

## Mary Ann Saunders' List of Young Adult and Middle Grade Fiction by Trans and Nonbinary Writers (and some adult fiction too!)

### Young Adult Fiction I Have Read and Recommend:

- Charlie Jane Anders: ***Victories Greater Than Death***. Trans woman author. No overt trans content. SciFi.
- April Daniels: The Nemesis Series: ***Dreadnought*** (Book 1); ***Sovereign*** (Book 2). Trans woman author, trans girl teen protagonist. Superhero fiction.
- Juno Dawson: ***Clean***. Trans woman author, cisgender teen girl protagonist, trans teen girl secondary character. Realistic fiction. CW: drugs, addiction, eating disorders, mental health, self-harm.
- Juno Dawson: ***Meat Market***. Trans woman author. No overt trans/nb characters. Realistic fiction. CW: eating disorders, mental health, drug use, addictions, sexual assault.
- Juno Dawson: ***Wonderland***. Trans woman author. Realistic fiction. Trans teen girl protagonist. Realistic fiction. CW: drug use, mental health, self-harm, sexual assault. (Retelling of *Alice in Wonderland* with a trans girl Alice.)
- Kacen Callender: ***Felix Ever After***. Nonbinary author, trans masculine protagonist. Queer romance and lots of good POC representation.
- Mason Deaver: ***I Wish You All the Best***. Nonbinary author, nonbinary teen protagonist. Queer romance (and just lovely).
- Akwaeke Emezi: ***Pet***. Nonbinary author, trans teen girl protagonist. Speculative fiction; afrofuturism.
- Alison Evans: ***Euphoria Kids***. Nonbinary author. Three trans/nb teen protagonists. Fantasy. Witchcraft (good witchy fun!). (Although YA, many younger readers would enjoy this too, provided occasional spooky supernatural scenes don't frighten them.) (Evans has written other books as well.)
- Sybil Lamb (author and illustrator): ***The Girl Who Was Convinced beyond All Reason That She Could Fly***. Trans woman author. No overt trans content. Genre hard to assign, but a lovely book.
- Yoon Ha Lee: ***Dragon Pearl***. Nonbinary author. Gender-shifted protagonist. Sci-fi. (Combines sci-fi conventions with Korean folklore. Fantastic stuff.)
- Mariah McCarthy: ***Squad***. Nonbinary author, cisgender teen girl protagonist, secondary trans male teen character. Realistic fiction.
- Anna-Marie McLemore: ***When the Moon Was Ours***. Nonbinary author, trans masculine central character, trans woman secondary character. Magical realism. Latinx culture; Pakistani culture. (McLemore has written numerous other books as well.)
- Tobly McSmith: ***Stay Gold***. Trans male author. Trans teen boy protagonist, cisgender teen girl protagonist. Romance.
- Mark Oshiro: ***Anger Is a Gift***. Nonbinary author, cisgender protagonist, teen nonbinary and trans girl secondary characters. Realistic fiction. (Challenging read because centrally concerned with white supremacist racial violence and police brutality. But superb.)
- Meredith Russo: ***Birthday***. Trans woman author, trans teen girl protagonist. Realistic fiction.
- Meredith Russo: ***If I Was Your Girl***. Trans woman author, trans teen girl protagonist. Realistic fiction.
- Meredith Russo's titles cautiously recommended on the strength of the writing. Russo herself has been accused of physical and psychological abuse of her former spouse and some readers may prefer to avoid her books for this reason.*
- Pat Schmatz: ***Lizard Radio***. Nonbinary author, nonbinary protagonist. Speculative fiction; alternate timeline; dystopia.

Noelle Stevenson: ***Nimona***. Nonbinary author, no overt trans/nb characters. Graphic novel. Fun, funny, quirky.

Ray Stoeve: ***Between Perfect and Real***. Nonbinary author, trans teen boy protagonist. Realistic fiction. Theatre kids.

Aiden Thomas: ***Cemetery Boys***. Nonbinary author, trans teen boy protagonist. Magical realism. Latinx culture.

Aiden Thomas: ***Lost in the Never Woods***. Nonbinary author. No overt trans/nb content. Magical realism. (Retelling of Peter Pan.)

Gabriel D. Vidrine: ***On a Summer Night***. Trans masculine author, trans teen boy protagonist. Realistic fiction. (Younger YA. Summer camp & summer love.)

Xiran Jay Zhao: ***Iron Widow***. Nonbinary author. Sci-fi. (Brilliant book.)

### Middle Grade Fiction I Have Read and Recommend:

Lexie Bean: ***The Ship We Built***. Trans/nonbinary author, trans boy protagonist. Realistic fiction. CW: sexual abuse/incest survivor. (Brilliant book.)

