

## BACKGROUND MEMO

To: Interested Parties  
From: Thomas Jones  
Re: Obscene Material Promoted to Children by the American Library Association  
Date: October 11, 2023

---

Two of the most problematic books that include explicit sexual content and are promoted by the American Library Association are “Gender Queer” by Maia Kobabe<sup>1</sup> and “All Boys Aren’t Blue” by George M. Johnson<sup>2</sup>. Both were read by Senator Kennedy at a recent hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Additionally, the book “Flamer” by Mike Curato includes additional problematic explicit content that is important to share with the public and has been the subject of concern in local schools.

All three of these books come highly recommended by the American Library Association and are targeted towards children. In 2021 the ALA recognized “Flamer” and “All Boys Aren’t Blue” as among their “Teens’ Top Ten” a list curated by “teen book groups from sixteen school and public libraries.”<sup>3</sup> As the ALA notes, the Teens’ Top Ten list is a list for students aged “twelve to eighteen.”<sup>4</sup> “Gender Queer” was a winner of ALA’s 2020 Alex Award.<sup>5</sup> The ALA notes that “[t]he Alex Awards are given to ten books written for adults that have special appeal to young adults, ages 12 through 18.”<sup>6</sup>

“Gender Queer” remains available online as an ebook through Chicago Public Schools Library Database.<sup>7</sup> (Chicago being the home of the ALA) While the Chicago Public Schools do not provide a publicly available portal for searching its catalog the Chicago Public Library does. The CPL shows that both “All Boys Aren’t Blue”<sup>8</sup> and Flamer<sup>9</sup> are available throughout the system in the Teen section of the library. As noted above, “teen” for the ALA includes children as young as twelve years old.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.amazon.com/Gender-Queer-Memoir-Maia-Kobabe/dp/1549304003>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.amazon.com/All-Boys-Arent-Blue-Memoir-Manifesto/dp/B083QPKMQH/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2021/04/2021-teens-top-ten-nominees-announced>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ala.org/yalsa/teenreading/teenstopten/faq>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ala.org/yalsa/2020-alex-awards>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ala.org/yalsa/alex-awards>

<sup>7</sup>

<https://pac.library.cps.edu/?config=11#section=resource&resourceid=4327581490&currentIndex=0&view=fullDetailsDetailsTab>

<sup>8</sup> <https://chipublib.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S126C2238958>

<sup>9</sup> <https://chipublib.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S126C2266002>



**Problematic Content from All Boys Aren't Blue**

"I put some lube on and got him up on his knees, and I began to slide into him from behind.

...

*I pulled out of him and kissed him while he masturbated.*

...

*He asked me to "turn over" while he slipped a condom on himself.*

...

*But this was my ass, and I was struggling to imagine someone inside me.*

...

*He got on top and slowly inserted himself into me. It was the worst pain I think I had ever felt in my life.... Eventually, I felt a mix of pleasure with the pain"*

Audio of content as read by author:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/5g0o8k9c9nlwqtugkphpi/All-Boys-Arn-t-Blue-Clip.mp3?rlkey=sjj7zfx1bqsteoffgpr0f33jw&dl=0>





# ALL BOYS AREN'T BLUE

A MEMOIR-MANIFESTO by

**GEORGE M. JOHNSON**



# ALL BOYS AREN'T BLUE

A MEMOIR-MANIFESTO  
**GEORGE M. JOHNSON**

FARRAR STRAUS GIROUX  
New York



[Begin Reading](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

[About the Author](#)

[Copyright Page](#)

**Thank you for buying this  
Farrar, Straus and Giroux ebook.**

To receive special offers, bonus content,  
and info on new releases and other great reads,  
sign up for our newsletters.

[Sign Up](#)

Or visit us online at  
[us.macmillan.com/newslettersignup](http://us.macmillan.com/newslettersignup)

For email updates on the author, click [here](#).

The author and publisher have provided this e-book to you for your personal use only. You may not make this e-book publicly available in any way. **Copyright infringement is against the law. If you believe the copy of this e-book you are reading infringes on the author's copyright, please notify the publisher at: [us.macmillanusa.com/piracy](http://us.macmillanusa.com/piracy).**

## AUTHOR'S NOTE

In writing this book, I wanted to be as authentic and truthful about my experience as possible. I wanted my story to be told in totality: the good, the bad, and the things I was always too afraid to talk about publicly. This meant going to places and discussing some subjects that are often kept away from teens for fear of them being “too heavy.”

