

YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

Volume 18 Issue 4
April 2023

*Drag
Is Not
A Crime*

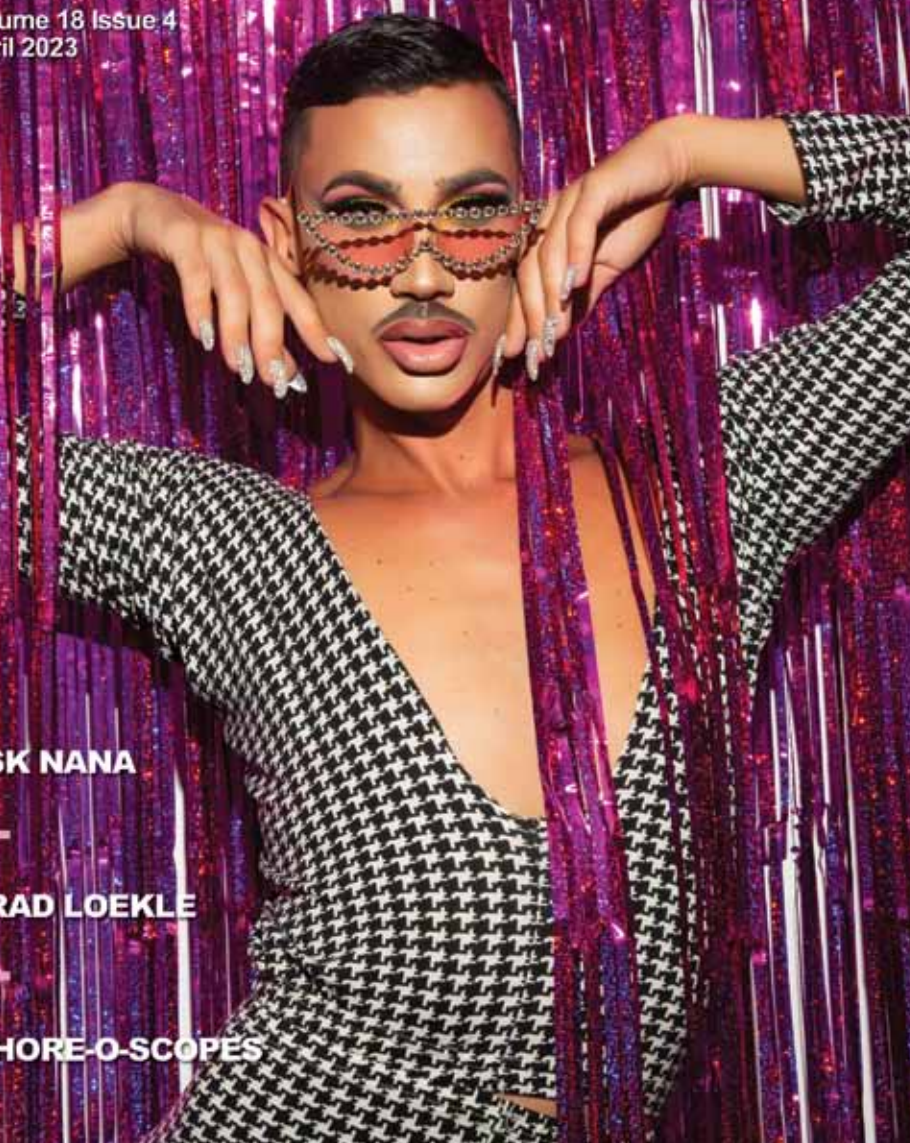
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YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

Volume 18 - Issue 4

April 2023



Welcome To Paradise!

It's sad that some states are restricting drag performances while holding active shooter drills in schools.

In Key West, we celebrate the drag community and the rich and vibrant history associated with it.

Drag Is Not A Crime!

