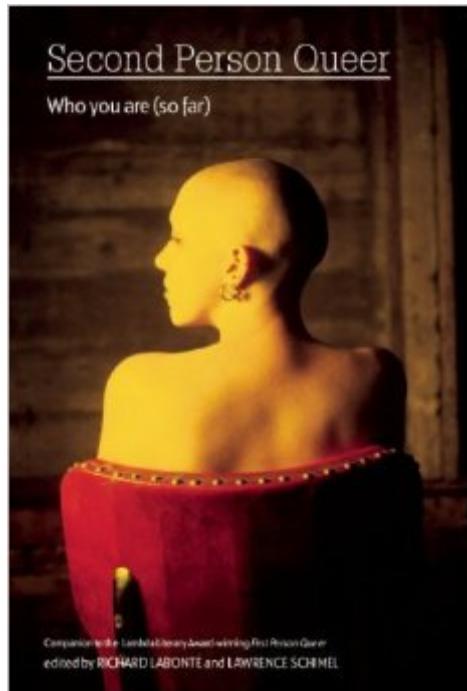


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# Second Person Queer: Who You Are (So Far)



## Synopsis

First Person Queer, an anthology of nonfiction essays written in the first person by a variety of gay and lesbian authors, was a snapshot of GLBT life and experience in the modern age. Published in 2007, it received wide acclaim and won the Lambda Literary Award for Anthologies and the Independent Publisher Award (Gold) for gay/lesbian books. Second Person Queer is an unusual companion book: it is an anthology of essays on GLBT life written in the second person. The essays take the form of letters to family and friends, missives to homophobes, confessions to lovers, and words of advice for the next generation; they deal with subjects as large and looming as violence, coming out, gay marriage, and raising children. They are as intimate and engaging as How to Become a Visible Femme, How Not to Be Offended by Everything, and How to Become a Country Leather Bear. Powerful, funny, poignant: these are the stories of who you are as a GLBT person, or the person you would most like to be. Contributors include S. Bear Bergman, Sky Gilbert, Matt Bernstein Sycamore (a.k.a. Mattilda), Achy Obejas, Andy Quan, Michael Rowe, Stacey May Fowles, and Amber Dawn. Co-editors Richard Labonté and Lawrence Schimel have written or edited over one hundred books between them; Labonté edits the annual Best Gay Erotica anthologies from Cleis Press, and Schimel's books include PoMoSexuals and The Mammoth Book of Gay Erotica.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (1 customer review)

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## Customer Reviews

When I was reconciling my sexuality in my early 20's, at a time before there were real visible role models in the media or internet support sites, I lamented that it wasn't fair that being a homosexual

didn't come with some kind of "instruction manual" one could follow. It took another 35 years, but I think today we finally have a book that is darned close to filling that need, despite the editor's introduction that suggests otherwise. "Second Person Queer" - an anthology of 40 essays written by an extremely diverse group of GLBT authors - is the follow-up to the editors' "First Person Queer" 2007 anthology of personal memoirs by similar writers. This time around, the essays give advice to the budding gay party boy/bear/femme/dyke/bisexual/trans person, and some helpful guidance to those still questioning their sexuality. Coming in at an average of only five pages per essay, this is like getting 40 "second opinions" on what you may be doing, giving some ideas on how you may be able to do it better. The topics range from the finer points of being a "bear" or a "femme", to one that advises against deciding to "label" yourself at all. There is advice on dealing with parents, bigots, dating married bisexuals, coming out, relationships and falling in love. Despite the variety, the essays are arranged in a logical manner by theme. The reader soon realizes that we are all different, and although there may be no "one size fits all" answers, the information is witty, engaging, heartfelt and ultimately useful for many. I'll give this one five enlightening stars out of five.

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