

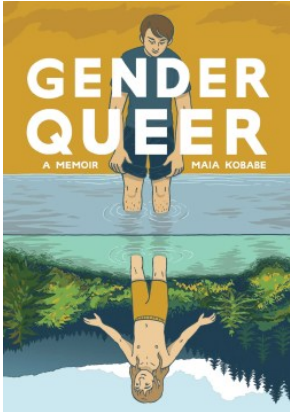
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Gender queer (#1003UW3)

by [Kobabe, Maia](#)

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LGBTQIA+

LGBTQIA+ is a common abbreviation for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Pansexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersexed, Asexual and Ally community. This community embraces a breadth of sexual orientations and gender identities and provides an environment of openness without discrimination or harassment.

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Learning Focus

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Library Classifications

[Autobiographical comics.](#)[Comics \(Graphic works\)](#)[Gender identity Comic books, strips, etc.](#)[Kobabe, Maia Comic books, strips, etc.](#)[Nonfiction comics.](#)[Sex Psychological aspects Comic books, strips, etc.](#)

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Overview

From Follett

An autobiographical comic in which the author discusses their path to identifying as nonbinary and asexual, and coming out to family and society.

From the Publisher

In 2014, Maia Kobabe, who uses e/em/eir pronouns, thought that a comic of reading statistics would be the last autobiographical comic e would ever write. At the time, it was the only thing e felt comfortable with strangers knowing about em. Now, Gender Queer is here. Maia's intensely cathartic autobiography charts eir journey of self-identity, which includes themortification and confusion of adolescent crushes, grappling with how to comeout to family and society, bonding with friends over erotic gay fanfiction, and facing the trauma and fundamental violation of pap smears. Started as a way to explain to eir family what it means to be nonbinary and asexual, Gender Queer is more than a personal story: it is a useful and touching guide on gender identity—what it means and how to think about it—for advocates, friends, and humans everywhere.

Product Details

Publisher: [The Lion Forge, LLC](#)

Interest Level: AD

Publication Date: May 28, 2019

Format: Paperback

Dewey: [306.76](#)

Classifications: Autobiography, Nonfiction

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Follett Number: 1003UW3

Reviews & Awards

Alex Award, 2020

School Library Journal starred, 07/01/19

Publishers Weekly, 02/25/19

Full-Text Reviews

Publishers Weekly (February 25, 2019)

This heartfelt graphic memoir relates, with sometimes painful honesty, the experience of growing up non-gender-conforming. From a very young age, Kobabe is unsure whether to claim a lesbian/gay, bisexual, or even transgender identity: "I don't want to be a girl. I don't want to be a boy either. I just want to be myself." Kobabe comes of age having to navigate expressions of identity such as clothing and haircuts, with fraught attempts at romantic and sexual entanglements. Eventually, Kobabe's supportive sister concludes: "I think you're a genderless person." (Kobabe: "She knew before I did.") Kobabe continues to explore the challenges of a nonbinary identity, including the use of alternate pronouns (in Kobabe's case, e/em/eir), the trauma of cervical exams, refuting misplaced concerns from a loving relative who believes "female to male" transgenderism could be rooted in a form of misogyny, and learning that the term autoandrophilia actually applies "for me." Intermixed are lighthearted episodes relating Kobabe's devotion to LGBTQ-inspired Lord of the Rings fan fiction and hero worship of flamboyant ice-skating champion Johnny Weir. Kobabe is a straightforward cartoonist who uses the medium skillfully (if not particularly stylishly), incorporating ample cheery colors, with a script that's refreshingly smooth and nondidactic for the topic. This entertaining memoir-as-guide holds crossover appeal for mature teens (with a note there's some sexually explicit content) and is sure to spark valuable discussions at home and in classrooms. (May.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

School Library Journal (July 1, 2019)

Gr 9 Up-Kobabe, who uses the pronouns e, em, and eir, was assigned female at birth but never felt that this designation fit. As e grew up, e learned about the spectrum of gender designations and settled on nonbinary as the best descriptor. E came out to eir family as nonbinary and asexual and found that eir family supported em however e identified. In this memoir, Kobabe chronicles eir life from the time e was very young through eir coming of age and adulthood. E describes common situations from the perspective of someone who is asexual and nonbinary: starting a new school, getting eir period, dating, attending college. The muted earth tones and calm blues match the hopeful tone and measured pacing. Matter-of-fact descriptions of gynecological exams and the use of sex toys will be enlightening for those who may not have access to this information elsewhere. VERDICT A book to be savored rather than devoured, this memoir will resonate with teens, especially fans of Alison Bechdel's Fun Home and Mason Deaver's I Wish You All the Best. It's also a great resource for those who identify as nonbinary or asexual as well as for those who know someone who identifies that way and wish to better understand.-Jenni Frencham, Indiana University, Bloomington © Copyright 2019. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

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