 1am, 2nd Fierce Fridays - Traffic Light Party 10p - 1am, 4th Fierce Fridays - Glow Up Party 10p - 1am, 5th Fierce Fridays - Strut 10p - 1am, Dancing until close. **D.S. Tequila Co:** TGIF Special \$5 Effen Cocktails and \$4 Hornitos Shots. Hydrate: Fresh Faces A New Drag Competition Second and Forth Friday of the Month. **Jackhammer:** \$5 Miller Lite Tallboys \$8 New Amsterdam & Redbull Happy Hour Specials 5-9pm: \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes and Bourbons \$5 Chicago Handshake Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's). **Kit Kat Lounge:** Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$6 Tito's Cocktails \$7.50 Big Miller Lites. Happy Hour Specials: 5pm-8pm: \$5 Chicago Handshakes. Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 4-7pm. **Sidetrack:** Open at 3pm, TGIF Show Tunes 3-7pm, RuPaul's Drag Race Viewing Party 7-9:30pm, Friday Night Dance Party 9:30pm-2am. **The Sofo Tap:** \$3 House Shots, \$7.50 Big Miller Lite Drafts Happy Hour Specials: 3pm-6pm: \$4 New Amsterdam Cocktails. Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tall Boys Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's), Free Darts. **Touche:** Open 5pm - 4am. 4/14 Fetish Connection Gray Hanky Party. 4/21 Cowboy Round Up.

## SATURDAY

**2 Bears Tavern Uptown:** \$6 Lagunitas IPADrafts. Happy Hour Specials: 1/2 Off All Drafts \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails. Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 3pm-5pm, Dancers 10pm - 1am. **Baton Show Lounge:** Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. **Cell Block:** Open 2pm-3am. **Charlie's:** Country Line Dancing 7 - 10pm, The Main Event 10pm - 1am Dancing until Close. **Jackhammer:** \$3 House Shots \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Miller Lite Tallboys Happy Hour Specials 5-9pm: \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes and Bourbons \$5 Chicago Handshake Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's). **Jackhammer:** \$3 House Shots \$5 Miller Lite Tallboys Happy Hour Specials: \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes and Bourbons. Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's). **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$5 Signature Margaritas Happy Hour Specials: 2pm-5pm: \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$12 Mimosa Carafes, Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 11am-2pm. **Sidetrack:** Open at 1pm, SaturGay Drag & Games with Sasha & Zamora Love 3-6pm, Saturday Night Dance Party 9pm-3am, Dog Day 1st Saturday of the month 1-5pm. **The Sofo Tap:** \$5 Lost Coast Tangerine Wheat, \$5 Signature Margaritas, Happy Hour Specials: 12pm-3pm: 1/2 Off All Drafts Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's) Free Darts. **Touche:** Open 2pm - 5am. 4/15 GEAR Night dress code in Club Room BNC 6pm. 4/22 RIPE PARTY, Dim Light, Deep Beats, Go-Go-Dudes DJ Hary T.

## SUNDAY

**2 Bears Tavern Uptown:** \$5 Signature Margaritas, \$6 Chicago Handshakes Happy Hour Specials 2pm-5pm \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** \$6 Jack Products, \$4 Domestic Draft, House Shots \$2. **Baton Show Lounge:** Doors Open at 11am, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. **Cell Block:** Open 2pm-2am **Charlie's:** Queeriod! Every other Sunday 5pm - 7pm, Singational Sunday Karaoke 7pm - 11pm Mas Leche 11pm - 1am, Dancing until close. **D.S. Tequila Co:** Coyote Ugly Drag Brunch \$50 all inclusive food and beverage package plus Drag Show. **Hydrate:** Doors open at 2pm Northalsted's Official after Brunch party. **Jackhammer:** \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$7 Jackhammered Long Islands Happy Hour Specials: 1st Sunday: \$7 Planter's Punch 2nd Sunday: \$5 Dog Bowls (Premium Well) 3rd Sunday: \$3 Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's Tallboy Beers 4th Sunday: \$5 Stoli Cocktails (Any Flavor) 5th Sunday: \$6 New Amsterdam & Red Bull Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's). **Kit Kat Lounge:** Divalicious brunch 11am-3pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$3 House Shots, \$12 Mimosa Carafes. Happy Hour Specials: 7pm-10pm: \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails. Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 7-10pm **Shakers on Clark:** \$1 Off Any Bloody Mary, Milagro Tequila Mixed Drinks, or Tito's Vodka Mixed Drinks. **Sidetrack:** Open at 1pm, Sunday Funday Show Tunes 4-9pm, Sunday Funday After Dark Dance Party 9pm-2am **The Sofo Tap:** \$6 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$7.50 Big Miller Lite Drafts Happy Hour Specials: 12pm-2pm: \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 1pm-3pm: \$3 House Shots FREE Chicago-style hot-dogs (while supplies last) Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's) Free Darts. **Touche:** Open 2pm - 4am. Beer Bust \$2 Bud Light Drafts, Clubroom Opens 6pm, Movie Night 7pm.



