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### A Dozen New LGBTQ+ Picture Books on Family, Heritage, Heroes, and More

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com  
contributing writer

As the season winds down, here's a roundup of some of the best LGBTQ+-inclusive picture books published over the summer—an array of stories highlighting a range of topics.

#### Community and Allyship

"We're All in This Together," by Ernie Young, illustrated by Sarah Walsh (Little Bee): "Everybody cooks./ Everybody eats. Everybody cleans./ Everybody helps. We're all in this together," says this cheery board book about sharing and community. Queer people are a welcome part of the diverse neighborhood, as we see a drag story hour in one scene and a two-

mom family in another.

"Like That Eleanor," by Lee Wind, illustrated by Kelly Mangan (Cardinal Rule): Eleanor's dads named her after Eleanor Roosevelt, who was dedicated to fairness. When the young Eleanor's teacher asks girls and boys to sit on opposite sides of the room for an activity, Eleanor notices a nonbinary classmate's discomfort, and takes action to emulate her namesake and be a real ally. Eleanor has light tan skin and dark curly hair; one dad is Black and one White.



Tsurumi (Disney-Hyperion): Ferret walks confidently to school with one of her two moms—but trips on the way in. The embarrassing moments

#### Emotions and Personal Growth

"Embarrassed Ferret," by Lisa Frenkel Riddiough, illustrated by Andrea

see **MOMBIAN**, page 7



### Marriage Equality on the rocks

by Rev. Irene Monroe  
contributing writer

Overturning marriage equality is now a present threat. Many of the issues both POC and LGBTQI+ Americans confront in Trump's first term - health care, unemployment, housing, immigration, voting rights, among others - are front and center, again, and on the chopping block. And the fear is palpable. "I think it's going to go away. I don't know what's going to happen to those already married, but there are a lot of benefits," Pat of West Palm Beach, Florida, told me. "What would that be? A forced divorce?"



Photo via Adobe Firefly.

#### Put a ring on it

With this threat looming large, many LGBTQ+ couples are dashing to the altar. The thought of many more former Kentucky county clerks like Kim Davis becomes a nightmare. Davis is infamously known for refusing to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples in 2015, and this August,

she formally petitioned the Supreme Court to overturn "Obergefell v. Hodges."

"I told a nephew who's gay, young,

see **MONROE**, page 3



### Ain't nobody here but us chickens

Violence is fed by lies and provocations

by Richard J. Rosendall | rrosendall@starpower.net  
contributing writer

The assassination of Charlie Kirk on a Utah college campus on September 10 was shocking and reprehensible. America is in a dark period; it cannot be brightened by means of political violence.

The shooting occurred in an environment of political vitriol. Before there was a suspect, the MAGA right rushed to blame Democrats. Liberal commentators received death threats. Historically Black colleges and universities were also threatened.

As it turns out, the 22-year-old arrested in the murder, Tyler Robinson, is from a white, Republican, gun-loving household.

I gasped when I saw that Kirk had died. His death was the last thing any decent person could want.

So what are we to do? We can begin

by examining the truth. Despite his smiles, Kirk was a Christian nationalist with a record of insulting Black people, women, immigrants, gay and trans people. The Southern Poverty Law Center wrote that Kirk's group, Turning Point USA, "exploits complicated feelings of insecurity and anxiety to manufacture rage and mobilize support to revive and maintain a white-dominated, male supremacist, Christian social order."

Trump has announced plans to award Kirk a posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom. Good for him, but we should not use martyrdom to normalize extremism.

Kirk was a provocateur. Deploring his murder does not require white-washing his record.

Trump himself has openly encour-

aged violence at rallies, not to mention inciting an insurrection in an effort to overturn the 2020 election, and later pardoning the insurrectionists.

Trump quickly used the assassination to demonize the "radical left" — thus not only leaping to conclusions, but ignoring the murder of Minnesota lawmaker Melissa Hortman and her husband Mark; the arson attack against Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro; and the mockery with which Republicans responded to a brutal assault against Paul Pelosi, to cite a few examples.

