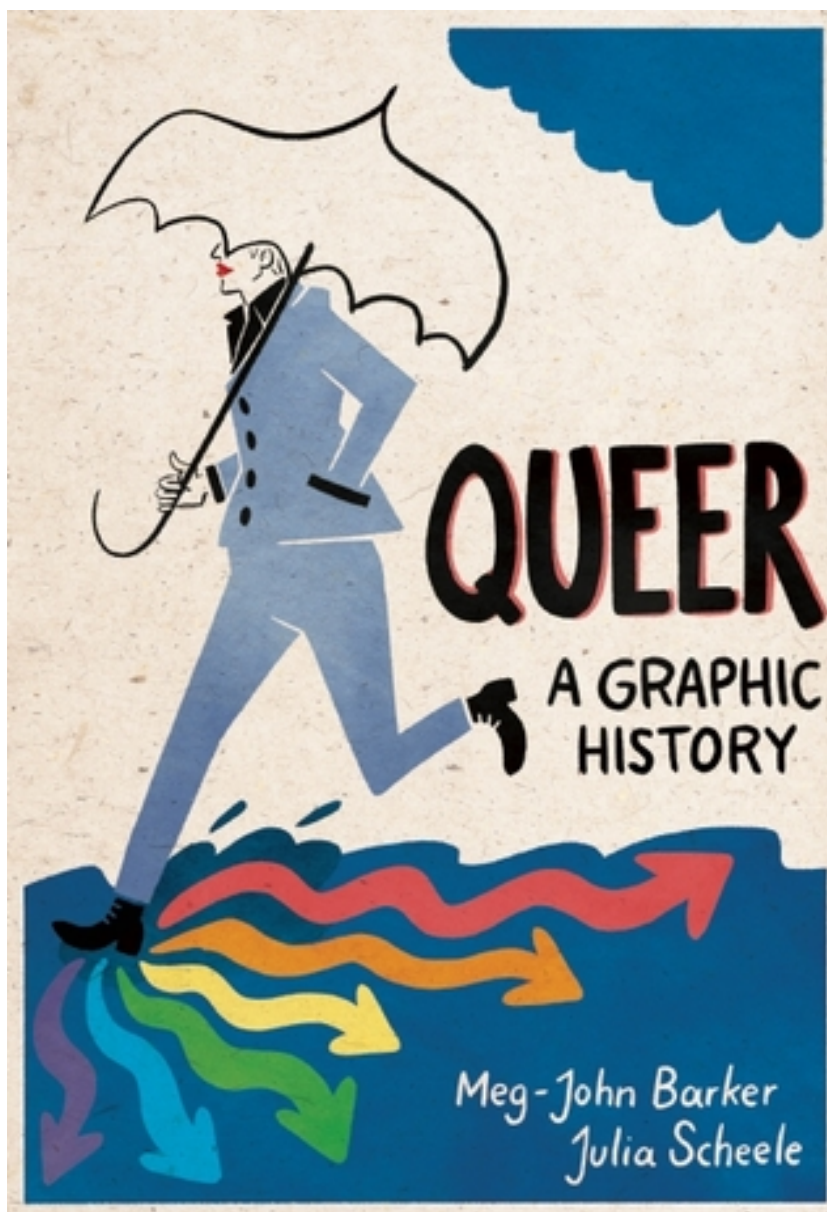


Queer: A Graphic History Book PDF Download



By:
Meg-John Barker

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What people Say:

Danika at The Lesbrary

I wasn't expecting this to be queer /theory/! This is also more of a highly illustrated book than a graphic novel/graphic history. So basically, this was more intellectual than I was expecting. But that was great! Although sometimes it got a little intimidating, I think overall it did a great job in introducing a very dense, complex, sometimes incomprehensible subject.

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I took a Queer Theory class in university, so I was familiar with some of this, but it was a great refresher for those and introduced me to more. It is just an introduction, so a lot of things are just touched on (like asexuality and crip studies), but I think it managed to be pretty thorough for the restrictions.

I'm happy there's a good introduction to queer theory(/activism/studies) out there now!

Elizabeth A

Book blurb: From identity politics and gender roles to privilege and exclusion, Queer explores how we came to view sex, gender and sexuality in the ways that we do; how these ideas get tangled up

with our culture and our understanding of biology, psychology and sexology; and how these views have been disputed and challenged.

