INDIGENOUS LITERATURE WITH
A TWO-SPIRIT/QUEER/LGBT SENSIBILITY

A Note about the List:
This list is a general resource, being neither exhaustive nor authoritative. Not everyone on this list is LGBT/Queer/Two-Spirit-identified; some are included because of their profound sensitivity to Queer issues and sensibilities and/or the prominence of Two-Spirited characters in their work. Inclusion (or exclusion) of writers from this list should not be construed as a claim about their sexual orientations, gender identities, or opinions regarding LGBT issues.

kateri akiwenzie-damm (Anishinaabe)
   My Heart is a Stray Bullet
   bloodriver woman
   Without Reservation: Indigenous Erotica (ed.)
   Skins: Contemporary Indigenous Writing (ed.), with Josie Douglas

Sherman Alexie (Spokane/Coeur d'Alene)
   The Toughest Indian in the World
   The Business of Fancydancing (film)
   Old Shirts and New Skins
   Blasphemy

Paula Gunn Allen (Laguna Pueblo/Sioux)
   Life is a Fatal Disease: Selected Poems 1964-94
   The Sacred Hoop: Recovering the Feminine in American Indian Traditions
   The Woman Who Owned the Shadows
   America the Beautiful: Last Poems

Beth Brant (Bay of Quinte Mohawk)
   Writing as Witness: Essay and Talk
   Mohawk Trail
   Food and Spirits: Stories

Chrystos (Menominee)
   Dream On
   Fire Power
   In Her I Am
   Not Vanishing

Cherie Dimaline (Métis)
   Red Rooms
   The Girl Who Grew a Galaxy
Qwo-Li Driskill (Cherokee/Osage/ Lenape/ Lumbee/Black/Irish)
   Walking With Ghosts: Poems
   Book of Memory: Honor Poems (chapbook)
   Burning Upward Flight (chapbook)

Marilyn Dumont (Métis)
   The Colour of Dried Bones
   A Really Good Brown Girl
   That Tongued Belonging

Louise Erdrich (Turtle Mountain Chippewa)
   Love Medicine
   The Antelope Wife
   The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse

Janice Gould (Koyangk’auwi Maidu)
   Earthquake Weather
   Beneath My Heart
   Doubters and Dreamers

Joy Harjo (Mvskoke)
   In Mad Love and War
   A Map to the Next World
   She Had Some Horses
   Reinventing the Enemy’s Language: Contemporary Native Women’s Writings of North America (ed. with Gloria Bird [Spokane])

Tomson Highway (Cree)
   Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing
   Kiss of the Fur Queen
   The Rez Sisters
   Rose

Daniel Heath Justice (Cherokee)
   The Way of Thorn and Thunder: The Kynship Chronicles
   “Ander’s Awakening”

Maurice Kenny (Mohawk)
   Backward to Forward: Prose Pieces
   Tekonwatonti/Molly Brant: Poems of War

Janet McAdams (Creek)
   The Island of Lost Luggage
   Feral
Deborah Miranda (Esselen/Chumash)
  *Bad Indians: A Tribal Memoir*
  *The Zen of La Llorona*
  *Indian Cartography*

(Rollie) Lynn Riggs (Cherokee)
  *The Cherokee Night*
  *The Cream in the Well*
  *The Iron Dish*

Gregory Sarris (Miwok/Pomo)
  *Grand Avenue*
  *Keeping Slug Woman Alive: A Holistic Approach to American Indian Texts*
  *Watermelon Nights*

Cheryl Savageau (Abenaki)
  *Dirt Road Home*
  *Mother/Land*
  *Home Country*

Gregory Scofield (Métis)
  *I Knew Two Metis Women*
  *Love Medicine and One Song*
  *Thunder Through My Veins: Memories of a Métis Childhood*

James Thomas Stevens (Akwesasne Mohawk)
  *Combing the Snakes from His Hair*
  *A Bridge Dead in the Water*

Craig S. Womack (Muskogee Creek/Cherokee)
  *Drowning in Fire*
  *Red on Red: Native American Literary Separatism*
  *Art as Performance, Story as Criticism: Reflections on Native Literary Aesthetics*

*Other writers*
Connie Fife (Cree)
Jewell Gomez (Wampanoag/Ioway)
Carole laFavor (Anishinaabe)
Vickie Sears (Cherokee)
SELECTED SECONDARY SOURCES

A Note About Terminology:
Indigenous people identify same-sex eroticism and non-dualistic concepts of gender by many names, and we have attempted to respect that diversity here. Different communities have different terms and understandings—such as winkte and koskalaka (as per Allen) among Lakotas and nádleeh among Navajos—that do not always translate into Eurowestern concepts of sexuality and gender. As most of these concepts are tribal nation-specific and thus not universal, we have generally kept with the inclusive acronym LGBTQ, the broader “Queer,” or the contemporary pan-Native “Two-Spirit,” which many people embrace, so we acknowledge it here along with LGBTQ and Queer. The term “berdache,” however, is a different matter. It is used by some of the secondary sources (particularly Will Roscoe), but it is strongly disliked by most Two-Spirit/LGBTQ/Queer people, and is generally perceived as an insult.

Allen, Paula Gunn. "Beloved Women: Lesbians in American Indian Cultures.”
Dickinson, Peter. Here is Queer: Nationalisms, Sexualities, and the Literatures of Canada.


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In particular, see “Changing Native American Roles in an Urban Context and Changing Native American Sex Roles in an Urban Context” and “Warrior Women: Sex Role Alternatives for Plains Indian Women.”


Thomas, Wesley and Sue-Ellen Jacobs. “...And We Are Still Here’: From Berdache to Two-Spirit People.” *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* 23.2 (1999): 91.


**Films with Two-Spirit/Queer Native Themes/Subjects**


*Two Spirits* (dir. Lydia Nibley), 2009.

*Two Embrace* (dir. Carrie House), 2009.


*Group of Seven Inches* (dir. Kent Monkman), 2005.