My friend Robert Naylor, a long-time journalist, wisely cautioned on Facebook: "Public debates can create

see **ROSENDALL**, page 2

## GUEST OPINION

### Jones v. Mahaniah is a Blatant Attempt to Safeguard Anti-LGBTQ+ Discrimination and Abuse

Submitted by  
The Massachusetts  
Transgender Political Coalition

The Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition (MTPC) is dismayed at yet another attempt to weaponize faith and religious beliefs against transgender and nonbinary people in Massachusetts in Jones v. Mahaniah, a case filed in the U.S. District Court for Massachusetts. This is a blatant attempt to use the court

system to oppose the rights and safety of transgender and nonbinary youth in our Commonwealth, and safeguard the discriminatory and abusive practices of anti-transgender individuals and groups in this state.

First and foremost, we repudiate the claim that this policy discriminates against anyone based on their faith. Being a Christian does not automatically mean that someone is op-

see **GUEST OPINION**, page 2



## "It never got there...but everything else."

- Charlie Sheen, when answering Bill Maher's question about his role in gay sex—"Which were you?" Charlie clarified—"You mean when you're changing the fitted sheet and it says Top or Bottom?"

Photo by Joella Marano, via Wikimedia Commons.

more in Billy Masters on page 6!

# Rosendall

Continued from page 1

an illusion that both sides have equally valid perspectives, even when one side promotes harmful or dishonest views. Mainstream media, in which I worked for more than three decades, further legitimize this by prioritizing 'balance' over truth."

Just as we cannot resolve our nation's problems through violence, we cannot do it with lies, provocations, or performative neutrality.

The normalizing of Trump's transgressions reminds me of a song my father used to sing for my siblings and me, a 1946 hit by Louis Jordan:

"There ain't nobody here but us chickens,  
There ain't nobody here at all.  
So quiet yourself and stop that fuss.  
There ain't nobody here but us."

The song tells of a chicken thief who, when caught, pretends to be one of the chickens. Trump is just the type: he always evades re-

sponsibility for his own actions. He routinely trashes opponents. He is notorious for his compulsive lying.

Washington's lovely late summer weather contrasted with Trump's takeover of our police and his sending federalized National Guard troops and Immigration and Customs Enforcement police onto our streets. He justified the federal occupation with a lie about crime being out of control when in fact it was down.

Trump sows chaos to further his dictatorial ambitions. Let us disappoint him by keeping our protests nonviolent.

Somehow, it makes perfect sense in the MAGA mind to use violent rhetoric with abandon, insist on people's right to carry semi-automatic weapons in the streets, then blame the tragic results on the very Democrats who are proposing stronger gun control.

Speaking of which, I agree with Elie Mystal, who writes in The Nation, "I do not think the constant drumbeat of death and violence at our nation's schools is an acceptable price to pay for

the freedom to own a private arsenal. I don't think the Second Amendment should be interpreted as a murder-suicide pact."

To overcome the madness, we must resist being caught up in the rancor. This is hard for me when I see the likes of Rep. Nancy Mace, now a candidate for governor of South Carolina, double down on her rhetorical rage. She makes a particular point of demonizing trans people.

I hope Speaker Mike Johnson figures out how to keep members of Congress safe. I wish success to Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, who urged people to "log off, turn off, touch grass, hug a family member, go out and do good in your community."

When we vote for leaders who appeal to the best in us and not the worst, we may again be touched, in Lincoln's words, by the better angels of our nature.

*Richard Rosendall is a writer and activist who can be reached at [rosendall@me.com](mailto:rosendall@me.com).*

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# Guest Opinion

Continued from page 1

posed to supporting, affirming, and including queer and trans people. We know from our long history of working alongside faith leaders and congregations in the Commonwealth that this is patently false. This is exemplified by MTPC's MA Trans Interfaith Network which works to uplift and support clergy, congregations, and laypeople who seek to affirm, include, and protect LGBTQ+ people in their communities, including many Christian congregations and clergy members.

This policy does not discriminate against any individuals or families because of their religion: it only bars them from enacting discriminatory and abusive behaviors against foster children who they have agreed to provide a temporary home. If they believe these agreements, policies, and expected behaviors are in opposition to their religious beliefs, then it is their responsibility to abstain from participating as they cannot guarantee a safe home for these children.

"Although these families say that they can offer safe and loving homes, their actions may not line up with their words," says Finn Gardiner,

Advocacy & Organizing Manager at MTPC. "If they refuse to acknowledge a child's chosen name and pronouns or restrict their access to transition, then they're not providing a safe and loving home; they're putting them at great risk for harm."

