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The Full Spectrum: A New Generation Of Writing About Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Question



Synopsis

Teens are more aware of sexuality and identity than ever, and they're looking for answers and insights, as well as a community of others. In order to help create that community, YA authors David Levithan and Billy Merrell have collected original poems, essays, and stories by young adults in their teens and early 20s. The Full Spectrum includes a variety of writers' gay, lesbian, bisexual, straight, transitioning, and questioning on a variety of subjects: coming out, family, friendship, religion/faith, first kisses, break-ups, and many others. This one of a kind collection will, perhaps, help all readers see themselves and the world around them in ways they might never have imagined. We have partnered with the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) and a portion of the proceeds from this book will be donated to them.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 970L (What's this?)

Paperback: 336 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.7 x 8.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #304,515 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in Books > Teens > Personal Health > Sexuality & Pregnancy #22 in Books > Teens > Social Issues > LGBT Issues #39 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Sexuality

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

The pieces in this anthology tackle a myriad of topics: coming out, religion, first love, unaccepting parents/peers, religion, supportive parents/peers, the Boy Scouts, the military, religion(!); in a variety of settings: high school, New York City, college, junior high, Egypt. They are written by young people who fall under the umbrella term "queer," but identify as gay, bi, trans, lesbian, gender-variant, and more. Some of the pieces are positive and affirming, some speak of overcoming unbearable hardship and hate, some end as hopeless as they began. All of them are important and

valid, just like the young people who wrote them. As a collection, *The Full Spectrum* is ambitious. It strives to present a multitude of experiences and identities, and it does. The mix of guys and girls, trans or not, is great. The mix of topics is also expansive, and given how much religion is mentioned, the mix of opinions on it is also widely variant. Also the mix of poetry, prose, letters, and diary entries was great. I never felt bogged down in too much angsty poetry or journal writing; all was in balance. This mix of writing styles will, hopefully, make this book accessible and attractive to readers of all stripes. My main problem was with the editing. Some of these pieces are beautiful bits of polished writing. Some of them are not. I imagine this has a lot to do with the state they were in when they were submitted. Many of these pieces were written by young people about the most traumatic periods of their lives! Everything is in their writing and everything is raw. Everything. It is completely understandable that some of them lack polish. These pieces could have used the guidance of a good editor, and it is a shame that they didn't get it.

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