

# Kaleidoscope Book Club

## Recommended Reads for February 2026

### Theme Overview: **Black Love, Queer Legacies & Futures**

**Theme In-Depth:** In celebration of Black History Month, this month's theme invites you to explore LGBTQ+ stories connected to Black history, culture, and imagination. Choose a book that features Black LGBTQ+ characters or is written by a Black author from the LGBTQ+ community. Stories may center on love, relationships, identity, resistance, pivotal moments in Black history, or visions of Black futures. Fiction or nonfiction selections are welcome, including romance, classics, poetry, essays, memoirs, or speculative works. Books from any category—adult, young adult, and beyond—are all welcome.

*Some titles may be available through our e-book/audiobook platforms - Hoopla and Libby.  
When possible, a link is provided to our catalog for physical copies.*

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### **Black LGBTQ+ Romance**

#### **Can't Let Her Go by Kianna Alexander**

A passionate romance about love, trust, and emotional vulnerability between two women. *(Physical copy available through the Library - [click here](#))*

#### **D'Vaughn and Kris Plan a Wedding by Chencia C. Higgins**

A reality dating show pairs two Black LGBTQ+ women in a fake engagement that slowly turns real. *(Physical copy available through the Library - [click here](#))*

#### **Flirting Lessons by Jasmine Guillory**

A lighthearted romance where friendship and flirtation turn into something deeper. *(Physical copy available through the Library - [click here](#))*

#### **How to Find a Princess by Alyssa Cole**

A modern fairy-tale romance featuring two women navigating love, duty, and self-discovery. *(Available through ILL - [email reference@monroepl.org](mailto:reference@monroepl.org))*

#### **I'm So (Not) Over You by Kosoko Jackson**

Two exes fake-date for professional reasons and rediscover unresolved feelings. *(Physical copy available through the Library - [click here](#))*

#### **Friday I'm in Love by Camryn Garrett**

A joyful rom-com following a Black LGBTQ+ teen determined to win over her crush. *(YA - Physical copy available through the Library - [click here](#))*

**Right Where I Left You by Julian Winters**

A tender second-chance romance between two Black LGBTQ+ teens. (YA - Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))

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**Black LGBTQ+ Historical Fiction****Dead Dead Girls by Nekesa Afia**

A Harlem Renaissance mystery featuring a queer Black woman detective. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))

**Giovanni's Room by James Baldwin**

A classic novel exploring love, shame, and sexuality through an American man living in Paris. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))

**Go Tell It on the Mountain by James Baldwin**

A semi-autobiographical novel examining faith, repression, and identity. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))

**Jam on the Vine by LaShonda Barnett**

Inspired by Ida B. Wells, this novel follows a Black woman journalist challenging racism and sexism. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#).)

**My Government Means to Kill Me by Rasheed Newson**

A young Black gay man navigates love and activism during the AIDS crisis. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))

**Passing by Nella Larsen**

A Harlem Renaissance novel about racial passing and suppressed desire. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))

**The Late Americans by Brandon Taylor**

Interconnected stories of artists and students exploring intimacy and desire. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))

**The Prophets by Robert Jones, Jr.**

A lyrical and heartbreaking novel about two enslaved men in love. (Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))

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## **Black LGBTQ+ Contemporary & Literary Fiction**

### **Memorial by Bryan Washington**

A quiet, emotionally rich novel about love, distance, and family. *(Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))*

### **Necessary Fiction by Eloghosa Osunde**

Interlinked stories capturing queer life, intimacy, and community in Lagos. *(Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))*

### **Rainbow Milk by Paul Mendez**

A raw novel about leaving home, faith, and shame behind to embrace queer identity. *(Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))*

### **Speak No Evil by Uzodinma Iweala**

A timely novel about identity, privilege, and danger for a Black LGBTQ+ teen. *(Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))*

### **These Heathens by Mia McKenzie**

A coming-of-age novel about a young Black LGBTQ+ woman rebelling against religion and expectations. *Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))*

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## **Black LGBTQ+ Futures, Speculative & Sci-Fi**

### **An Unkindness of Ghosts by Rivers Solomon**

A haunting sci-fi novel examining caste, trauma, and resistance aboard a spaceship. *(Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))*

### **Black Leopard, Red Wolf by Marlon James**

A dark fantasy epic rooted in African mythology with fluid sexuality and power struggles. *(Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))*

### **Memory Librarian: And Other Stories of Dirty Computer**

Afrofuturist stories expanding Janelle Monáe's queer dystopian universe. *(Available through the Library - click [here](#))*

### **Midnight Robber by Nalo Hopkinson**

A Caribbean-inspired sci-fi novel about exile, survival, and transformation. *(Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))*

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## **Black LGBTQ+ Historical Non-Fiction**

### **Bayard Rustin : a legacy of protest and politics by Michael Long**

Explores the surprising and complicated legacy of the brilliant strategist of the civil rights movement - Bayard Rustin (*Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#)*)

### **Black on Both Sides by C. Riley Snorton**

A groundbreaking history tracing Blackness and trans identity in the United States. (*Available through ILL - email [reference@monroepi.org](mailto:reference@monroepi.org)*)

### **Black. Queer. Southern. Women.: An Oral History by E. Patrick Johnson**

An oral history centering Black LGBTQ+ women's lives in the American South. (*Available through ILL - email [reference@monroepi.org](mailto:reference@monroepi.org)*)

### **Looking for Lorraine by Imani Perry**

A cultural biography of Lorraine Hansberry's political, artistic, and queer legacy. (*Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#).*)

### **Miss Major Speaks by Miss Major Griffin-Gracy with Toshio Meronek**

Conversations with a legendary Black trans activist on movement history. (*Available through ILL - email [reference@monroepi.org](mailto:reference@monroepi.org)*)

### **Mouths of Rain: An Anthology of Black Lesbian Thought**

Foundational essays documenting Black lesbian feminist history. (*Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#)*)

### **The New Negro: The Life of Alain Locke by Jeffrey C. Stewart**

A comprehensive biography of the Harlem Renaissance's key intellectual figure. (*Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#)*)

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## **Black LGBTQ+ Memoirs & Personal Essays**

### **All Boys Aren't Blue by George M. Johnson**

A memoir-manifesto reflecting on masculinity, identity, and coming of age. (*Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#)*)

### **Bad Feminist by Roxane Gay**

Cultural and personal essays embracing contradiction and critique. (*Physical copy available through Library - click [here](#)*)

### **Dear Senthurán: A Black Spirit Memoir by Akwaeke Emezi**

An intimate letter-based memoir exploring gender, migration, and healing. (*Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#)*)

**How We Fight for Our Lives: A Memoir by Saeed Jones**

A moving memoir about growing up Black and queer in the South. *(Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))*

**Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body by Roxane Gay**

A deeply personal exploration of trauma, body image, and survival. *(Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))*

**Quietly Hostile by Samantha Irby**

Humorous essays about health, relationships, and adulthood. *(Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))*

**Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches by Audre Lorde**

Essays examining race, feminism, sexuality, and power. *(Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))*

**Zami: A New Spelling of My Name by Audre Lorde**

A biomythography blending memoir and myth to trace Lorde's coming of age. *(Physical copy available through the Library - click [here](#))*

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