But the truth of the matter is, these things happened to me when I was a child, teenager, and young adult. So as heavy as these subjects may be, it is necessary that they are not only told, but also read by teens who may have to navigate many of these same experiences in their own lives.

This book will touch on sexual assault (including molestation), loss of virginity, homophobia, racism, and anti-Blackness. These discussions at times may be a bit graphic, but nonetheless they are experiences that many reading this book will encounter or have already encountered. And I want those readers to be seen and heard in these pages.

Within these pages, the word *nigger* or *nigga* appears, sometimes in full and sometimes abbreviated as n\*\*\*\*. The same is true for *fag* and *faggot*, and their abbreviations. I included these slurs in the text in specific ways for specific emotional and intellectual effect. Please use the same

thoughtfulness when talking about this book. If you don't identify as Black, African American, or queer, don't use these slurs in full, which can be harmful to others. You can use common abbreviations, like *n-word* or *f-word* instead.

Please know that this book was crafted with care and love, but most importantly to give a voice to so many from marginalized communities whose experiences have not yet been captured between the pages of a book.

I hope this book will make you laugh at moments. I hope this book will make you cry at moments. I hope this book will open you up to understanding the people you may have never spoken to because of their differences from you. We are not as different as you think, and all our stories matter and deserve to be celebrated and told.

With love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George M. Johnson

the porn was heterosexual, it was enough of a reference point for me to get the job done.

I remember the condom was blue and flavored like cotton candy. I put some lube on and got him up on his knees, and I began to slide into him from behind. I tried not to force it because I imagined that it would be painful; I didn't want this moment to be painful. So I eased in, slowly, until I heard him moan.

As we moved, I could tell he was excited—I was, too, but the pride in me told me not to show it. I felt like I was in control and proud of myself for getting it right on the first try—all the while still being nervous. I wanted to stay dominant in that moment. We went at it for about fifteen minutes before I started to get that feeling. Weakness in the legs, numbness in the waist. I finally came and let out a loud moan—to the point where he asked me to quiet down for the neighbors. I pulled out of him and kissed him while he masturbated. Then, he also came.

That night was glorious. I had conquered a fear and had sex with a man on my own terms. The years of suppressing my identity and not dating or kissing had all come down to this one magical night in an apartment on the outskirts of Richmond, Virginia. I didn't want to leave, and he didn't make me. I did, however, get up to make a phone call to one of my line brothers. I left him a voicemail saying that I had finally had sex.

I then went back into his bedroom and climbed under the sheets. We both lay naked in each other's arms that night. For him, I was just a conquest of a cute frat boy on campus. For me, I was finally on my journey of sexual exploration and couldn't wait to do it again.

He and I had sex a second time two weeks later, before school let out for the summer. He went home, and I stayed in Richmond. That entire summer, however, I didn't do it again. I had several sexual encounters that involved mutual masturbation and kissing and fooling around, but I just couldn't bring myself to have penetrative sex again.

I was hesitant because I still had a lot of questions. As much as I enjoyed being on top, I wasn't sure if I always wanted to be the dominant person in the bedroom. I was still a novice at sex, and even more at gay culture and sexual positions. I wasn't sure if because I "topped" him, that

meant I always had to be the top. I also wanted to try the bottom position, which I associated with being the more submissive person. (Though if you know me, that ain't ever been me.) I just needed time to reflect, and figure out if sex for me was going to be the casual hookup thing or if I was ready to now seek something more.

★ ★ ★

That next semester, I entered my senior year of college. I was promoted to be the fraternity president, becoming one of the more well-known students on campus. It was a great start to what would be a great year. By that time, I was using a dating app online called Black Gay Chat.

One night, I got a message from another boy who went to school with me. He said that he had always had a crush on me and wanted to meet up. It was the night before I headed to Jersey for my birthday, so I agreed to meet up with him as an early birthday present to myself. I got to his apartment and we both began drinking while watching TV. This lasted all of ten minutes before we started kissing and undressing each other.

He then stood up and grabbed me by the hands and led me into his bedroom. We took each other's clothes off, fast but deliberate. After, he told me to lie down on the bed. He asked me to "turn over" while he slipped a condom on himself.

My heart immediately started to race. Nervously, I asked him what he was doing, and he said, "You." I laughed at first but then told him that I had never been the bottom. He looked at me and said, "Well, that's about to change tonight."

I was extremely nervous. There is a fear, as with most things that you are doing for the first time. But this was my ass, and I was struggling to imagine someone inside me. And he was ... large. But, I was gonna try.