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|    | Artist                                           | Title                                             |
|----|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Beyonce                                          | CUFF IT (Tommie Sunshine & JUSTNKAYSE Clean Edit) |
| 2  | Deorro                                           | You Are Not Alone ft. Dear Sara                   |
| 3  | INNA x Stefflon Don x Dhurata Dora               | Yummy                                             |
| 4  | Andrew Rayel & Florentin                         | All Falls Down ft. Kyle Anson                     |
| 5  | Kim Petras                                       | Brrr                                              |
| 6  | Tobtok                                           | Satellite ft. Arinn (Radio Edit)                  |
| 7  | Sam Smith & Kim Petras                           | Unholy (David Guetta Acid Remix)                  |
| 8  | Tungevaag x Lovespeake                           | I Knew It Was You                                 |
| 9  | TELYKast With Francis Karel                      | Better Now                                        |
| 10 | Joel Corry & Tom Grennan                         | Lionheart (Fearless)                              |
| 11 | M22 & Ella Henderson                             | Heartstrings                                      |
| 12 | Tiesto                                           | Lay Low (Nick Strand X Mio Remix)                 |
| 13 | Joel Corry x David Guetta x Bryson Tiller        | What Would You Do                                 |
| 14 | Pink                                             | Never Gonna Not Dance Again (Sam Feldt Remix)     |
| 15 | Tiesto & Tate MCrae                              | 1035 (Joel Corry Remix)                           |
| 16 | Breathe Carolina x ManyFew                       | Dancing In The Dark (Radio Edit)                  |
| 17 | Zack Martino                                     | Kill My Heart                                     |
| 18 | DES3ETT                                          | Seventeen                                         |
| 19 | Leftwing Kody & Goodboys                         | Only You                                          |
| 20 | Sigala & Mnek                                    | Radio                                             |
| 21 | Benny Benassi & Anabel Englund                   | Lightwaves                                        |
| 22 | Ellis                                            | After Hours                                       |
| 23 | Marco Nobel x Glass Keys x Tyler James Bellinger | The Fire                                          |
| 24 | Robin Schulz                                     | Sweet Goodbye (Radio Edit)                        |
| 25 | Galantis x David Guetta & MNEK                   | Damn (You've Got Me Saying)                       |
| 26 | HUMAN x Tudor                                    | Craving You                                       |
| 27 | NIIKO X SWAE ft. Allie Crystal                   | Nothing On Earth                                  |
| 28 | SILK                                             | Supply The Love                                   |
| 29 | VIVID & Nazzereene                               | Secrets (Original Mix)                            |
| 30 | Taylor Swift                                     | Lavender Haze (Felix Jaehn Remix)                 |





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# GRAB HOLLY

## The Aftermath of the First Skirmish

By Holly Maholm

It was dawn the morning after what later became known as the First Skirmish of the Battle of Wellington Green. Scallywag woke me, and when I got to the door, he said, "Holly, please come with me. There's something you need to see." I hurriedly dressed and followed him to the Village Green, where he directed my attention to the Civil War Memorial.

