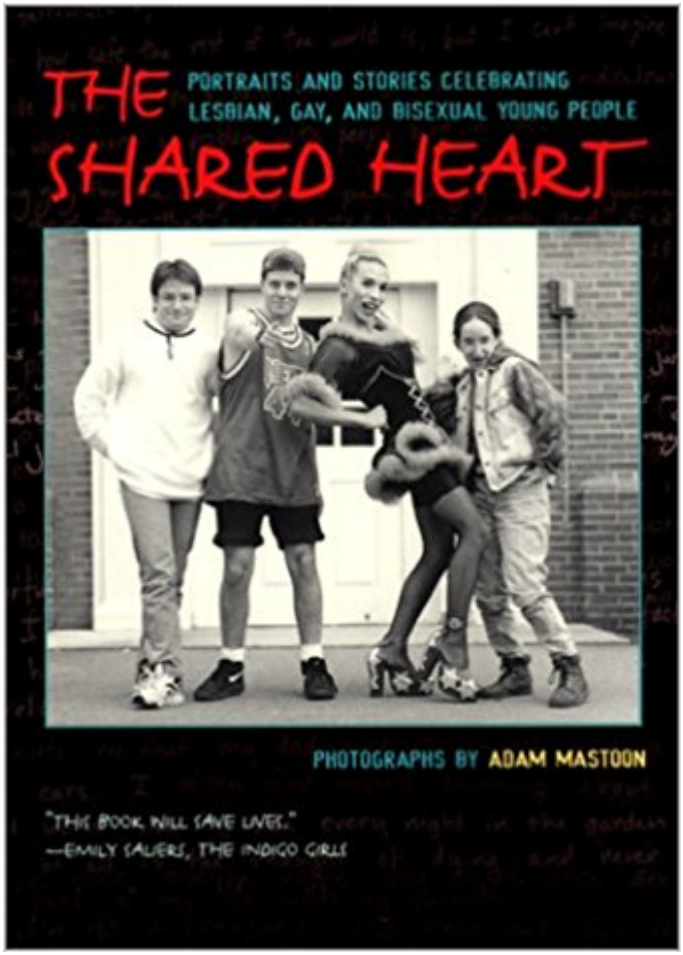
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The Shared Heart: Portraits And Stories Celebrating Lesbian, Gay, And Bisexual Young People



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Synopsis

In this stirring collection of photographs and personal narratives, forty lesbian, gay, and bisexual young people share their thoughts and experiences about family, friends, culture, and coming out. Their writings reflect the soul searching, pain, and transformation they have undergone. The photographs show the faces of dynamic, thoughtful, hopeful members of our communities and world.

Book Information

Age Range: 12 and up

Lexile Measure: 910L (What's this?)

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: HarperTeen (May 8, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 006447304X

ISBN-13: 978-0064473040

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.4 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,172,248 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #62 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Social Issues > LGBT Issues #153 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Social Issues > Being a Teen #289 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Abuse

Customer Reviews

Adam Mastoon's beautifully reproduced photographs of gay, lesbian, and bisexual young people are a revelation: each subject, posed yet casual, looks directly into the camera and invites us into his or her life. But the book is more than a photo gallery, and the personal statements written by each young person brings a sense of what it means to be a gay youth today. In a world in which gay teens are told that they either don't exist or should change their sexual orientation, The Shared Heart is a beacon of hope, clarity, and joy. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 7 Up?A remarkable collection of 40 narratives and photographs of gay, lesbian, and bisexual young adults. All in their late teens and early 20s, they tell in frank, open narratives what it is like to be bisexual and homosexual. They speak of the moments in their lives when they came to realize

