

# Booklist

## Queerly Beloved: A Conversation on Queer Romance Novels *Recommended for adults*

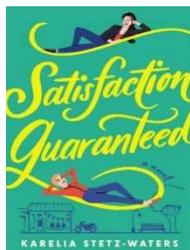
Check out Leah Koch's queer romance recommendations from our virtual program on February 9, 2022.



### **Compass Rose** by Anna Burke

Rose, who has an uncanny sense of direction and an inherent perception of cardinal points, goes on a secret mission deep into pirate territory. Accompanied by a ragtag crew of mercenaries and under the command of bloodthirsty and attractive Miranda, Rose discovers the hard way that even the best sense of direction won't be enough to keep her alive. This swashbuckling 26th century adventure novel is smart, colorful, and quirky, while delivering a healthy dose of heart, humor, and humility on every single page.

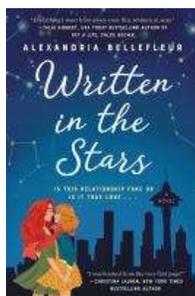
Catalog Link: <https://bit.ly/3GqDppj>



### **Satisfaction Guaranteed** by Karelia Stetz-Waters

When it comes to her career, Cade Elgin has it all figured out. When she inherits a sex toy store, Cade is caught between business and a store filled with every imaginable kind of pleasure—including her irresponsible and attractive new co-owner, Selena Mathis. Selena has taken an oath of celibacy and is focusing on how to make Satisfaction Guaranteed a success. But the shop isn't exactly vibe-ing, leaving Cade and Selena on the verge of losing both their income and the possibility of love.

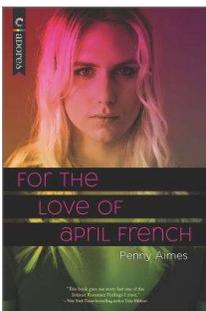
Catalog Link: <https://bit.ly/3FmvCaR>



### **Written in the Stars** by Alexandria Bellefleur

No-nonsense actuary Darcy Lowell is desperate to stop her well-meaning brother from playing matchmaker ever again. After a disastrous blind date with Twitter astrologer Elle Jones, Darcy begs Elle to play along and pretend to be her girlfriend! The last thing they expect is to develop real feelings during a faux relationship.

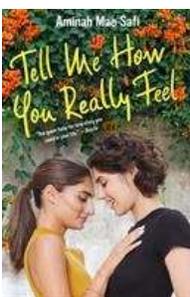
Catalog Link: <https://bit.ly/3r6GiVK>



***For the Love of April French* by Penny Aimes**

April French doesn't do relationships and she never asks for more. As a trans woman, she's used to being the scenic rest stop for others on their way to a happily-ever-after. She knows how desire works, and she keeps hers carefully boxed up to take out on weekends only. Then she meets Dennis Martin, fresh from Seattle and looking a little lost. April just meant to be friendly, but one flirtatious drink turns into one hot night. When the desire she thought she had such a firm grip on comes alive, April finds herself wanting passion, purpose, and commitment. Can she trust Dennis and herself?

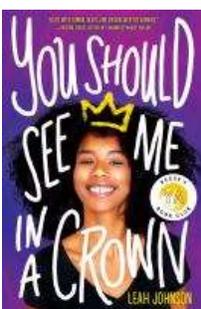
Catalog Link: <https://bit.ly/3FoOUfH>



***Tell Me How You Really Feel* by Aminah Mae Safi**

The first time Sana Khan asked out a girl—Rachel Recht—it went so badly that she never did it again. Rachel, a film buff, knows you don't trust pretty cheerleaders, and was furious that Sana tried to prank her by asking her on a date 3 years ago. When it comes time for Rachel to cast her senior project, she realizes that there's no more perfect lead than Sana. Will these two girls get over their pasts and find love together?

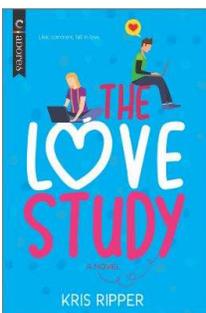
Catalog Link: <https://bit.ly/3zSiYz6>



***You Should See Me in a Crown* by Leah Johnson**

Liz Lighty has always done her best to avoid the spotlight in her small, wealthy, and prom-obsessed midwestern high school. Instead, she concentrates on her grades and her musical ability with the hope that it will win her a scholarship to elite Pennington College. When that scholarship falls through, she is forced to turn to her school's scholarship for prom king and queen, which plunges her into the gauntlet of social media, which she hates, and leads her to discoveries about her own identity and the value of true friendships.