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This nonfiction graphic novel is a historical overview of queer theory. There were things I knew, much I did not, much I learned, and though I'm not sure I understood everything being covered, this is one I will certainly be reading again. Lots to ponder and highly recommended.

I.

Maybe I should write a review that explains why this book is such utter garbage.

1. Queer theory is a plot (modification of Adrian Piper stating that post-structuralism is a plot). Queer is a meaningless word that is unresponsive to the realities faced by LGBT people, namely homophobia and transphobia. In using queer to mean anyone who is kewl and performative instead of using it to refer to people grouped together on the basis of shared oppression, you miss why LGBT people experience discriminat

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is a meaningless word that is unresponsive to the realities faced by LGBT people, namely homophobia and transphobia. In using queer to mean anyone who is kewl and performative instead of using it to refer to people grouped together on the basis of shared oppression, you miss why LGBT people experience discrimination. You miss why we've organized and what our goals are. You get statements like: "As with same-sex attraction, from a queer perspective, it's important to point out that neither kink practices nor openly non-monogamous relationships are transgressive per se." You heard that? Being gay isn't necessarily transgressive! Just like being into age play!

Calling straight people queer because they enjoy having sex in the park/use strap ons/are kinksters does nothing to help us understand why LGBT people in our society discriminated against. It just brings people under the umbrella who face none of the problems that we do, though some of them would like to think that they do.

Funnily enough, this book does make a token attempt at acknowledging that criticism, spending a single page stating that queer theory might possibly obscure material conditions such as poverty, violence, and unemployment and that it may be too focused on cultural representations and acts of transgressions. (Note that it doesn't acknowledge how it obscures and furthers homophobic attitudes). The book also notes that de Lauretis defected from queer theory, but never really explains why. Instead, the book states: "Some have endeavored to fix [queer theory] as something stable, and others have resisted such fixing", seeming to imply that de Lauretis was Just Not Progressive Enough for Queer Theory despite being a founding figure. Meanwhile, explaining how BBC's Sherlock, one scene in a James Bondfilm where Daniel Craig gets his shirt off, Harry/Draco fanfic, and Finding Nemo are queer gets a total of five pages. Look at your priorities.

2. There is no discussion whatsoever on why the reclamation of a slur may not be greeted by all with open arms. No discussion of why we need specific terms to refer to the problems we encounter and tackle. And indeed, this author criticizes Adrienne Rich, writing an essay called 'on compulsory heterosexuality and LESBIAN existence' for not considering how compulsory heterosexuality affects other 'marginalized sexualities.' That problematic Adrienne Rich, focusing her essay on lesbian existence on lesbian existence instead of say, straight kinksters.

3. Page 83 is hilarious. Flip there to see Miley Cyrus ("I don't feel the name to label my gender or sexuality"), Ruby Rose (I'm somewhere in the middle of the spectrum"), and Kristen Stewart ("I don't think it's necessary to figure out if you're 'gay' or 'straight') being lauded as examples of Foucauldian-Butlerian Resistance. I guess we gays are Just Gays. So passe compared to these women, all of whom are rich, white, bisexual cis women, incidentally.

4. I think it's really funny that they quote Sartre saying that it's 'bad faith' for gay people to say that they're immutably gay, and the commentary goes: well, maybe it would be better to use heterosexual people as an example, but we agree. Nice to know there's an agreement with the underlying homophobic sentiment that is still used to harass and abuse gay children today.

5. Oh, and it's always fun when people imply that gay people as just as much oppressors of bi

people as straight people, or that somehow, ~monosexuals~ are a class and have better mental health because they're ~monosexuals~...

Alex Sarll

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if Sunderland were the chosen name of one of Alice's non-binary partners. Whereas really it's much more an illustrated introduction in the manner of those old beginner's guides (I say that like I read more than one, when in fact it was just Rius on Marx at an early age while bored at a family friend's). Still, it deals admirably with the difficulty of introducing and summarising theories whose very essence is to disputatiously

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Nicole Craswell

4.5 Stars.

This is such a great overview of queer theory. This book at least touched on almost every concept I've studied in almost 2 years of university gender and queer studies and explains everything in a clear, concise way that makes some of the notoriously confusing concepts easy to understand. Seriously, I've never understood Foucault more clearly. Every idea is accompanied by pictures that both help with the explanations and also keep things interesting (let's be real, a lot of queer theor

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Overall I think this is a fantastic intro to queer theory. I would definitely recommend doing further reading beyond this but it's a great starting point!