

April Prompt - Kaleidoscope Book Club

Queer Earth: Stories Rooted in Land, Water, and Survival

In celebration of Earth Day, we invite you to read a book that explores the relationship between queer lives and the natural world. Choose a story that engages with landscapes, ecosystems, climate change, environmental justice, or humanity's place within the living planet. These books might imagine climate futures, reflect on the queerness of nature, or explore how land and environment shape identity, belonging, and survival. Or anything else you think fits within the theme!

Books should be **by an LGBTQ+ author, include LGBTQ+ themes, or center LGBTQ+ characters**. Selections may include climate fiction, speculative worlds, nature writing, memoir, poetry, literary fiction, or genre-blending works. All genres and age categories—adult, young adult, graphic works, and beyond—are welcome.

FICTION

Climate Fiction / Speculative/Sci-Fi

An Unkindness of Ghosts – Rivers Solomon (Kit loved this! 🌟)

Set on a generation ship after Earth's collapse, this novel examines rigid hierarchies shaped by environmental and social catastrophe. [Ecological collapse, systemic oppression, queer resistance] Link to physical copy [here](#). Link to hoopla audio [here](#).

Blackfish City – Sam J. Miller

In a floating Arctic city following climate wars, a diverse cast navigates inequality, survival, and shifting ecosystems. [Queer community-building in a climate-altered world] Link to physical copy [here](#). Link to hoopla audio [here](#).

The City in the Middle of the Night – Charlie Jane Anders

On a tidally locked planet of extreme climates, human societies form along stark ideological and environmental divisions. [Explores adaptation, extreme ecosystems, and queer belonging] Link to physical copy [here](#). Link to hoopla audio [here](#).

The Free People's Village – Sim Kern

An alternate-history novel depicting a seemingly successful green society whose environmental

progress masks deep social inequities. Link to physical copy [here](#). Link to hoopla audio [here](#). Link to hoopla ebook [here](#).

On a Sunbeam – Tillie Walden (Kit loved this! 🌟)

A graphic science-fiction narrative about love and found family set across shifting cosmic environments. [Colonization, environments, and queer connection]. Link to physical copy [here](#).

The Shutouts – Gabrielle Korn

Follows those excluded from elite climate sanctuaries as they build alternative queer communities amid ecological collapse. [Focuses on marginalized queer communities adapting to environmental collapse] Link to physical copy [here](#).

The Terraformers – Annalee Newitz

A far-future novel following generations of humans, animals, and engineered beings shaping and resisting corporate-controlled ecosystems. [Capitalism, ecology, queer kinship] Link to physical copy [here](#).

The Tiger Flu – Larissa Lai

A surreal dystopian novel in which biotech, pandemic, and environmental collapse reshape society and gendered communities. [Climate crisis, bodies, queer survival] Link to hoopla audio [here](#). Link to hoopla ebook [here](#).

Yours for the Taking – Gabrielle Korn

A near-future novel exploring experimental eco-communities in a climate-ravaged world, where survival is shaped by exclusion, power, and control. [queer survival, climate crisis, environmental justice] Link to physical copy [here](#).

Fantasy/Speculative

Drowned Country – Emily Tesh

A continuation that explores the consequences of magic and human interference with natural systems. [Ecological imbalances, environmental consequences, queer love] Link to hoopla audio [here](#).

Witchmark – C.L. Polk (Kit loved this! 🌟)

Follows Miles Singer, a war veteran and doctor who hides his magical abilities (a "witchmark") to avoid being committed to an asylum or enslaved by his family. [environmental systems, queer identity, power systems, queer love]

Silver in the Wood – Emily Tesh

A folklore-inspired tale of a man bound to the forest and the outsider who disrupts his quiet existence. [relationships to the land, queer love] Link to hoopla audio [here](#).

Literary and Realist Fiction

Cantoras – Carolina De Robertis

Five queer women in Uruguay create a coastal refuge during dictatorship, where the natural world becomes a site of freedom. [Shows nature as a space of queer refuge and belonging] Link to physical copy [here](#).

Dream Boy – Jim Grimsley

A Southern gothic coming-of-age novel where desire and violence unfold within a rural, atmospheric setting. [Uses landscape to mirror queer vulnerability and longing] Link to physical copy [here](#). Link to hoopla ebook [here](#).

How Much of These Hills Is Gold – C Pam Zhang (Kit only got half way but loved this! 🌟)

Two siblings journey through the post-Gold Rush American West, confronting history, migration, and survival. [queer/gender non-conforming characters, land, colonialism, environmental hardship] Link to physical copy [here](#). Link to physical copy [here](#).

Jonny Appleseed – Joshua Whitehead

A Two-Spirit Indigiqueer man reflects on identity, family, and land while navigating life between reservation and urban spaces. [Indigenous queerness, Native land] Link to hoopla ebook [here](#). Link to hoopla audiobook [here](#).

The Mercies – Kiran Millwood Hargrave (Kit loved this! 🌟)

In a remote Arctic village devastated by a storm, women form new bonds and tensions arise as outside authority imposes control. [Shows how extreme environments shape gender, power, and intimacy; queer relationships] Link to physical copy [here](#).

On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous – Ocean Vuong (Kit loved this! 🌟)

A lyrical novel about family, love, and identity, with key moments unfolding in agricultural landscapes. [Links queerness with land, labor, and memory] Link to physical copy [here](#).

This Town Sleeps – Dennis E. Staples

A novel set on an Ojibwe reservation exploring grief, community, and the spiritual presence of

the land. [Indigenous legends, queer relationships, the power of landscape] Link to physical copy [here](#). Link to hoopla audiobook [here](#).

Experimental / Cross-Genre Fiction

The Mere Wife – Maria Dahvana Headley (Kit loved this! 🌟)

A modern retelling of *Beowulf* that contrasts suburban life with the encroaching wild and the monstrous. [Examines boundaries between civilization and the natural world; queer retelling] Link to physical copy [here](#). Link to hoopla ebook [here](#).

Open Throat – Henry Hoke

Narrated by a queer mountain lion living beneath the Hollywood sign, this novel explores displacement and urban wilderness. Link to physical copy [here](#). Link to hoopla audiobook [here](#).

Stay and Fight – Madeline Ffitch

A group of queer friends attempts to build a self-sustaining community in rural Appalachia outside capitalist systems. [land use, sustainability, queer communal living] Link to physical copy [here](#).

NONFICTION

Borealis – Aisha Sabatini Sloan

A reflective essay blending personal narrative with meditations on race, queerness, and wilderness in Alaska. Link to hoopla ebook [here](#).

Dyke (geology) – Sabrina Imbler

A genre-defying essay collection weaving queerness, science, and the natural world. Link to physical copy [here](#). Link to hoopla ebook [here](#).

Forest Euphoria: The Abounding Queerness of Nature – Patricia Ononiwu Kaishian (Kit loved this! 🌟)

A scientific and personal exploration of fungi, ecology, and queerness. Link to physical copy [here](#). Link to hoopla audiobook [here](#).

How Far the Light Reaches: A Life in Ten Sea Creatures – Sabrina Imbler (Kit loved this! 🌟)

A blend of memoir and marine biology using sea life to explore identity and belonging.

[Connects queer identity with ocean ecosystems] Link to physical copy [here](#).

Queer Ducks (and Other Animals): The Natural World of Animal Sexuality – Eliot Schrefer

An exploration of queer behavior across animal species, challenging assumptions about what is “natural.” Link to physical copy [here](#). Link to hoopla audiobook [here](#).