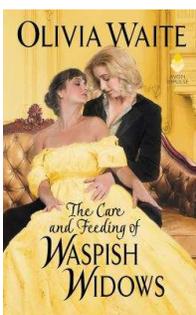
Catalog Link: <https://bit.ly/3K4VKEg>



***The Love Study* by Kris Ripper**

When Declan meets Sidney, a popular nonbinary YouTuber with an advice show, an opportunity presents itself: as part of The Love Study, Declan will go on a series of dates arranged by Sidney and report back on how the date went in the next episode. The dates are sort of blah. It's not Sidney's fault; the folks participating are (mostly) great people, but there is no chemistry there. Maybe Declan's just broken. Or maybe the problem is that the only person he's feeling chemistry with is Sidney.

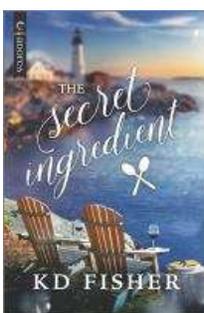
Catalog Link: <https://bit.ly/3FmxHnb>



***The Care and Feeding of Waspish Widows* by Olivia Waite**

Bees and passion bring grumpy printer Agatha Griffin and beekeeper Penelope Flood together in this historical romance. When Penelope's long absent husband returns home, she finds herself torn between her burgeoning love for Agatha and her loyalty to the man who once gave her refuge.

Catalog Link: <https://bit.ly/3topxs2>



***The Secret Ingredient* by KD Fisher**

For single mom Adah Campbell, the executive chef job at a posh restaurant in quaint South Bay, Maine is a dream come true—and the perfect opportunity to start over. But fitting in has never been easy, and between a new town, a new boss, and Beth Summers—the unexpectedly attractive owner of a rival café—things get off to a rocky start. As sparks fly, both chefs must decide if they are willing to make sacrifices or if there really are too many cooks in the kitchen.

Catalog Link: <https://bit.ly/3nHu45p>



***Meet Cute Club* by Jack Harbon**

Jordan Collins doesn't need a man. He definitely doesn't need Rex, the cute new employee at his local bookstore, to make fun of him for reading things meant for "grandmas". Once he joins Jordan's struggling book club and they begin working together, Rex reveals he might not be the arrogant troll he presented himself as.

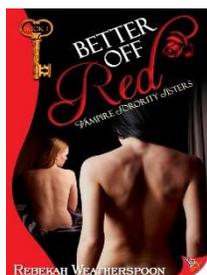
Catalog Link: <https://bit.ly/3zSgkcB>



***Spindrift* by Anna Burke**

Morgan Donovan has everything she ever wanted: a dream job as a large animal veterinarian, awesome friends, and a loving and supportive fiancée. But it all comes crashing down when her fiancée dumps her after realizing that Morgan's job will always come first. Emilia Russo is a burned-out shelter vet. When the unexpected death of her father triggers a mental breakdown she retreats to her father's house in Seal Cove, Maine. There she plans on putting her life and the house back together, but when the two women meet, what should have just been a summer fling turns into something more.

Catalog Link: <https://bit.ly/3rEcgdA>



**Better Off Red by Rebekah Weatherspoon**

Sorority girl Ginger Carmichael doesn't care about secrets. She has more important things on her mind, like maintaining her perfect GPA. No matter how much she can't stand the idea of the cliques and the matching colors, there's something about the girls of Alpha Beta Omega that draws Ginger in. But once initiation begins, Ginger finds that her pledge is more than a bond of sisterhood, it's a lifelong pact to serve six bloodthirsty demons with a lot more than nutritional needs. Despite her fears, Ginger falls hard for the immortal queen of this nest, and as the semester draws to a close, she sees that protecting her family from the secret of her forbidden love is much harder than studying for finals.

Overdrive Link: <https://bit.ly/3swvSPV>



**About Leah Koch**

Leah Koch is one of the owners of The Ripped Bodice bookstore, along with her sister and best friend Bea. The Ripped Bodice is the only exclusively romance bookstore on the West Coast. The Ripped Bodice opened on March 4, 2016 following a successful Kickstarter campaign to bring their dream of a romance-only bookstore to life. The store is proudly women and queer owned. Leah moved to Los Angeles to attend USC and preferring the eternal sunshine to Chicago winters...never left! When she isn't reading, she enjoys crafting and DIY, watching women's soccer, and the antics of her three cats.



**About the Store**

The Ripped Bodice features a vast and diverse selection of romance fiction. In addition to books, the store has a wide selection of gift items with a focus on supporting independent, woman-owned businesses.

The store and its owners undertake several large projects each year including *The Ripped Bodice State of Racial Diversity in Romance Report*, the *Read, Romance, Repeat* subscription box, and the development of television projects based on romance novels in association with Sony Pictures Television.



**Links**

Website: [therippedbodicela.com](http://therippedbodicela.com)

Twitter: [twitter.com/TheRippedBodice](https://twitter.com/TheRippedBodice)

Instagram: [instagram.com/therippedbodice](https://instagram.com/therippedbodice)

Tiktok: [tiktok.com/@therippedbodice](https://tiktok.com/@therippedbodice)