I had previously topped someone who clearly enjoyed it, but he had been enjoying anal sex before I ever came along. He knew what to expect. I didn't. As an avid porn watcher, the only thing I knew about anal sex previously was that it was painful, or at least played up as such on the cameras.

Nervous and drunk, I listened and got on my stomach. He got on top and slowly inserted himself into me. It was the worst pain I think I had ever felt in my life. He then added more lube and tried again, which felt better but not by much. He began his stroking motion. Eventually, I felt a mix of pleasure with the pain.

I can't say that I didn't enjoy it, because I did. But it was painful for sure. In those few minutes though, I can say that he was gentle. His aim wasn't to hurt me, and my aim was for him to be pleased, too. He didn't last long inside of me, thankfully. He gave me a kiss before he pulled out. I didn't stay long, nor did I masturbate after. I was in a state of shock. I just wanted to get back home.

That next morning, me and my line brothers were planning to travel to Jersey for my birthday and I had to drive. But, I was in pain. I told them what I had done and before getting on the road, they picked up some Tylenol for me and explained, "It will take some time to get used to it." They were proud, though. I had earned another gay badge of honor like it was the Boy Scouts or something.

I was in pain for nearly three weeks following that encounter and too afraid to go to the doctor for help because I would have had to tell them I had been having anal sex. So, like most other trauma in my life, I sucked it up and dealt with the pain until my body healed. I didn't have sex for several months following that encounter.

But after a while, I got the courage to try it again, but this time I went into it much more prepared. With each time, I learned more about my body and the power to say, "No, that hurts." Sex should be pleasurable. And there are safe ways to ensure that. Like they say, *Practice makes perfect*, and I eventually got a lot of practice.

I often imagine what my first sexual experiences would have been like had I been given the ability to learn about what queer sex was when all my straight friends and classmates got to learn about what it looked like for them. My queer sexuality was one big, risky crash course, much like the other aspects of my queer existence.

There is so much danger in not providing proper education about sex to kids, especially for those who are having sex outside of the heteronormative

**Problematic Content from Gender Queer**

“I got a new strap-on today.  
I can’t wait to put it on you it will fit my favorite dildo perfectly.  
You are going to look SO HOT.  
I can’t wait to have your cock in my mouth. I’m going to give you the blow job of your life.  
Then I want you inside me. “

Audio of reading by Senator Kennedy in Senate Judiciary Committee:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bq4ddkPrAs>



# GENDER QUEER

A MEMOIR

MAIA KOBABE



# **GENDER QUEER**

**A MEMOIR BY  
MAIA KOBABE  
COLORS BY PHOEBE KOBABE**



COLORS BY PHOEBE KOBABE  
SENSITIVITY READ BY MELANIE GILLMAN  
EDITOR: ANDREA COLVIN  
ASSISTANT EDITOR: GRACE BORNHOFT

**GENDER QUEER: A MEMOIR**, PUBLISHED 2019 BY THE LION FORGE, LLC.  
© 2019 MAIA KOBABE. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. LION FORGE™ AND ALL  
ASSOCIATED DISTINCTIVE DESIGNS ARE TRADEMARKS OF THE LION FORGE, LLC.

THIS IS A WORK OF NON-FICTION.  
EXCEPT WHERE PERMISSION HAS BEEN GIVEN, ALL NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED.

PRINTED IN CZECH REPUBLIC.

ISBN: 978-1-5493-0400-2  
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CONTROL NUMBER: 2018958115  
LIONFORGE.COM  
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

FAST-FORWARD: WE'VE BEEN DATING FOR TWO MONTHS. WE'VE MADE OUT, WE'VE HAD SEX, WE'VE MOVED ON TO SEXTING AT WORK.





**Problematic Content from Flamer**

“We’re each busting a load into this bottle. If you don’t cum you have to drink it.”

<https://tahomaparents.org/news/1elz8u3t0npkesqvdu48hakk64tgxc>





Read more FREE comics on [ReadComicOnline](http://ReadComicOnline.net)

Henry Holt and Company, *Publishers since 1866*

Henry Holt® is a registered trademark of Macmillan Publishing Group, LLC

120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271 • [fiercereads.com](http://fiercereads.com)

FLAMER. Copyright © 2020 by Mike Curato.

All rights reserved.

Our eBooks may be purchased in bulk for promotional, educational, or business use.