Research by The Trevor Project has not only shown that LGBTQ+ youth are more likely to be in foster care, but that 40% of transgender youth in foster care reported being forced out of their homes or abandoned due to their gender identity.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, LGBTQ+ youth who have experienced housing instability are nearly three times more likely to consider suicide and more than three times more likely to attempt suicide than their LGBTQ+ peers who have stable housing.<sup>2</sup>

"Preventing a child from understanding or embracing their LGBTQ identities does not stop them from being their true authentic self," says Kelsey R. Grunstra, MTPC's Deputy Director. "However, it does cause significant emotional and psychological harm to these children, and in a frighteningly large number of cases, leads to considerations and attempts of suicide."

By age 18, over 40% of trans youth who are raised in unsupportive and non-affirming family environments have attempted suicide - in comparison with 5% of the general population by

the same age.<sup>3</sup> The only way to reduce suicidality in transgender youth is to support them, affirm their identities, and allow them to live in alignment with their gender.

However, we also believe that this policy has been implemented in a way that puts the entire burden on current or prospective foster families to be prepared for creating an affirming home for LGBTQ+ youth without offering resources or guidance for them. Foster care is a shared responsibility between the state and the foster families—and the state should not be leaving foster families without the support they need to be prepared for these situations. Under the "What supports are there for me?" section of the Foster and Adoptive FAQs, there are no resources listed to support foster families in supporting or affirming LGBTQ+ children in their home.<sup>4</sup> We strongly encourage the Department of Children and Families and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to live up to their end of this agreement and provide the support and resources necessary for both foster families and children.

*The Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition works to ensure the wellbeing, safety, and lived equity of all trans, nonbinary, and gender expansive community members in Massachusetts.*

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PO BOX E14,  
Boston, MA 02127  
Publishers Emeritus:  
Jeff Coakley  
Sue O'Connell  
Editorial:  
Editor-in-Chief  
Sue O'Connell  
sue.baywindows@gmail.com  
Contributing Writers:  
Judah LeBlang • Billy Masters • Richard J. Rosendall  
Dana Rudolph • Rev. Irene Morrow  
Julie Becker  
Letters to the Editor:  
letters.baywindows@gmail.com  
News tips:  
news.baywindows@gmail.com  
Calendar listings:  
news.baywindows@gmail.com  
Announcements:  
announcements.baywindows@gmail.com  
Advertising:  
**Display Advertising**  
sales@baywindows.com  
Classified Advertising:  
classifiedads@baywindows.com  
Editorial Design Manager: Julie Walker Palmer

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## Monroe

*Continued from page 1*

22, to get married last year because we don't know," Pat said. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton echoed the same sentiment. On the "Raging Moderates" podcast in August, Clinton strongly advised couples to get married before SCOTUS overturns it. "Anybody in a committed relationship out there, in the LGBTQ community, you ought to consider getting married," she said, "because I don't think they'll undo existing marriages, but I fear they will undo the national right."

### Clarence Thomas's goal

In a Trumped-up Supreme Court, SCOTUS has been his enabler. Justice Clarence Thomas faulted the Supreme Court for refusing to block marriage equality in Alabama twice - in 2015 and in 2022. Targeting marriage equality has been his goal since its passage.

Shortly after the SCOTUS overturned "Roe v. Wade" in the "Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization" case in 2022, Clarence Thomas seized the moment to insert his opinion stating "[W]e have a duty to 'correct the error' established in those precedents." Clarence further stated that the landmark decision "should reconsider" its past rulings codifying the rights to contraception, same-gender intimacy, and marriage equality. Surely, he jests, I thought, because of Thomas's interracial marriage, which marriage equality is built upon. Moreover, the slippery slope is one he, too, could confront, once SCOTUS eliminates federal protection for loving who you choose. The irony here is that many of the civil rights gains that ascended Thomas to the highest court in the land, he now wants to dismantle.

Last year, the country celebrated 9 years since the "Obergefell v. Hodges" decision, allowing us LGBTQ+ Americans the fundamental right to marry nationwide. However, while Justices Thomas and Alito dissented in Obergefell in 2015, the broad public support that both parties once embraced has now waned among Republicans.

According to the Gallup Poll, in 2025, support for marriage equality among Democrats rose to 88%. Republicans' support, which peaked at 55% in 2021 and 2022, has dropped to 41%, the lowest point since 2016, follow-

ing the Obergefell decision. With Republicans dominating all branches of government, there is concern whether Biden's "Respect for Marriage Act", signed into law in 2022, would be upheld, instead of marriage equality being thrown to the states. Trump appointed 234 federal judges during his first term. Lambda Legal found that about 40% of his appeals court appointees had records of anti-LGBTQ+ bias, and they will remain on the bench long after he's gone. LG-BTQ+ Americans in Red States especially have concerns.

