



Women's Studies

March 10 marks National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. These reads offer related insights.

February 18, 2019 By [Trent Straube](#)

The Triumph in Me

by Kashinda T. Marché

In this fast-paced urban novel, the streetwise and insightful Tharisse is a teenage mom when she learns she has contracted HIV from her baby's father, who soon abandons them. "I am so angry my life turned into a damned mockery," she says, determined to overcome poverty, mental illness, dysfunctional families and other challenges that read as both pulpy plot elements and raw realness.

Available at
amazon

My American History: Lesbian and Gay Life During the Reagan and Bush Years (Second Edition)

by Sarah Schulman

This collection of articles, essays and speeches by AIDS activist, journalist and historian Schulman spans 1981 to 1993 and covers topics that range from Lesbian Avengers to drug trials for pediatric AIDS. This second edition arrives with commentary, a new preface and a 2018 interview that add context.

Available at
amazon

Trans Figured: My Journey From Boy to Girl to Woman to Man

by Brian Belovitch

In 1987, Natalia Gervais tested positive for HIV in New York City. At 31, she had experienced life as a club performer, addict, sex worker and, for a brief time, the wife of a U.S. Army service member. She was also transgender—born Brian Belovitch. After the HIV diagnosis and with the aid of therapy and sobriety, Belovitch retransitioned to male. His memoir focuses mostly on Natalia’s wild and decadent days, but his insights into the fluidity of gender and sexuality emerge as way more compelling material.

Available at
amazon

Recycled Human: The Reality of Re-Entry

by Glenna McCarthy

Her first memoir, *Damaged Goods*, recounted battles with sex work, addiction, HIV and hep C. Here, McCarthy now focuses on the challenges of reentering society while dealing with sexism, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder and past incarceration. Fun illustrations complement her tell-it-like-it-is writing style. Visit her POZ blog to read an [excerpt](#) about riding public transit while drug-free.



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