

# WTBBL Book List:

## Trans Joy

Celebrate the joys and contributions of trans, nonbinary, and gender-nonconforming people everywhere! Whether they're going on epic adventures, falling in love, or recounting their life story, these books highlight trans people living their best lives.

**Before We Were Trans: A New History of Gender** by Kit Heyam, 2022. ([DB110620](#))

Today's narratives about trans people tend to feature individuals with stable gender identities that fit neatly into the categories of male or female. Those stories, while important, fail to account for the complex realities of many trans people's lives. This book illuminates the stories of people across the globe, from antiquity to the present, whose experiences of gender have defied binary categories. Blending historical analysis with sharp cultural criticism, trans historian and activist Kit Heyam offers a new, radically inclusive trans history, chronicling expressions of trans experience that are often overlooked. – description by publisher

**Cemetery Boys/Los chicos del Cementerio** by Aiden Thomas, 2020 ([DB101679](#), [DB103849 en español](#))

Yadriel, a trans teen, summons the angry spirit of his high school's bad boy, and agrees to help him learn how he died, thereby proving himself a brujo, not a bruja, to his conservative family. – description by publisher

**Chef's Choice (Chef's Kiss, #2)** by T.J. Alexander, 2023. ([DB116235](#))

When Luna O'Shea is unceremoniously fired from her frustrating office job she tries to count her blessings: she's a proud trans

woman with great friends and a good life in New York City. But blessings don't pay the bills. Enter Jean-Pierre, a trans man and the heir to a huge culinary empire-which he'll only inherit if he can jump through all the hoops his celebrity chef grandfather has placed in his path. First hoop: he needs a girlfriend, a role that Luna is happy to play...for the right price. Second hoop: they both need to learn how to cook a series of world-renowned family recipes to prove that Jean-Pierre is worthy. Admittedly, Luna doesn't even know how to crack an egg, but she's not going to let that stop her. – description by publisher

**Different Kinds of Fruit** by Kyle Lukoff, 2022. ([DB107929](#), [LP026467](#))

Annabelle fully expects this school year to be the same as every other; so she's elated to discover there's a new kid in town. Bailey is a breath of fresh air. She loves hearing about their life in Seattle, meeting their loquacious parents, and hanging out at their massive house. Suddenly 6th grade is anything but the same. And when her father shares that he and Bailey have something big in common, Annabelle begins to see herself, and her family, in a whole new light. – description by publisher

**Falling Back in Love with Being Human: Letters to Lost Souls** by Kai Cheng Thom, 2023 ([DB116790](#))

Kai Cheng Thom grew up a Chinese Canadian trans girl in a hostile world. Finding herself in a crisis of faith, rather than succumb to despair, she gathered all her rage and grief and took one last leap of faith: she wrote. Whether prayers or spells or poems, she wrote to affirm the outcasts and runaways she calls her kin, to people with good intentions who harm their own, and to racists and transphobes seemingly beyond saving. What emerged was a blueprint for falling back in love with being human. – modified from the publisher's description

**Felix Ever After** by Kacen Callender, 2020 ([DB099889](#), [LP026281](#))

Felix Love, a transgender seventeen-year-old, attempts to get revenge by catfishing his anonymous bully, but lands in a quasi-love triangle with his former enemy and his best friend. – description by publisher

**Growing Up Trans: In Our Own Words** edited by Lindsay Herriot, 2021 ([DBC19089](#), [BRW08758](#))

What does it mean to be young and transgender today? Growing Up Trans shares stories, essays, art, and poetry created by trans youth aged 11 to 18. In their own words, the works illustrate the trans experience through childhood, family and daily life, school, their bodies, and mental health. – description by publisher

**Light from Uncommon Stars** by Ryka Aoki, 2021. ([DB105930](#), [BR024241](#))

Shizuka has made a deal with the devil to deliver the souls of violin prodigies, and when she meets a talented young trans runaway, she knows she's found her final candidate. But when Shizuka runs into retired starship captain Lan Tran, her plans are soon derailed. – modified from the publisher's description

**Man O' War** by Cory McCarthy, 2022. ([DB113098](#), [BR024971](#))

River McIntyre has grown up down the street from Sea Planet, an infamous marine theme park slowly going out of business in small-town Ohio. When a chance encounter with a happy, healthy queer person on the annual field trip lands River literally in the shark tank, they must admit the truth: they don't know who they are—only what they've been told to be. – modified from the publisher's description

**Melissa** by Alex Gino, 2015. ([DB082273](#), [LP026095](#))

When people look at George, they think they see a boy, but she knows she's really a girl. A class play pushes George to take action. George and her friend Kelly come up with a plan so that everyone can know who she truly is. Winner of the 2016 Stonewall Book Award as well as the 2016 Lambda Literary Award. – description by publisher

**Redefining Realness: My Path to Womanhood, Identity and So Much More** by Janet Mock, 2014. ([DB096017](#))

Writer, director and activist Janet Mock chronicles her life growing up in America multiracial, poor, and trans. Discusses her own experiences coming out to her family and loved ones, challenges she faced in her industry, and the dangers faced by trans women of color. – description by publisher

**Wrath Goddess Sing** by Maya Deane, 2022. ([DB109920](#)).

Achilles has fled her home to live as a woman with the kallai, the transgender priestesses of Great Mother Aphrodite. When Odysseus comes to recruit the “prince” Achilles for a war against the Hittites, she prepares to die rather than fight as a man. However, her divine mother Athena intervenes, transforming her body into the one she always longed for, and promises her everything: glory, power, fame, victory in war, and even a child born of her own body. Reunited with her beloved cousin, Patroklos, and his brilliant wife, the sorceress Meryapi, Achilles sets out to war with a vengeance. – modified from the publisher’s description