### Benefits up in the air

There are 1,138 federal benefits and hundreds of state-specific benefits that heterosexual couples take for granted. Denying these benefits will cause financial instability and immense stress. "Being a widow, all the federal benefits have benefited me," Pat stated. "I'm on spousal Social Security and not paying taxes on our joint money, is that going to go away?"

Jim Obergefell, not an activist of any sort, never expected to be a cause célèbre. But when he sued his home state of Ohio for refusing to recognize him as the widower of his deceased spouse, the lawsuit made its way to the highest court. Jim Obergefell, then 48, the lead plaintiff in the four marriage equality cases collectively known as "Obergefell v. Hodge," is now hanging in the balance once again.

### With victory comes backlash.

Ratifying marriage equality was the right thing to do and should not be repealed. Obergefell's victory expanded the nation's understanding of marriage as a fundamental right awarded to all people. However, if Roe v. Wade can be overturned after fifty years, so too can marriage equality, highlighting that no one's rights can be taken for granted.

Sherry's a married lesbian tired professor of nursing stated, "I'm aware now that what we take as a right is always conditional."

Sadly, that's true. I have married over 250 LGBTQ+ couples since 2004, when it was legalized in Massachusetts, to the present day. Each one was an honor to officiate. When interviewed for Massachusetts' 20th anniversary of marriage equality, a newsman asked to see my photos; I have hundreds of them. I had to sort them into three piles: deceased, divorced, and still together. However, I never imagined the day would come when I would have to stop.


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# billy masters

Violence is never the answer. And I say that as someone with a big mouth (you're welcome). If someone was going to be a target, I'd be at the top of the list. In 30 years, I've pissed off just as many as I've titillated. I own that, and am happy to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune—as long as they aren't real arrows (real slings are fine). I have taken issue with people and then run into them days later. But you know what's never happened? Nobody's ever taken a swing at me. The most violent act was when a gay celebrity couple threw a dinner roll at me. I mean—carbs! For the most part, people are civilized. Could we keep it that way?

Which brings us to **Tyler Perry**. I've not had any major interaction with him, so there is nothing personal in this story. We've heard it all before. Mogul meets hot cater waiter. They exchange digits. Cater waiter gets cast on the mogul's show. Mogul makes a pass. Waiter declines. Waiter is killed off the show. Nothing to see here—move along. Still, you may ask if I have a problem with any of that? Not really. If everyone's getting what they want, great. If someone isn't and they want to end the "association", that's also fine with me. Quid pro quo.

Since we've discussed the specifics of this story before, why are we going into it again? Because said waiter, **Derek Dixon**, did an interview with ABC News last week. It doesn't sound like he's backing down or even considering a settlement. He feels that he was sexually harassed on a job and is going forward with his suit. How do I feel about that? Again, fine with me. If a line was crossed and he legally prove that, great. But is it worth \$260 million? That's a whole lotta pigs in a blanket. When asked how he came up with that amount, he said, "Part of that number is my lost job, my lost income, the loss of the show. The other part of that is a deterrent for...you know, how do you stop a billionaire who won't stop themselves from doing this." Thank you, Derek, but you lost me at the word "million". I call that a money grab. You got a job. You got paid for the job. You also got some additional "perks". You said no, and got fired. If you want to sue to get what you would have been paid for another couple of seasons, fine. \$260 thousand sounds more reasonable to me. But millions? I don't think so.

Let's move onto another mogul—**Andy Cohen**. On his SiriusXM show, a listener commented on how good he looks and asked if he's been on Ozempic. So he went public and admitted that he's used one of those weight loss drugs to drop those pesky extra 25 pounds. Here's part of his response: "Given that for 20 years I have been asking people about their body regimens and that I've been pretty vocal about every time I go on a diet...I do think it would be completely hypocritical not to share that I did this summer lose a good chunk of weight by micro-dosing a GLP-1 all summer...I was really unhappy with my weight. My doctor and I talked about this last year, had recommended a GLP-1 a few times—to not only address what I was feeling about my weight, but treat plaque in my arteries and high blood pressure...and I finally said yes. And I have to say it really helped me with craving, which I was having a very hard time with, and really forcing myself to be more disciplined with my diet and with working out." Should you want to hear his full response, head on over to [BillyMasters.com](http://BillyMasters.com).

