



Little Free Library®
Unbound

Chapter 20: Banned and Challenged Books

Show Notes

Chapter 20 Guests



Katie Cohen and Krysta Petrie

Katie Cohen (she/her) and Krysta Petrie (she/her) run the Little Queer Library, a Little Free Library located in Waltham, MA dedicated solely to providing books by and about LGBTQ+ people to their local community and beyond. When not running the library, you'll most likely find Katie reading YA novels in her hammock or digging in the garden, and Krysta working on her next woodworking project or exploring the nearest thrift shop.

Katie recommends: [The Witch King by H. E. Edgmon](#)



Mai Le

Mai Le (she/her) is the steward of the Skyline Blue Book Box in Daly City, California (#119005). She opened her library in February 2021, thanks to and in service of her local Buy Nothing group, which has shown her the power of building community and living more sustainably through sharing. For the past 15 years, Mai has worked in public health to promote policies and practices that advance health equity. Mai is Vietnamese American and is grateful to live, raise children, and share books in a wonderfully diverse neighborhood, city, and region.

Mai recommends: [Front Desk by Kelly Yang](#)



Brandi McPherson

Brandi McPherson (she/her) has been an elementary school educator for over 24 years. She built her library in memorial for her friend, Shem - a great lover of books... and toys. The TARDIS Free Library has been open since Jan 2022 and has distributed over 500 books through the library, book-bombings, and donation drives.

Brandi recommends: [Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin](#)

Chapter 20 Resources

Guest Links + Additional Resources

Instagram: [Skyline Blue Book Box](#)

Instagram: [TARDIS Little Free Library](#)

Instagram and Facebook: [Little Queer Library](#)

Little Free Library Links

Program: [Read in Color](#)

Shop: [LFL's Favorite Banned Books](#)

Download the [mobile app](#)

Facebook: [Steward group](#)

[Our world map](#)

[Previously on LFL Unbound](#)

Website: [Banned Books Week](#)

Actions: [Get Involved](#)

Toolkit: [Unite Against Book Bans](#)

Blog: [More on Julie of the Wolves](#)

Blog: [More on Sherman Alexie](#)

TOP 10 MOST CHALLENGED BOOKS OF 2021

The American Library Association tracked **729 challenges** to library, school, and university materials and services in 2021. Of the 1,597 individual books that were challenged or banned in 2021, here are the top 10 most challenged:

- 1 Gender Queer**
By Maia Kobabe
REASONS: Banned, challenged, and restricted for LGBTQIA+ content and because it was considered to have sexually explicit images
- 2 Lawn Boy**
By Jonathan Evison
REASONS: Banned and challenged for LGBTQIA+ content and because it was considered to be sexually explicit
- 3 All Boys Aren't Blue**
By George M. Johnson
REASONS: Banned and challenged for LGBTQIA+ content, profanity, and because it was considered to be sexually explicit
- 4 Out of Darkness**
By Ashley Hope Perez
REASONS: Banned, challenged, and restricted for depictions of abuse and because it was considered to be sexually explicit
- 5 The Hate U Give**
By Angie Thomas
REASONS: Banned and challenged for profanity, violence, and it was thought to promote an anti-police message and indoctrination of a social agenda
- 6 The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian**
By Sherman Alexie
REASONS: Banned and challenged for profanity, sexual references, and use of a derogatory term
- 7 Me and Earl and the Dying Girl**
By Jesse Andrews
REASONS: Banned and challenged because it was considered sexually explicit and degrading to women
- 8 The Bluest Eye**
By Toni Morrison
REASONS: Banned and challenged because it depicts child sexual abuse and was considered sexually explicit
- 9 This Book Is Gay**
By Juno Dawson
REASONS: Banned, challenged, and restricted for providing sexual education and LGBTQIA+ content
- 10 Beyond Magenta**
By Susan Kuklin
REASONS: Banned and challenged for LGBTQIA+ content and because it was considered to be sexually explicit

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