I was shocked and appalled! The tall, black granite obelisk had been defaced with at least a gallon of red paint! Someone had put a ladder up to it, and standing on the uppermost rung, had poured red paint down the front of the Memorial, obscuring the names etched there. My heart sank. What vile and hateful vandalism this was! I was frantic that no one should be allowed to see this shameful, spiteful desecration. I turned to Scallywag.

"If anyone you don't know comes near... chase them away. I'm going to get help." Burning with anger, I set off for Donut Time, where I knew I would find help. I went around back and let myself in, then going up the stairs to the apartment, I found Grandma Lily

and Phyllis still asleep. I gently woke them, then whispered there was a terrible disaster happening for which I needed their help. They dressed quickly and followed me down the stairs and through the kitchen (where Xandra, Cindy and Martha were just starting their day). We went out the door and – as we walked in the direction of the Memorial – I prepared them for what they would see.

"Things are getting out of hand in our village, and if we don't put a stop to it, someone's going to get hurt!" We arrived at the Memorial, and both Grandma Lily and Phyllis gasped in shock and dismay. Grandma Lily spoke, "The Lord will forgive this... but I won't." Phyllis responded, "The cowards who did this have nothing to fear from the men whose names are recorded here, but I know a couple veterans who will seek the sort of revenge that cowards never expect."

Grandma Lily and Phyllis took over the response to this provocation. They returned to Donut Time, where they quickly mobilized the Retirees – several of whom were veterans who saw action in Vietnam. I could see by their reactions that they took personally this attempt to dishonor the Civil War dead, and having known the terrors of battle first hand, they were in no way cowed by this feeble attempt to drive them out of this sacred public space.

They promptly collected rags, brushes and turpentine and began to clean the Memorial. As they worked, the Lady Retirees kept the men supplied with coffee, encouragement and well-justified outrage. In little more than an hour the granite obelisk was sparkling clean and shining in the sun (beneath a coat of carnauba wax – one of the Veterans owned a vintage Corvette).

When the work was done, the Retirees returned to their booths at Donut Time, leaving two of their number to stand guard at the Memorial (with two Lady Retirees detailed for logistical support). Wellington being the prototypical "small town," a firestorm of gossip rapidly delivered the news of the Attempted Desecration of the War Memorial to its town folk. Soon, people began to "just casually" stop by the Memorial to see what was to be seen.

Among those who were not shy about making a visit to the



Memorial were the Outlaws – Recon, Fender and Tuco. They drove their delivery chariots right up to the Memorial, to be sure no trace of red remained. Being satisfied with the result, and extending their comradely gratitude to the Retirees, they returned to their deliveries.

Except for these visitors, all was quiet at the Memorial until later in the day. Just before sunset, when the air was beginning to get a bit chill for the Retirees, they had their relief. All three delivery chariots – plus the War Chariot constructed by the Legionnaires – drove up to the Memorial. As I watched from the window at Donut Time, the Legionnaires unloaded tents, sleeping bags, duffle bags and cooking gear from the chariots. Clearly, they were making camp.

I walked up to the new camp and struck up a conversation with D'Marcus, one of the Legionnaires. He explained, "We heard what happened this morning, and we weren't sure what to do about it. Then, Phyllis... you know, Priestess of the Goddess Athena, came into our class and suggested we put our training as Roman soldiers to good use. This Memorial to Brave and Honorable Warriors – the sort of men we want to be – needs protecting, and who better to do the protecting than us?"

"So anyway, the Priestess asked us for our help, and we think... so, too, did the Goddess, herself."

(To be continued)

Holly Maholm is a transgender woman living in Cleveland, Ohio. Look for Holly's book *Offered Magic: My Life Among the Unicorns* (now available on Amazon) which collects the first 126 episodes of Holly's adventures involving both magical unicorns and her LGBTQ friends. Send a message to Holly at [www.hollymaholm.com](http://www.hollymaholm.com).