In a related story, **Chelsea Handler** has announced plans for some plastic surgery of her own. While I doubt she's a newbie to the scalpel, she just announced that she wants to have her ears done. While fingering her lobes, she said, "You see my ears? How they're a little bit floppy? They look like labia. They look like they've been stretched out like a labia?" I do hope she doesn't end up with a gay plastic surgeon—he'll have no idea what she's talking about. She added, "When I do my neck thing, I'm gonna get my ears trimmed." Finally, some body parts I recognize.

"The Bold and the Beautiful" is about to introduce their first gay couple. I'm surprised this is a first for the show because back in 2015, "B&B" had a transgender character! And that person MARRIED into the main family on the show! Sure, the trans role was played by a non-trans actor—but that's showbiz. As to

the current situation, the soon-to-air gay couple will be comprised of **Christian Weissmann**—who plays Remy, a troubled stalker of one woman and a quasi-accomplice of another who has committed at least two murders and is suddenly back from the dead. Somehow he's going from that to actor **Harrison Cone**, who will be playing an aspiring designer. Stay tuned.

I'm sure none of you expect me to talk about **Taylor and Kelce**. You're far more interested in one of her backup dancers. **Jan Ravnik** previously appeared in **Mariah Carey's** 2020 Christmas special, danced behind **Paula Abdul** during her Vegas residency, and even did "something" with **Bruno Mars**. He was also named "Best Dancer of Slovenia"...twice! Obviously **Melania** wasn't in the running! This season he'll be heating things up on "Dancing with the Stars". Jan has bypassed the "troupe" and has joined the show as a pro paired with that Mommon chick.

Meanwhile on Broadway, "Oh, Mary!" has found a new star once **Jinkx Monsoon** departs the production. Starting on October 14th, **Jane Krakowski** will play the Widow Lincoln. Now stop that—I can feel many of you out there rolling your eyes. Who knows? She might be good. After all, she made her Broadway debut way back in 1987 as a member of "Starlight Express". Admittedly, that isn't helping the argument—unless Mary Todd suddenly decides to appear on roller skates! She's scheduled to be in the show until December 7th.

The fall has been littered with a handful of award shows. The MTV Video Music Awards found **Ricky Martin** with a handful of junk...his own! Getting ready for the show, the waistband of his trousers had split—an occupational hazard quite common for those of us who don't allow for much breathing room. Moments before going onstage, he was photographed on a sofa in his dressing room darnning up those darn slacks. Happily (or not), he managed to stitch in time for his number. As I always say, waist not, want not.

Then there were the Creative Arts Emmys, where "Queer Eye" won its seventh award for Outstanding Structured Reality Program. What makes it more impressive is that the show has only been on for nine seasons. The one time it lost was last year, when "Shark Tank" snagged the award—and, let's face it...**Antoni** is no **Barbara Corcoran**! Those of you who got more than 200 in your math SATs are probably thinking, "But Billy—it's been on for nine seasons. You say it won seven Emmys and lost only once. How is that possible?" Well, seasons two and three both ran in 2018 (winter and summer)—so that year's win was for two seasons. The more you know...

As to the primetime Emmys, they just wrapped up moments before this was published. So, in lieu of an "Ask Billy" question, let us mention a few highlights. First, it must have been pretty steamy in that theatre—every forehead was glistening—unless there's some topical Botox I'm unaware of! It's always a bad sign when the least recognizable person in the room is the host. And, sure, I expected **Michael Urie** to get into "The Golden Girls" tribute. But **Colin Farrell**? Who knew? **Polly Holliday** was snubbed from the "In Memoriam" segment, even though **Linda Lavin** was given a place of prominence. I'm sure by the time you read this, we'll find out who those kids were walking the winners off stage. I'm assuming they have something to do with the Boy and Girl Scouts—either that or someone was casting a Benetton commercial (assuming Benetton still exists).

When I'm looking to score a box of Thin Mints, we've definitely come to the end of yet another column. What more could you ask for? Misbehaving moguls, weight loss, plastic surgery, and breaking news. Why, it's like "60 Minutes"—without that pesky stopwatch! While I enjoy my cookies, you can check out [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com)—the site that is a favorite of many Emmy presenters (we're very discreet). If you want to discuss anything with me, send an e-mail to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before Tyler Perry reveals he's microdosing. Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.



