



# **The Right Side of History: 100 Years of LGBTQ Activism**

*Adrian Brooks*

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## **The Right Side of History: 100 Years of LGBTQ Activism** Adrian Brooks

The Right Side of History tells the 100-year history of queer activism in a series of revealing close-ups, first-person accounts, and intimate snapshots of LGBT pioneers and radicals. This diverse cast stretches from the Edwardian period to today.

Described by gay scholar Jonathan Katz as "willfully cacophonous, a chorus of voices untamed," The Right Side of History sets itself apart by starting with the turn-of-the-century bohemianism of Isadora Duncan and the 1924 establishment of the nation's first gay group, the Society for Human Rights; it also includes gay activism of labor unions in the 1920s and 1930s; the 1950s civil rights movement; the 1960s anti-war protests; the sexual liberation movements of the 1970s; and more contemporary issues such as marriage equality.

The book shows how LGBT folk have always been in the forefront of progressive social evolution in the United States. It references heroes like Abraham Lincoln, Eleanor Roosevelt, Bayard Rustin, Harvey Milk, and Edie Windsor. Equally, the book honors names that aren't in history books, from participants in the Names Project, a national phenomenon memorializing 94,000 AIDS victims, to underground agitprop artists.

## **The Right Side of History: 100 Years of LGBTQ Activism Details**

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# **From Reader Review The Right Side of History: 100 Years of LGBTQ Activism for online ebook**

## **Karen says**

The Right Side of History is an anthology of GLBTQI activism written by scholars, activists and writers. This gives the book a diverse and sometimes uneven tone in terms of its writing, though most chapters are compelling and urgent. My favorite part of the book is that LBGTQI history is viewed through a radical lens and shows us the many, many pioneers and advocates who were not just asking for equal rights but an end to the suppression and persecution of those outside the norm. I also loved that other struggles for freedom (gender, race, class, labor) were highlighted along with the oftentimes active participation that GLBTQI folks had in these movements (intersectionality-we are all multifaceted).

Thank you Edelweiss for allowing me to review this for an honest review.

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## **Donavon Taveras says**

SIX WORD REVIEW: Being queer in America isn't new.

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## **Emily says**

It was a good introduction to the history of LGBTQIA. It only began my thirst for gender studies related books. I definitely recommend it to anyone who wants a snippet of gay pride history.

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## **Sara says**

This book is basically an anthology of different important events, people, and topics from LGBTQ history, going as far back as the 1920s. (I think the earliest date was in the 20s, but not quote me on that.)

Like with any anthology type book, there were parts that I liked better than others, but I generally really enjoyed this book. I especially liked that the book included queer people of a variety of different races, not just white people. I also really liked the fact that there is a chapter on what it's like to be intersex, written by an intersex person. I do kind of wish that they had talked about asexuality a bit in this book though. Overall though, I think this is a really great book if you are looking to learn more about LGBTQ+ history. I enjoyed learned about different people who have played important roles in the fight for equality.

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## **Koozebane says**

**Read for the #paperbacksummer challenge.**

While tangents are definitely followed, this collection is a fascinating, educational primer. I especially enjoyed the Josephine Baker article and editor Brooks' spirited dialogue with Representative Barney Frank.

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### **Michelle says**

This book was excellent. I've done a lot of reading on LGBTQ history ever since my daughter came out to me several years ago. I learned a lot from this book, and read about contributions from people I previously hadn't heard of. Very informative read.

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### **Amanda says**

#### **A great read.**

This book is hard to put down. From start to end you can't put it down no matter what else you made need to do

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### **Rainbowgardener says**

I really wanted to like this book more. But for me it took a fascinating subject and made it boring. The book consists of a whole bunch of short chapters, each a short bio of some LBGT activist. But there is no narrative to connect them. The chapters are each written by a different person, so the book is choppy and better written in some places than others. Much of the writing is pedestrian and plodding, then this happened, then this happened, then this happened. There's only a little bit of broader context and because the individual bios are very short, there is very little depth or insight to them. Two thirds of the book is post Stonewall history, meaning in my lifetime, so not the part I most wanted to read about.

Title should be Lives of LGBT Leaders in Brief. Since it is in chronological order, the back third or so of the book is about people who are still alive. Some of these chapters were done as interview transcripts, definitely not my favorite format. Others were written by the person themselves. This tend to come out sounding like "then I started this organization and we the first to do this and that and then I started this other group and people flocked to hear me" and blah blah. Very hard not to sound bragging.

This book barely made it to three stars for me and if my rating were based only on the chapters on living people, it would have been two.

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### **Emilie says**

I appreciated that this book was written clearly and accessibly. Sometimes I struggle with books that are written in overly academic terminology. I thought it gave a good overview of GLBT history while looking at

individuals who helped shape it.

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### **Sarah - All The Book Blog Names Are Taken says**

I enjoyed this one because there's so much LGBT history I don't know yet. On the other hand more than a few of the chapters were incredibly heartbreaking. I did find the multiple authors format a bit disjointed, some chapters were better-written than others, but I feel this is an important book and a necessary book. I'm proud to live in a country that legally recognizes same-sex marriage and look forward to the day that hetero marriages and same-sex marriages will both simply be referred to as 'marriages'.

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