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# X Touche



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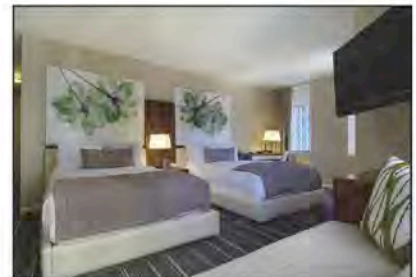
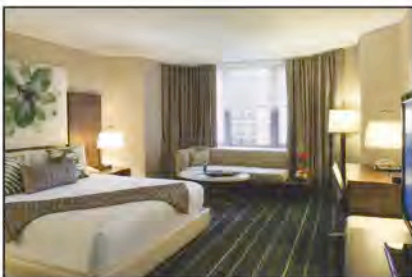
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# GRAB A BOOK

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

**"Blue Hunger"** by Viola Di Grado, translated by Jamie Richards  
c.2023, Bloomsbury \$27.00  
216 pages



You can't stop thinking about it. It's been rolling around in your mind since it happened and you can't stop. You replay it over and over, how it started, how it progressed, why it ended. You wonder if it'll happen again and in the new novel "Blue Hunger" by Viola Di Grado, you wonder if you truly want it to.

Shanghai was not her first choice to live. Sometimes, she wasn't really even sure why she came there, except that it was Ruben's dream.

For months and months, he spoke of Shanghai, showed her maps, talked of a life as a chef living in a high-rise apartment, and he taught her a little bit of the language. She never fully understood why Ruben loved China and she never thought to ask before her other half, her twin brother, her only sibling died.

She was brushing her teeth when it happened. Now, weeks later, she was in his favorite city, a teacher of Italian languages in a Chinese culture, alone, friendless. Then she met Xu.

It happened at the nightclub called Poxx and she later wondered, with a thrill, if Xu had been stalking her. Xu claimed that she was a student in the Italian class, but though she was usually good with faces, she didn't remember the slender, "glorious" woman with milk-white skin and luminous eyes.

She did remember the first place she and Xu had sex.

It was a hotel, but Xu liked it outside, too; in public, on sidewalks, in abandoned buildings, and in crowded nightclubs. They took yellow pills together, slept together in Xu's squalid apartment; she told Xu she loved her but never got a reply except that Xu starting biting.

Xu had used her teeth all along but she started biting harder.

Soon, she was bleeding, bruising from Xu's bites, and seeing people in

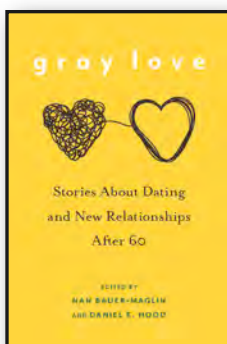
the shadows, and she began to understand that Ruben wouldn't have liked Xu at all...

You know what you want. You're someone with determination. And you may want this book, but there are a few things you'll need to know first.

Reading "Blue Hunger" is like watching a Stanley Kubrick movie. It's surreal, kind of gauzy, and loaded with meanings that are somewhat fuzzy until you've read a paragraph several times – and even then, you're not quite sure about it. Author Viola Di Grado writes of sharp, unfinished mourning with a grief-distracting obsession layered thickly on top, of control and submission, and while the chapters are each brief, they feel too long but not long enough. There are so many questions left dangling within the plot of this story, so many small bits unsaid, but also too much information of the mundane sort. You'll feel somewhat voyeuristic with this book in your hands, until you notice that the sex scenes here are humidly uber-fiery but not very detailed.

Overall, then, "Blue Hunger" is different but compelling, short enough to read twice, quickly. It's lush, dreamlike, and once started, you won't be able to stop thinking about it.

**"Gray Love: Stories About Dating and New Relationships After 60,"**  
edited by Nan Bauer-Maglin and Daniel E. Hood  
c.2023, Rutgers University Press \$24.95  
303 pages



It was supposed to be a nice night out.

But you drove around and around looking for the restaurant and once you found it, you learned that you needed reservations. Practically before the evening started, you sensed that your food could be as cold as your date. As in "Gray Love," edited by Nan Bauer-Maglin and Daniel E. Hood, looking for love wasn't like this when you were younger.

You thought you'd be happy alone.

After the divorce, the funeral, the last break-up, you didn't think a little you-time was a bad idea. And it wasn't – but love, someone to go to the movies with or dine with or snuggle with, seems more and more appealing now. Today, though, as the forty-two essays in this book confirm and as you've learned, that's easier said than done.