Chelsea Handler

Photo by The CW Network, via Wikimedia Commons.



Jane Krakowski

Photo by Philip Romano/Photo, via Wikimedia Commons.



Ricky Martin

Photo by Eva Rhaidi, via Wikimedia Commons.

# Mombian

Continued from page 1

continue, until the teacher herself farts—and helps Ferret and the class realize that embarrassing moments are actually quite normal. Riddiough's jaunty rhymes and Tsurumi's humorous illustrations make the book delightful as well as helpful.

"Popcom Bob Can't Stop Popping," by Maranke Rinck, illustrated by Martijn Van Der Linden (Levine Querido): The anthropomorphic star of the eponymous chapter book series here stars in his first picture book. Bob explains to readers that he sometimes "explodes" over big things, little things, and when he doesn't even know why. He tries to calm himself via relaxation, breathwork, exercise, and more—all actual techniques that readers can use, shown amusingly through Bob's antics and his interactions with his chosen family, a girl and her two dads.

"Snow Kid," by Jessie Sima (Simon & Schuster): When (nongendered) snow kid Twig loses a hat, it triggers a series of discoveries and changes that make Twig question their sense of self. Finally, Twig discovers a community of snow people who show "all the different ways there were to be a snow person," and Twig realizes the joy of not just being, but becoming. Spare words and soft, charming images tell a simple tale with a powerful message.

## Family and Heritage

"Night Flight," by David Barclay Moore, illustrated by Briana Mukodiri Uchendu (Candlewick): In this evocative and lovely

bedtime story, a young Black boy takes flight in his imagination while his two dads are out for the evening. Although the siter is kind, the boy clearly misses his parents, and the book celebrates the warmth and constancy of family love even when apart.

"Dancing with Water," by Gwendolyn Wallace, illustrated by Tonya Engel (Kokila): Kit, a nonbinary Black child, has a grandfather who is "magic," able to sense water with his dowsing rod. Clean water is getting harder to find, but Grandpa shows Kit how to listen for the water, and Kit learns what it means to be connected to the Earth, their ancestors, and their heritage of environmental stewardship.

"Shabbat Is ...," by A.J. Sass, illustrated by Noa Kelnor (Little, Brown): Shabbat can mean many different things and be observed in many different ways, even by Jews within the same synagogue. In his first picture book, Sass, best known for award-winning middle grade novels, gives us a joyous look at Shabbat through the eyes of a trio of children with a diversity of skin tones and racial identities. One has two moms and another has a nonbinary cousin celebrating their b'nai mitzvah.

"Fa La La Family," by Scott and Mark Hoying, illustrated by Steph Lew (Henry Holt): From Scott Hoying of acclaimed a cappella group Pentatonix and his husband, Mark Hoying, comes this cheery rhyming book about how "Christmas is for families! Families of all kinds." Family and Christmas spirit are intertwined, the book conveys, no matter what a family looks like.

## Biography

"Outside In and the Inside Out," by

Emmy Kastner (Viking): This biography of Arnold Lobel, creator of the classic Frog and Toad series, cleverly captures some of the charm and whimsy of Lobel's own works. Kastner also thoughtfully shows Lobel's coming out after marrying a woman and having two kids, then divorcing to find love with another man.

"Spotlight on Cynthia Erivo," by Elizabeth Dennis, illustrated by Hunter M. Green Ruth Burrows (Simon Spotlight): Performer Cynthia Erivo "shines in the spotlight," and this simple biography shows young readers how they can shine like her, offering lessons from moments in her life—including "live your truth," shown on a page depicting Erivo with Pride flags behind her, as we read, "She is a proud member of the LGBTQIA+ community and hopes her activism will make it easier for young people to be themselves."

"Chappell Roan: A Little Golden Book Biography," by Cat Reynolds, illustrated by Maria Lia Malandrino (Golden Books): A cheery biography takes us from the pop superstar's childhood through the ups and downs of finding musical success. It also tells us that she donates to LGBTQ+ organizations and "knows everyone should have equal rights, no matter who they are or who they love"—although it oddly never says that Chappell herself is queer. Still, young readers should appreciate that she stayed "true to herself" even if adults may want to fill in some details.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of *Mombian* ([mombian.com](http://mombian.com)), a two-time GLAAD Media Award-winning blog for LGBTQ+ parents plus a searchable database of 1,800+ LGBTQ+ family books.

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