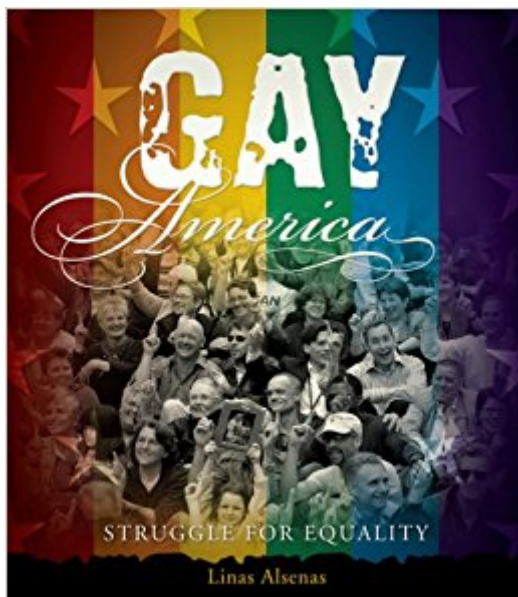


The book was found

Gay America: Struggle For Equality



Synopsis

Milestones of gay and lesbian life in the United States are brought together in the first-ever nonfiction book published specifically for teens. Profusely illustrated with archival images, the groundbreaking *Gay America* reveals how gay men and women have lived, worked, and loved for the past 125 years. Gays and lesbians play a very prominent role in American life today, whether grabbing headlines over political gains, starring in and being the subject of movies and television shows, or filling the streets of nearly every major city each year to celebrate Gay Pride. However, this was not always the case, and this book charts their journey along with the history of the country. First touching on colonial times, the book moves on to the Victorian period and beyond, including such historical milestones as the Roaring 20s, the Kinsey study, the McCarthy witch hunts of the 1950s, the Beat generation, Stonewall, disco, AIDS, and present-day battles over gay marriage. Providing a sense of hope mixed with pride, author Linas Alsenas demonstrates how, within one century, gay women and men have gone from being socially invisible to becoming a political force to be reckoned with and proud members of the American public living openly and honestly. The book includes a bibliography and an index.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 7-10 • This eminently readable work highlights the history of gays and lesbians in the U.S. Beginning with the Victorian period and following with five more chapters covering the 20th and 21st centuries through 2006, Alsenas prefaces each historically accurate section with a true story told from a personalized (or fictionalized) point of view, such as the

notorious 1892 Memphis murder of Freda Ward by her lover, Alice Mitchell. This technique, combined with abundant archival photos and the author's accessible writing style, makes the pages fly by almost as if reading a long, compelling story. Of course, this book only touches on salient points of LGBT history, but for young teens who are interested in learning about queer scholarship, it is an excellent place to begin. A good index, excellent notes, and a selected bibliography of resources, into which the author encourages readers to "dig deeper," only increase the usefulness of *Gay America*.
—Betty S. Evans, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield
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Starred Review Alsenas's landmark history of American gay life focuses largely on public attitudes toward homosexuality and the seemingly endless struggle for gay rights. After a brief survey covering pre-twentieth-century America, Alsenas narrows his focus to offer a closer examination of more recent events. Thus, Chapter Two deals with the period 1910–39; Chapter Three, with 1940–59; and so on until the final chapter brings the reader to the present—and beyond. In an effort to humanize his material, the author begins each chapter with an individual story told from a personalized (i.e., lightly fictionalized) point of view. While this succeeds in dramatizing factual material, the effort may be unnecessary, since the epic story the author tells of the gradual emergence of gays and lesbians from the shadows is itself a compellingly human drama. Alsenas's often sprightly, always engaging style makes his history even more reader-friendly, as do the many archival photographs that enliven each page. This first-ever book to cover this material for young adults is essential reading for all young people—gay, lesbian, and straight. Grades 7–12. --Michael Cart

As someone who has been a gay activist for 30+ years, this is a welcome and engaging book. The design of the book, images, and white space is particularly suited to teenagers. The writing is accessible and neutral in tone. This is an excellent choice for libraries and for discussion groups. I recommend giving this book to your local libraries, youth centers, LGBT centers, anywhere that teens might be looking for LGBT information. I clearly remember the first LGBT reading list published by the American Library Association that was all of 1 page. Barbara Gittings was the editor and one of the heroes mentioned in this book. I hope to meet the author should he come to the SF Bay Area for a reading.

This book is absolutely amazing! I don't read a lot but I have started reading books involving gay rights

to further educate myself on the issues effecting my dearest friends. This book goes over everthing!
It answered so many questions i had. i will be sharing this book with many people and encourage everyone to read it gay or straight.

Excellent!

This book, Gay America, written by Alsenas is a wonderful history of our struggle with equality as well as noting the great accomplishments for our LGBT community. The book itself is put together very well with a very nice front cover that would make it look great on an teen, or adult's bookshelf, or coffeetable. Kudos to Alsenas for this book!!!!

Good information. I needed better and more for a research project, but as far as it went it is an adequate book.

even for as old as it is this book has a lot of good points in it and my friends that have read it found it interesting

excellent

Love this book I learned alot about the history and sturggles of the gay community and I would recommend it for everyone to read

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