Lisa Bunker: ***Zenobia July***. Trans woman author, trans girl protagonist, genderqueer major secondary character, trans boy minor secondary character. Realistic fiction.

Lisa Bunker: ***Felix Yz***. Trans woman author, cisgender protagonist, genderfluid grandparent. Speculative fiction.

Kacen Callender: ***Moonflower***. Nonbinary protagonist; healing from trauma. Fantasy.

Alex Gino: ***Alice Austen Lived Here***. Nonbinary protagonist & best friend, found queer family, queer history. Realistic fiction.

Alex Gino: ***Melissa***. Nonbinary author, trans girl protagonist. Realistic fiction.

Alex Gino: ***Rick***. Nonbinary author, asexual protagonist, trans girl secondary character, gender-expansive grandparent. Realistic fiction.

Alex Gino: ***You Don't Know Everything, Jilly P!*** Nonbinary author. No trans/nb content. Realistic fiction. (A story about a Deaf child told with Gino's typical care and sensitivity.)

Elizabeth LaPensée (writer) & KC Oster (illustrator): ***Rabbit Chase***. Nonbinary (Two-Spirit?) illustrator. Indigenous nonbinary protagonist. Graphic novel. Blends Anishinaabe traditions and *Alice in Wonderland*.

Kyle Lukoff: ***Too Bright to See***. Trans man author, trans boy protagonist. Sweet, gentle ghost story.

Nicole Melleby and A. J. Sass: ***Camp QUILTBAG***. Queer and nonbinary authors. Queer and nonbinary protagonists. (A novel about gay camp! But CampOUT! is a better camp. Still, it's a good book.)

Jules Machias: ***Both Can Be True***. Nonbinary author. Gender-fluid protagonist. Realistic fiction.

Ronnie Riley: ***Jude Saves the World***. Nonbinary protagonist & queer best friends. Realistic fiction.

A. J. Sass: ***Ana on the Edge***. Nonbinary author, nonbinary protagonist, transmasculine secondary character. Realistic fiction.

Kai Shappley and Lisa Bunker. ***Joy, to the World***. Trans girl & trans woman co-authors, trans girl protagonist. Realistic fiction.

Basil Sylvester and Kevin Sylvester: ***The Fabulous Zed Watson!*** Nonbinary and cisgender authors, Nonbinary protagonist. Road story (and a hilarious, light-hearted romp).

Esme Symes-Smith: ***Sir Callie and the Champions of Helston***. Nonbinary author. Nonbinary protagonist, gender-expansive central characters, gay dads. Fantasy (knights, tournaments, magic, &c.).

Lilah Sturges (writer) and Meaghan Carter (artist): ***Girl Haven***. Trans woman author, trans girl protagonist. Fantasy graphic novel.

Lin Thompson: ***The Best Liars in Riverview***. Nonbinary author, nonbinary protagonist. Realistic fiction.

## Young Adult and Middle Grade Books on My Current To-Read List:

### Young Adult

Charlie Jane Anders, ***Dreams Bigger Than Heartbreak***. Trans woman author. SciFi.

Charlie Jane Anders, ***Promises Stronger Than Darkness***. Trans woman author. SciFi.

A.R. Capetta: ***The Brilliant Death***. Fantasy.

A.R. Capetta: ***The Storm of Life***. Fantasy.

Juno Dawson: ***Her Majesty's Royal Coven***. Trans woman author.

Mason Deaver: ***The Ghosts We Keep***. Nonbinary author.

Akwaeke Emezi: ***Bitter***. Nonbinary author. Speculative fiction; Afrofuturism.

Isaac Fitzsimons: ***The Passing Playbook***. Trans male teen protagonist.

Emery Lee: ***Meet Cute Diary***. Nonbinary author, trans male teen protagonist.

Maya MacGregor: ***The Many Half-Lived Lives of Sam Sylvester***. Nonbinary author, nonbinary autistic teen protagonist.

Tash McAdam: ***Blood Sport***. Trans author, trans male teen protagonist.

Anna-Marie McLemore: ***Blanca & Roja***. Nonbinary author.

Anna-Marie McLemore: ***Dark and Deepest Red***. Nonbinary author.

Tobly McSmith: ***Act Cool***. Trans male author. Trans male teen protagonist.

Matthew J. Metzger: ***Sharing Secrets***.

Marieke Nijkamp: ***Even If We Break***. Thriller (and also horror?).

Steven Salvatore: ***Can't Take That Away***. Genderqueer author, and genderqueer protagonist.

Mia Siegert: ***Somebody Told Me***. Nonbinary author. Bigender protagonist.

