

Indigenous Literature with a Queer/LGBT/Two-Spirit Sensibility

A Note about the List:

This list is a general resource, being neither exhaustive nor authoritative. Not everyone on this list is LGBT/Queer/Two-Spirit; some are included because of their sensitivity to Queer issues and sensibilities. Inclusion (or exclusion) of writers from this list should not be construed as verification of their sexual orientations, gender identities, or opinions regarding LGBT issues.

kateri akiwenzie-damm (Anishinaabe)

My Heart is a Stray Bullet
bloodriver woman

Sherman Alexie (Spokane/Coeur d'Alene)

The Toughest Indian in the World
The Business of Fancydancing (film)
Old Shirts and New Skins

Paula Gunn Allen (Laguna Pueblo/Sioux)

Life is a Fatal Disease: Selected Poems 1964-94
The Sacred Hoop: Recovering the Feminine in American Indian Traditions
The Woman Who Owned the Shadows

Beth Brant (Bay of Quinte Mohawk)

Writing as Witness: Essay and Talk
Mohawk Trail
Food and Spirits: Stories

Chrystos (Menominee)

Dream On
Fire Power
In Her I Am
Not Vanishing

Qwo-Li Driskill (Cherokee/Osage/Lenape/Lumbee)

Book of Memory: Honor Poems
Burning Upward Flight
Walking with Ghosts: Poems

Louise Erdrich (Turtle Mountain Chippewa)
Love Medicine
The Antelope Wife
The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse

Janice Gould (Koyangk'auwi Maidu)
Earthquake Weather
Beneath My Heart

Joy Harjo (Mvskoke)
In Mad Love and War
A Map to the Next World
She Had Some Horses

Tomson Highway (Cree)
Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing
Kiss of the Fur Queen
The Rez Sisters

Daniel Heath Justice (Cherokee)
Kynship: The Way of Thorn and Thunder, Book One
Wyrwood: The Way of Thorn and Thunder, Book Two

Maurice Kenny (Mohawk)
Backward to Forward: Prose Pieces
Tekonwatonti/Molly Brant: Poems of War

Janet McAdams (Creek)
The Island of Lost Luggage

Deborah Miranda (Esselen/Chumash)
Indian Cartography
The Zen of La Llorona

(Rollie) Lynn Riggs (Cherokee)
The Cherokee Night
The Cream in the Well
The Iron Dish

Gregory Sarris (Miwok/Pomo)
Grand Avenue

Keeping Slug Woman Alive: A Holistic Approach to American Indian Texts
Watermelon Nights

Gregory Scofield (Métis)

I Knew Two Metis Women

Love Medicine and One Song

Thunder Through My Veins: Memories of a Métis Childhood

James Thomas Stevens (Akwesasne Mohawk)

Combing the Snakes from His Hair

A Bridge Dead in the Water

Craig S. Womack (Muskogee Creek/Cherokee)

Drowning in Fire

Red on Red: Native American Literary Separatism

Other writers

Joanne Arnott (Anishinaabe/Lakota)

Cathie Dunsford (Maori)

Connie Fife (Cree)

Jewell Gomez (Wampanoag/Ioway)

Carole laFavor (Anishinaabe)

Vickie Sears (Cherokee)

Alice Walker (Cherokee)

Selected Secondary Sources

A Note About Terminology:

Indigenous people identify same-sex eroticism and non-dualistic concepts of gender by many names, and we have attempted to respect that diversity here. Different communities have different terms and understandings – such as *winkte* and *koskalaka* (as per Allen) among Lakotas and *nádleeh* among Navajos -- that do not always translate into Eurowestern concepts of sexuality and gender. As most of these concepts are tribally-specific and thus not universal, we have generally kept with the inclusive acronym LGBTQ, the broader "Queer," or the contemporary pan-Native "Two-Spirit." The latter is a contested term, as it collapses cultural differences into a binary concept that is not equally applicable or relevant to all Indigenous communities. Nevertheless, many contemporary Native people embrace the concept of Two-Spirit, so we acknowledge it here along with LGBTQ and Queer. The term "berdache," however, is a different matter. It is used by some of the

secondary sources (particularly Will Roscoe), but it is strongly disliked by most LGBTQ/Queer/Two-Spirit people, and is generally perceived as an insult.

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- * In particular, see "Changing Native American Roles in an Urban Context and Changing Native American Sex Roles in an Urban Context" and "Warrior Women: Sex Role Alternatives for Plains Indian Women."
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