You want a partner, someone your age, but you fear becoming a caretaker. You like doing your own thing, but having someone around to do it with would be nice. You have company but you are "without intimacy." Or you don't want a full-time someone but it's scary to think about "falling off a ladder alone."

So you go online because, well, people don't meet like they used to. That's when you learn that dating sites are generally ripe with people who lie about their ages, who seem clingy or who want things you can't give, "the Uncertain, the Angry... the Unattractive," and – let's be honest – jerks. Unlike real life circa 1973 or 1993, there's nobody to vouch for singles online.

You wonder, "What would I wear?" You learn about scams the hard way, while tales of love at way-up-there-ages are inspirational. Experimenting with same sex, different sex, different race isn't off the table, but nobody's asked – or you did, and it was wonderful and why didn't you do that before? Love is love. You date the wrong people, you date the right people, you're exhausted and disappointed. And sometimes, even for awhile, you're someone's "sweetie."

According to a study quoted in "Gray Love," about twenty-five percent of American adults live alone. If you're one of them and open to a relationship, you need this book.

Just know that this is not a how-to manual. Editors Nan Bauer-Maglin and Daniel E. Hood don't offer advice in their introduction, and most of their storytellers didn't Ann-Landers their way into this book. Instead, you'll read tales of dating and mating gone happily right and very, very wrong, told in ways that will make you laugh, sigh, and know that you're not alone in your late-life search for love. The mixture here is diverse and wide: if one tale makes you want to swear off dating forever, the next one offers Happily Ever After.

Be aware that a few of the tales inside "Gray Love" flirt with the explicit and others might ruffle a feather or two. Still, it could be great to share it with a millennial or older GenZ'er, if you see this book on a bookshelf, take it out.



# STEPPENWOLF LAST NIGHT AND THE NIGHT BEFORE

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MAY 14

BY **DONNETTA  
LAVINIA GRAYS**

DIRECTED BY **VALERIE  
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**ABOUT FACE THEATRE  
PRESENTS WORLD  
PREMIERE OF  
GENDER PLAY**



About Face Theatre concludes its 28th season with the world premiere of *Gender Play*, or *what you Will* by **Will Wilhelm** and **Erin Murray**, performing May 4 through June 3, 2023, at The Den Theatre. In this magical one-person show, Will recreates a seance to summon the spirit of William Shakespeare, and together the two Wills explore Shakespeare's stories and characters through a queer lens. *Gender Play*, or *what you Will* is an exuberant celebration of queer joy rooted in over 400 years of LGBTQ literary history. The play was workshopped and received an initial public performance at About Face Theatre in November 2021, and received additional development support from Island Shakespeare Festival, Northwestern University, and the Arts Midwest's Grow, Invest, Gather Fund.

Will is a trans actor seeking to belong and feeling frustrated at not seeing their story reflected onstage. In their most desperate hour, they reach out for help. They hold a seance and summon the oldest and queerest playwright they can think of: William Shakespeare! Soon, the two become total besties, and together Will & Will reclaim the Bard's old plays in all their original homoerotic, cross-dressing, gender-fluid glory. Now, Will invites you to an impromptu party to celebrate their new friendship. But to meet the guest of honor, we must perform the seance again, together. *Gender Play*, or *what you Will* promises a mystical evening of queer joy, laughter, tarot, and more than a little self-discovery.

"I love the conversations sparked by *Gender Play*," says director Erin Murray, "because this play asks how and why we continue to stage classic theatre. Whether you haven't picked up a script since your 9th grade R&J reading assignment or you're an avid Shakespeare fan, this show is for you. *Gender Play* reveals the many ways we 'cast' others and ourselves in confining roles even in our everyday lives. Are you playing a part or living out your true values and passions? If 'all the world is a stage,'

then it's time to bring the 'main character energy' and let *Gender Play* direct you to the spotlight."

For more information or Tickets visit: [aboutfacetheatre.com](http://aboutfacetheatre.com) or call 773.784.8565.