Aiden Thomas: ***The Sunbearer Trials***. Nonbinary author. Trans male protagonist.

Xiran Jay Zhao: ***Zachary Ying and the Dragon Emperor***. Nonbinary author. Sci-fi.

### Middle Grade

Schuyler Bailar: ***Obie is Man Enough***. Trans male author. Trans male child protagonist.

Caroline Huntoon: ***Skating on Mars***. Nonbinary author. Nonbinary protagonist.

Jules Machias: ***Fight and Flight***. Nonbinary author. Gender nonconforming protagonist.

A. J. Sass: ***Ellen Outside the Lines***. Nonbinary, neurodivergent author. Queer (maybe nonbinary?) neurodivergent protagonist.

### Fiction for Adult Readers:

*Older young adults would likely enjoy many of these, particularly the \*starred\* titles, but some explore mature themes.*

- \*Charlie Jane Anders: ***All the Birds in the Sky***. Trans woman author. No overt trans content. Fantasy/magical realism.
- \*Charlie Jane Anders: ***The City in the Middle of the Night***. Trans woman author. No overt trans content. Sci-fi.
- Callum Angus: ***A Short History of Transition***. Trans author, trans characters. Short stories.

- Imogen Binnie: **Nevada**. Trans woman author, trans woman main character. Realistic fiction.
- Tom Cho: **Look Who's Morphing**. Trans man author, diversely gendered characters. Speculative fiction.
- \*Cat Fitzpatrick and Casey Plett (editors): **Meanwhile, Elsewhere: Science Fiction and Fantasy From Transgender Writers**.
- Calvin Gimpelevich: **Invasions**. Trans man author, trans characters. Short stories.
- Sybil Lamb: **I've Got a Time Bomb**. Trans woman author, trans woman characters.
- Andrea Lawlor: **Paul Takes the Form of a Mortal Girl**. Nonbinary author, shape-shifting/gender-shifting main character. Realistic fiction with magical realist elements. (Lots of sex.)
- \*Sassafras Lowrey: **Lost Boi**. Nonbinary author, diversely gendered characters. CW: unsafe kink/BDSM, sex work, drugs, addiction. (Retelling of Peter Pan.)
- Hope Nicolson (editor): **Love Beyond Space and Time: An Indigenous LGBT Sci-Fi Anthology**. Some Two-Spirit/trans content.
- Torrey Peters: **Detransition, Baby**. Trans woman author, trans women main characters. Realistic fiction.
- \*Torrey Peters: **Infect Your Friends and Loved Ones**. Trans woman author, trans women main characters. Speculative fiction; future dystopia. (Currently out of print. New edition apparently coming.)
- Hazel Jane Plante: **Little Blue Encyclopedia (For Vivian)**. Trans woman author, trans woman main character. Realistic fiction.
- Casey Plett: **A Dream of a Woman**. Trans woman author, trans women main characters. Realistic fiction.
- \*Casey Plett: **A Safe Girl to Love**. Trans woman author, trans women main characters. Realistic fiction.
- Casey Plett: **Little Fish**. Trans woman author, trans women characters. Realistic fiction.
- Jordy Rosenberg: **Confessions of the Fox**. Trans man author, transmasculine main character. Historical fiction; contemporary satire.
- \*Vivek Shraya: **The Subtweet**. Trans woman author, implicitly trans female main character. Realistic fiction.
- Vivek Shraya and Ness Lee: **Death Threat**. Trans woman author, trans woman main character. Graphic novel. CW: death threats.
- \*Rivers Solomon: **An Unkindness of Ghosts**. Nonbinary author, nonbinary main character. Sci-fi; Afrofuturism.
- John Elizabeth Stintzi: **Vanishing Monuments**. Nonbinary author, nonbinary main character. Realistic fiction.
- Bishakh Som: **Apsara Engine**. Trans woman author. Graphic novel/short stories. (Beautiful, strange, disturbing.)
- Rae Spoon: **First Spring Grass Fire**. Nonbinary author, nonbinary main character.
- \*Kai Cheng Thom: **Fierce Femmes and Notorious Liars: A Dangerous Trans Girl's Confabulous Memoir**. Trans woman author, trans women central characters. Magical realism. CW: sex work, violence.
- \*Joshua Whitehead (editor): **Love After the End: An Anthology of Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer Speculative Fiction**.
- Jia Qing Wilson Yang: **Small Beauty**. Trans woman author, trans woman main character. Realistic fiction.
- \*Neon Yang: The Tensorate Series: **The Black Tides of Heaven** (Book 1); **The Red Threads of Fortune** (Book 2); **The Descent of Monsters** (Book 3); **The Ascent to Godhood** (Book 4). Nonbinary author, gender-free children. Fantasy.