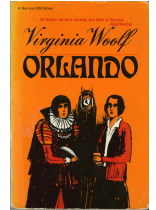


Pride Month 2021

The English Department Recommends...

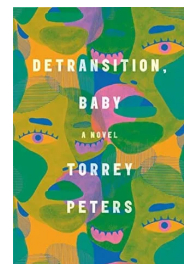
Mr Coolin: *Orlando* by Virginia Woolf. This 1928 novel, which has been described as a 'lesbian love letter' to Woolf's friend and lover Vita Sackville-West, is written as a biography of fictional aristocrat Orlando and his/her/their journey through over 300 years of history. Over the course of the novel, it becomes clear that Orlando's gender and sexuality are not fixed, a radical notion in the 1920s. Beyond the plot and central themes, Woolf's original and experimental prose style cements this work as a Modernist classic.



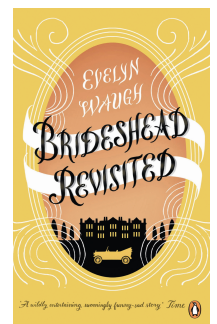
Mr Jamison: *A Place Called Winter* by Patrick Gale. Set in 1908, when same-sex relationships were punishable by law, this poignant novel (published in 2015) is concerned with the repression of homosexuality, and the long term damage it can cause. On the surface, Harry Cane is a successful married man with a child, but when he encounters Mr Brown, an actor who offers voice coaching, he falls in love and they begin a passionate relationship, which is a revelation to him. However, someone finds out, blackmails Harry, and in an attempt to escape he migrates to Canada to work on the prairies, where he discovers he can't quite shake his past. It's a beautifully written book, exploring the dangers of an intolerant society.



Dr Justice: *Detransition, Baby* by Torrey Peters. Published this year and longlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction, *Detransition, Baby* follows recently de-transitioned Ames and his relationships with both his former girlfriend Reese (also a trans woman) and his cisgender boss Katrina. When Katrina discovers she is pregnant, the story navigates the complex lives of transgender individuals as well as questions the idea of a heterosexual, nuclear family. Torrey Peters is herself a transgender woman and this novel is not only a trailblazer - Peters is the first trans woman to be nominated for the Women's Prize - but also serves as a fantastic starting point for understanding the transgender experience.



Miss Williamson: *Brideshead Revisited* by Evelyn Waugh. *Brideshead Revisited* looks back to the golden age before the Second World War. Charles Ryder is infatuated with the Marchmains and the rapidly disappearing world of privilege they inhabit. His relationship with Sebastian Flyte, the younger son of Lord Marchmain, lies at the heart of the novel. Charles meets Sebastian at Oxford University when he throws up through Charles' open bedroom window! Sebastian is a glamorous, eccentric (he carries around a teddy bear called Aloysius) and ultimately doomed figure who casts a long shadow over Charles' life. Although the novel never explicitly labels their relationship, critics widely regard it as Waugh's exploration of the romantic relationships between the young men in his circle that often existed at university before they settled down into safe, though not always happy, heterosexual relationships.



Miss Rocker-Cook: *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo. Set in 1950s San Francisco, this is a heartfelt depiction of a Chinese-American lesbian finding herself and her identity. Love and location are at the heart of this novel, with the city itself providing the perfect backdrop to the dreams and longings of the protagonist, Lily. This YA novel covers a number of themes that are central to growing up and discovering who you are, in addition to providing representation of the Chinese-American and LGBTQIA+ experiences, particularly in regards to young women in STEM.