**Raven Theatre Announces  
Casting for the Chicago  
Premiere of THE OCTOBER  
STORM By Joshua Allen  
Directed by Malkia Stampley  
May 11 – June 25, 2023**



Raven Theatre, Chicago's newest Equity-affiliated theatre, has announced casting for its Chicago premiere of *The October Storm* by **Joshua Allen**, a follow up to Allen's smash-hit *The Last Pair of Earlies*, directed by **Malkia Stampley**.

The cast includes **Nathaniel Andrew**, **Jaeda LaVonne**, **Felisha D. McNeal**, **Shariba Rivers** and **Brandon J. Sapp**.

Concluding Raven's 40th Anniversary Season, this riveting and edgy new drama set in the 1960s on the South Side of Chicago plays May 11 – June 25, 2023 in Raven's newly-dedicated, 85-seat Johnson Stage, 6157 N. Clark St. (at Granville) in Chicago. Single tickets are now on sale at [raventheatre.com](http://raventheatre.com) or by calling (773) 338-2177. The press opening is Monday, May 15 at 7:30 pm.

It's the fall of 1960 on Chicago's South Side. Rain pounds the city, but the real storm rages in the basement apartment where landlady Mrs. Elkins lives with her teenage granddaughter Gloria. Mrs. Elkins is a widow, and Gloria is essentially an orphan. For better or worse, all they have is each other. But when Louis, a troubled war vet, walks into their already fraught lives looking for shelter, both literal and figurative, the emotional whirlwind he sets off will change all their lives forever.

Comments Director Malkia Stampley, "It is an honor to work with Chicago native playwright, Joshua Allen, on his second Chicago production. Joshua has captured the beauty and complexity of what change – and the resistance to it – looks like in a 3-flat building in 1960, southside Chicago, where a Black grandmother is determined to keep control of the home and protect her

granddaughter. Allen's characters are familiar, and I love that no one escapes the October storm of change and growth in the play. I'm thrilled to make my debut at Raven Theatre and to work with this amazing cast and designers."

The production team includes **Sotirios Livaditis** (Scenic Designer), **Alex Rutherford** (Costume Designer), **Jared Gooding** (Lighting Designer), **Christopher Kriz** (Sound Designer), **Megan Pirtle** (Wig Designer), **Jyreika Guest** (Intimacy Director), **Catherine Miller** (Casting Director), **Caitlin McCarthy** (Production Manager), **Christian Bufford** (Assistant Director), **Chloe Jackson** (Dramaturgical Consultant), **Nick Chamernik** (Master Electrician) and **Isabel Patt** (Stage Manager).

Tickets are currently available at [raventheatre.com](http://raventheatre.com) or by calling 773 338-2177.

**CITY-WIDE FESTIVAL  
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Chicago Cabaret Week returns for its 2nd year! Unique in the US, the 10-day festival features a variety of blues, jazz, American songbook, world music, pop, and Broadway by some of Chicago's finest artists at Chicago's intimate venues. Chicago Cabaret Week's 13 featured performances encourage locals and visitors to sample Chicago's revitalized cabaret scene, exploring places where performers and audiences come face-to-face.

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For more information visit [AOKCabaret.org](http://AOKCabaret.org)

