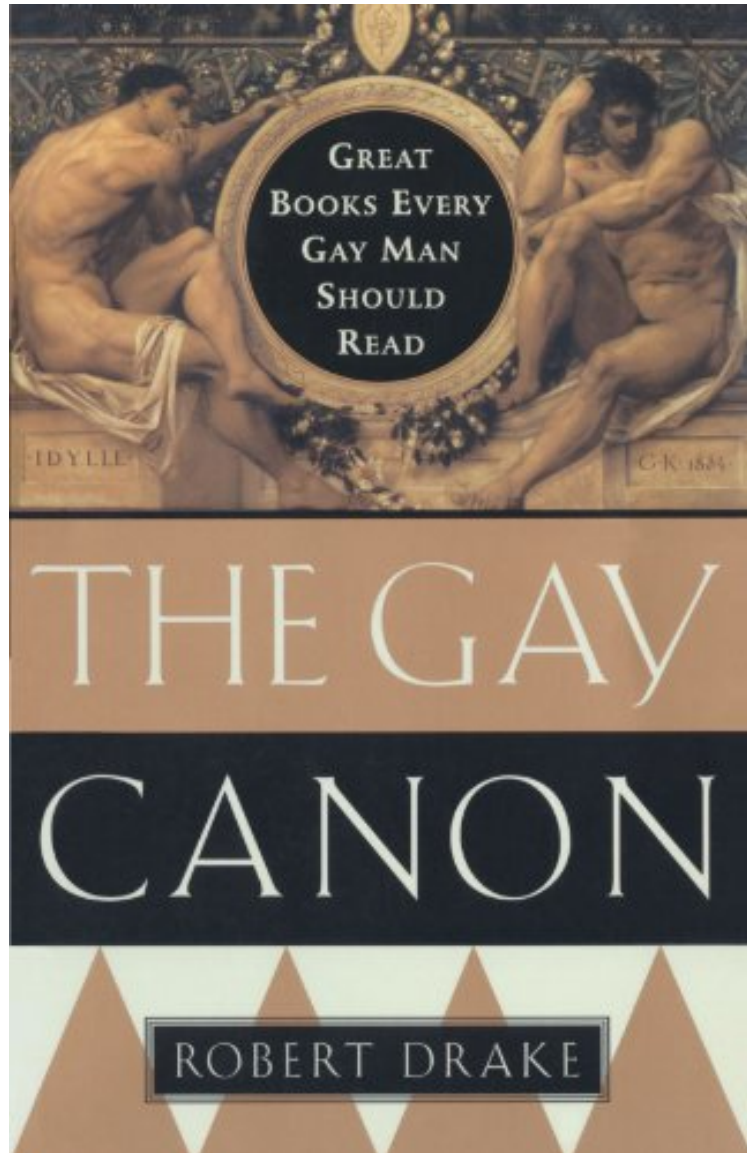


[Read free ebook] The Gay Canon: Great Books Every Gay Man Should Read

The Gay Canon: Great Books Every Gay Man Should Read

Robert Drake

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#462616 in Books Robert Drake 1998-11-10 1998-11-10 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x 1.06 x 5.191, .89 #File Name: 0385492286473 pages The Gay Canon Great Books Every Gay Man Should Read | File size: 36.Mb

Robert Drake : The Gay Canon: Great Books Every Gay Man Should Read before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gay Canon: Great Books Every Gay Man Should Read:

13 of 16 people found the following review helpful. More irritating than useful By A Customer I have to give Drake credit here for a couple of good ideas: the formation of an actual canon of gay/gay-themed works and the suggested ways of building a reading group around those works. However, his approach borders on the erratic (some texts get

huge write-ups, others barely get a page with little or no mention as to why they should be included in this survey) and his writing style aims for cleverness but usually only makes it to melodramatic, twee, or even flat-out vulgar. In my quest to find recommendations of "gay lit," I have been better served by collections such as *Pages Passed from Hand to Hand* and especially *The Columbia Anthology of Gay Literature*, both of which provide not only spot-on analysis but also sizeable and helpful excerpts of the works themselves. (And not to quibble--after all, it's Drake's list, not mine--but was *Dancer from the Dance* really as awful as he would like us to believe, and where is Leavitt's *The Lost Language of Cranes*?) 5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Necessity that Longs for Expansion
By imagine77
Literary study demands a Gay Anthology, and a companion to such a compilation, but this particular attempt is sparse and leaves much to be desired. Drake offers brief commentary on a variety of works, some that overtly belong in the "gay canon," some that don't, but in too many places, the commentary is too brief. For example, the entry on Arthur Rimbaud is merely 3 paragraphs long. There is no mention of Sappho in the book. Overall, this book is a great idea, but it has been a poorly executed one in this case. 7 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A Good Guide
By Terrance H. Heath
OK. No book attempting to establish any kind of a canon, let alone a gay canon is going to satisfy anyone. I picked this book up a couple of years ago, and used it as the basis for an online book group that read through Drake's recommended book group selections. Since then, the book group has dissolved, but I've kept the book on hand as a handy guide when I'm looking for something to read and don't have any immediate ideas. Drake's list is by no means exhaustive or all-inclusive, but it's a good place for the curious, or anyone who just wants to broaden their literary horizons, to start.