they were not heterosexual, how they struggled with their decision to come out, how their families and friends reacted, and how they have been treated by loved ones and strangers. These young people are activists, artists, athletes, class presidents, and performers. Some live in small towns and some in big cities. Some have the loving acceptance and support of their families and some are totally estranged. While no one story is the same, all have shared some experiences. For instance, they all have been victims of intolerance to some extent. They all speak of how coming out enabled them to become truly comfortable with themselves. Candid, black-and-white photographs of the subjects bring their words to life. Mastoon does a wonderful job of capturing the personalities of these young people. Beneath their photographs are brief statements written in their own handwriting. What is most admirable about these narrators is their courage to speak so openly. Their fearless, uninhibited celebration of themselves and their demand for dignity and respect are truly inspiring. Young adult readers, gay and straight, will find these passionate, life-affirming testimonies memorable and moving.?Edward Sullivan, New York Public LibraryCopyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My daughter came out at a very young age. I was hurt, mortified, embarrassed, very disappointed you name it. However, I was determined to understand. I heard about this book and immediately started searching for it. I would recommend this book for all family members of age. It helps you look at things from there perspective.

Sometimes a book so special and intimate comes along that it draws the reader off the printed page and into a new possibility for life. Such is the case with "The Shared Heart," a collection of images and essays photographed and compiled by Adam Mastoon, a Massachusetts-based photographer, whose work has been exhibited nationally, and featured in Esquire, Forbes, Spin, and the Village Voice.The 87-page book offers a series of poignant glimpses at more than 30 young people, all of whom are lesbian, gay or bisexual."Meeting and photographing the young people in this book has been a profound experience for me," says Mastoon. "Their fearless commitment to be themselves deeply inspires me."Each young person’s individuality is perfectly captured through the lens of Mastoon, and below each image is a short handwritten essay by the subject, as well as a longer, typewritten one. The attention to detail is evident-everything about this book says "crafted with care," including the young people themselves.They come from every background. Some are class presidents, others are artists. Some have endured family rejection because of religious beliefs or cultural issues. All of them speak with candor and courage. Their collective testimony amounts to a

powerful account of the virtues of bravery and honesty.

This was the first book I found when I started accepting my sexuality, and I have to say I was so moved by what I read here that I found the courage to come out myself. What makes this book so much more different from other accounts of GLBTQ youth is that this book also comes with a photo of each teen, so we have faces to match the stories with. And it’s not all "boo-hoo, we’re unaccepted gays", though we do have a few stories like that. But we also have tons of stories that cover all possible societal reactions, and each story provides a ray of hope for any GLBTQ person. A classic that must be on the shelf of every GLBTQ person’s library.

I have recomended this book to everyone I know, gay, straight, bi, questioning... everyone should read it. The combination of both the pictures, and the typed and handwritten text strikes the reader, and shows a side of growing up homosexual that a lot of books don’t often show, that you can still be completely normal, you don’t have to act or dress funny, you don’t have to hate yourself for it, you can be happy about it, and still lead a normal life. This book inspired me to come out (the day after i read it) to my best friend, and a little while later, to seek guidence from an adult, lesbian, friend who i trusted. Everyone should be able to have inspiration like that.

The shared heart is more than a heartfelt investigation of its subject, it it a moviing study of the human animal. Regardless of ones sexual orientation it should be looked at and carefully read by people everywhere. We have all experienced the feeling of being cast aside by some aspect of our society at some time in out lives. As I have the honor of being a close personal friend of the author I can confirm that his heart, soul and the very essence of his being have all been put into this book. bravo. bravo. bravo.

When I read this book, I cried. I cried because not only was I gay and still closeted, but I had lied to so many people I loved, and these people had the ocurage to come out. Thank you, thank you, thank you!! It was so lovely, and so elegantly mastered. I can’t wait until Adam Mastoon does a sequel (HINT! HINT! HINT!) There are no words to describe how I felt when I realized that there are so many people out there that are like me. God bless you. God bless you all.

This book is so beautiful that any truly loving human being will be moved and touched forever by it. It will save the lives of teenagers who see it, and every library in America should be required to

purchase it. It is simply a wonderful look into real people's souls, dispelling the lies that people have been made to believe until they are afforded an opportunity (such as this book) to see that they have been lied to about gay people.

This is a beautiful book that I received as a gift from my boyfriend. Anyone will profit from reading it. The stories in it, written by a number of lesbian,gay,and bisexual youth, are honest and very moving. It says to all the people who are still in the closet: wherever you are, you're not alone! And it also shows how gay people are just as diverse, talented, and lovable as straight people anywhere.

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