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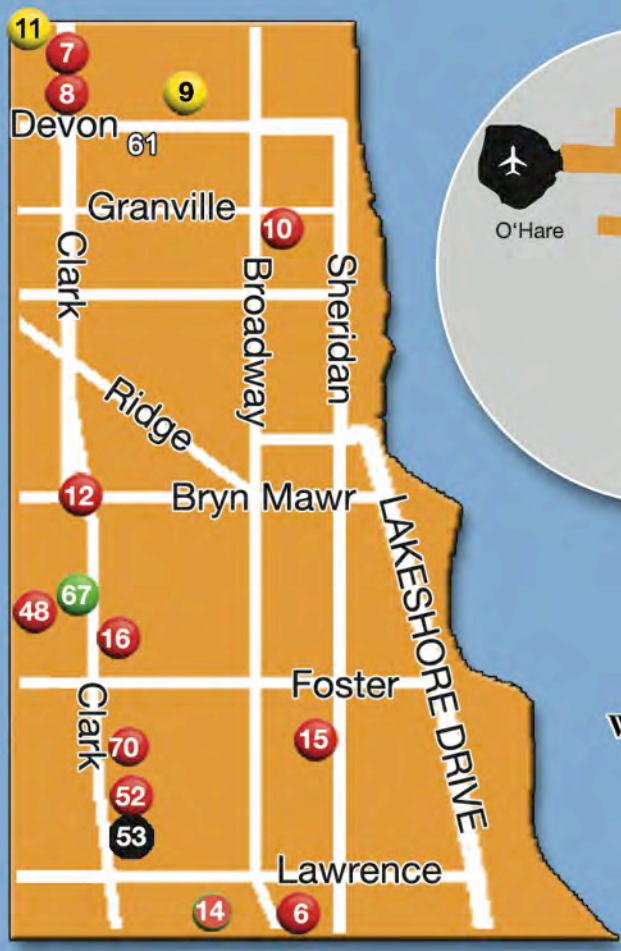
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# GRAB MAGAZINE MAPS

- GRAB a Bite
- GRAB a Drink
- GRAB Some Sleep
- GRAB Some Culture
- GRAB a Towel



# GRAB CLASSIFIEDS

## CLEANING SERVICES

**CHESTNUT ORGANIZING & CLEANING SERVICE - 312-332-5575.** We are a home and office house cleaning service. But more importantly, we are also an organizing/cleaning service for people who need that service because of their depression, chronic or long term illness or disabilities, the elderly, the deceased and much more. We are never judgemental; we've already seen and done worse than your home currently is. For more information about us, see us: **www.ChestnutCleaning.com** or please call **312-332-5575**. With your help, we can help you.

## PETS

**GET YOUR PET WORKING IN TV** Commercials, Films, Magazines, Etc. **CALL/TEXT www.MyTalentedPet.com 708-833-6673.**

## HELP WANTED

**MALE DANCERS WANTED;** The Lucky Horseshoe Lounge 3169 N. Halsted. Open Auditions every Tuesday at 7pm. 21+ I.D.

**Sales – FT/PT** Looking for something different? Leather 64TEN, Chicago's premier Leather and Fetish store is now seeking energetic professionals to build our team, selling custom leather goods and gear to our customers locally and from all over the US and beyond. Leather 64TEN is a judgement-free zone committed to diversity and inclusion while helping people expand and open their minds to new levels of satisfaction, pleasure and bliss. We offer competitive wages with regular reviews. Some sales/customer service experience is preferred. We are primarily looking for team members to work weekends/evenings/late night/early morning hours. Must have a valid IL driver's license. There is some potential for travel and off-site work. To request a full job description and application or send a resume, please contact Jim at **jim@Leather64TEN.com**  
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**STRUGGLING WITH CRYSTAL METH?** We can help. Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA) Chicago.  
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**312-600-5590**

## Join Chicago's LGBTQ Marching Band



Looking for color guard, percussion, and wind players.  
**All skill levels are welcome!**



[www.lakesidepride.org/marching](http://www.lakesidepride.org/marching)



**The Next Issue of GRAB hits the streets and Online Tuesday April 27th**

**Reserve your Ad Space Today**

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# Twin Palms

A photograph of a man sitting on a yellow towel by a swimming pool. He is wearing sunglasses and blue swim trunks, smiling at the camera. In the background, there are other people relaxing on lounge chairs under yellow umbrellas, with tall palm trees and a clear blue sky.

Modern Luxury, Timeless Style.  
A fresh new men's resort experience in the desert.

1930 S. Camino Real, Palm Springs  
760.841.1455 | [twinpalmsresort.com](http://twinpalmsresort.com)



A full-page photograph of two men on a boat. The man in the foreground is lying down, wearing blue swim trunks, with his eyes closed and a mustache. The man in the background is sitting up, wearing pink swim trunks, looking towards the right. The background shows a bright blue sea and a hilly coastline under a clear sky.

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*BAJA CALIFORNIA*