There are countless works of interest to gay men in print right now--anthologies, novels, memoirs, and more. It is a reflection of progress that there is such an openly recognizable culture. Yet how to make sense of the choices offered? What do gay men need to read? What books have shaped the gay heart, mind, and soul? *The Gay Canon* gives its readers answers to these questions. Not only does it list the one hundred great gay books that have influenced writers and continue to shape the gay imagination, it also provides a deeper, more comprehensive look at the twenty-six most seminal works, each of which is followed by a series of useful group discussion questions. Reaching all the way back to Gilgamesh and continuing through classics like *Leaves of Grass*, *Confessions of a Mask*, and *The Wild Boys*, as well as more recent books like *Borrowed Time*, *The Gay Canon* consistently avoids impenetrable academic literary criticism in favor of a more popular introduction for general readers and book groups. *The Gay Canon* is a book to give to any young man just coming out, a book every gay reading group will want to rely on, and--most important--a book that will enrich and improve the gay story that continues to be written.

.com Any attempt to identify the canonical or authoritative texts of any culture, let alone one as diverse as gay culture, is going to be fraught with peril, but Robert Drake makes a valiant effort here, operating on the assumption that "a gay book is a book that addresses issues of same-sex love, or a book written by an author who enjoys his same gender for sexual fulfillment and/or relief." (Of course, buried in that statement is an implicit assumption that we are, for the time being, only considering "same-sex love" between men; the formation of the lesbian canon is a task Drake leaves to others.) With position in the canon determined either by content or authorial orientation, but not necessarily both, some interesting choices wind up on the roster. You expected E.M. Forster, Marcel Proust, and Tony Kushner, no doubt, but what about Henry David Thoreau and Anne Rice? Twenty-three books are explored in particular depth, with the aim of providing a syllabus to be pursued alone or in a book group. Chances are you probably won't agree with everything Drake has to say about gay literature, but there's no doubt *The Gay Canon* will provoke and stimulate you. --Ron Hogan
From Library Journal
The word canon is used by academics as a way of cordoning off the corpus of literature that holds primacy in the attention of the dominant culture. The literature of minorities is usually excluded, but many groups form a canon of their own. Byrne Fone's *The Columbia Anthology of Gay Literature: Readings from Western Antiquity to the Present Day* (LJ 5/15/98) is a massive and thoughtful selection, while Gregory Woods's *A History of Gay Literature: The Male Tradition* (LJ 4/1/98) is a brilliant exposition of the great issues informing the gay canon. Drake, editor of the ongoing series *His: Brilliant New Fiction by Gay Men* (LJ 9/1/95), here offers a lay reader's introduction to the debate. It is at once a "reader's adviser," making suggestions for reading groups; a reference book; and a subjective list of greatest hits. There is, however, a real lack of balance in the amount of space given to the selected works. Libraries serving large gay populations will want this as a practical tool; others will do better with Fone and Woods. ?David S. Azzolina, Univ. of Pennsylvania Libs., Philadelphia
Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From the Publisher
The publishers of *The Gay Canon* are deeply saddened to report that on January 31, 1999, Robert Drake was found in his apartment in Sligo, Ireland, badly beaten with severe head injuries. His condition since then has been critical, and as of this writing he has not yet regained consciousness. On February 24th, two men were arrested and charged by the Sligo District Court with "assault causing serious harm." One of the men also faces a second charge of stealing Mr. Drake's American passport and wallet. The two men were remanded on bail to a sitting of the District Court in Sligo on the 18th of March. "Assault causing serious harm" is the most severe assault charge in the Irish court system. The attack is a horrible tragedy that has stunned Robert's family, friends, and

colleagues. There is evidence to suggest that the assault was a bias crime, and many of Robert's supporters have mobilized to raise public awareness in America and in Ireland. Several websites are currently featuring information and updates about Robert's case as well as his medical condition, and they are listed below. A fund has been also established to bring Robert back home to the United States so that he can receive the best possible medical care and be united with his parents, who are infirm and cannot make the trip to Ireland to be with him. If you would like to make a contribution to the fund, please feel free to send your donation to The Robert Drake Fund, in care of The Baltimore Alternative, P.O. Box 2351, Baltimore, MD 21203. For information on hate crimes and how to eradicate hate crimes in the U.S., contact the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force at 202/332.6483 For more information: Friends of Robert Drake: Jeffrey Smith, 312/558.8727 (after hours: 312/213.2999) American Embassy, Dublin: Barbara Scarlett, (011) 353.1.668.9184