Please contact the Macmillan Corporate and Premium Sales Department at

1-800-221-7945, ext.5442, or by e-mail at [MacmillanSpecialMarkets@macmillan.com](mailto:MacmillanSpecialMarkets@macmillan.com).

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available.

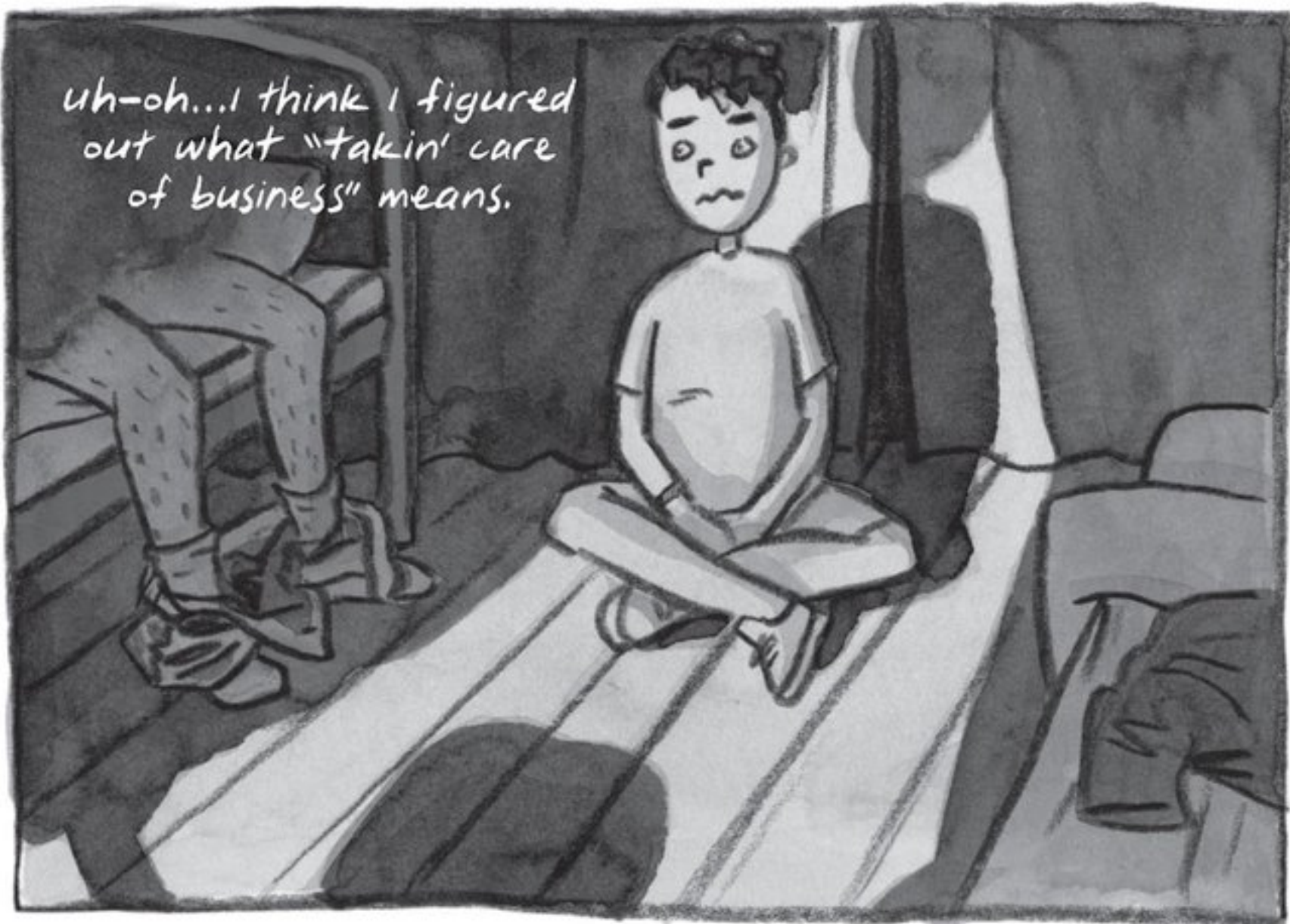
First edition, 2020 / Designed by Mallory Grigg and Colleen AF Venable

This book was made with black colored pencil and ink washes on bristol paper.

eISBN 978-1-250-80394-8

**Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline**

uh-oh...I think I figured  
out what "takin' care  
of business" means.



we're each busting a load  
into this bottle. If you  
don't cum, you have to  
DRINK IT! Hahahaha!



Gimme  
that! I'll  
show you.