Contributors:

Neil Chamberlain

Brad Loekle

Nana

Terri Schlichenmeyer

Stephanie Wise

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Local Advertising

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info@keywestgayrag.com

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sales@rivendellmedia.com

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Stephanie Wise

LEZ GO OUT



I remember the days when I was a tourist here and the sheer magic that the island held. The American Caribbean that you don't need a passport to get to. The way that the island air smelled (not on Duval St, of course). The unmistakable turquoise, cobalt and aquamarine water that sparkles day and night. The surprisingly salty tasting sea water that makes my skin so soft after a day floating for hours in the water at the parks or out on a boat. Every once in a while, I still get a day or two when I get swept up in the moment of living on this island. The Husbutch and I get date night on the rare occasion and we often choose the same activity for it.

Mallory Square.

I swear it doesn't matter how many times you go there it's new every time. Performers come and go. The Cat Man was a huge draw when I was first visiting the island, now the fire jugglers are extremely popular. There are always musicians, acrobats, and vendors. There is a woman who makes sail bags. Yes, out of real sails from ships! There is a woman who carves your name into a beautiful shell to take home. I love the guy who bends wire into shapes, words, PEOPLE! He made a small engine prop plane with a prop that actually spun for my grandfather. I have a conch shell he made while I was standing right there. The vendors are fun to talk with and there are plenty of places to sit and just people watch. Take some cash with you for some of the best guacamole I've ever tasted (and the street performers to watch while it's being made). He makes it fresh while you wait and it just tastes better while watching a sunset and having a drink from El

Meson De Pepe. Speaking of which, there is live music right outside of the restaurant just off of the edge of Mallory Square, too. I'm telling you, it's a whole experience. One that, to be honest, a two page article could never do justice. You could write a whole book on Mallory Square. I'd buy it!

The reason for all of this frivolity is something we call Sunset Celebration. All of this incredible art and festival happens every single night and it has been going on like this for decades and decades. There are photos of a little girl with blond hair from the 70's at Mallory Square who used to spin and dance and everyone knew her. She is all grown up now and moved away from the island, I'm told. It is a place where locals and tourists mingle together to appreciate all that this island has to offer and celebrate another day coming to a close in paradise. Locals bring their Yeti cups (no endorsement, just a fact) with their favorite beverage of choice, rest on a bench or the seawall and smile as the sun goes down. The better the beverage, the bigger the smile if you know what I mean.

The sunset as the final act of the day is unparalleled. People hold hands, cuddle up and dance to the acoustic tunes of a local artist as they try to catch a glimpse of the green flash. Every night there is someone who swears that they saw it. Even when it's cloudy as can be. (I want whatever they're drinking.) The sunsets are the most beautiful here. As a local, I have had the pleasure of watching the sunset move from over Sunset Key to the open water and back again. The colors will astound you. When the ball of butter makes it just below the horizon, you'll hear everyone around you clap and cheer! Why? Who knows. They're happy to be alive. Happy to be on vacation? Happy to live here. Any number of reasons. It has been this way for a long long time. I hope you'll join us sometime down at Mallory Square for a fresh coconut water and postcard-worthy sunset. Lez Go Out and enjoy every minute of it!

*Best time to put your
Eggs in one basket.*

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YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO
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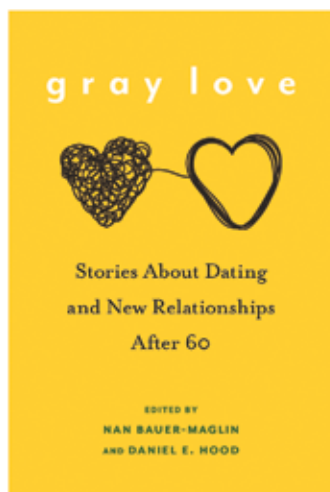


LGBT Book Reviews by *Terri Schlichenmeyer*

"GRAY LOVE: STORIES ABOUT DATING AND NEW RELATIONSHIPS AFTER 60,"

EDITED BY NAN BAUER-MAGLIN AND DANIEL E. HOOD

c.2023, Rutgers University Press | \$24.95 | 303 pages



It was supposed to be a nice night out.

But you drove around and around looking for the restaurant and once you found it, you learned that you needed reservations. Practically before the evening started, you sensed that your food could be as cold as your date. As in **"Gray Love,"** edited by **Nan Bauer-Maglin and Daniel E. Hood**, looking for love wasn't like this when you were younger.

You thought you'd be happy alone.

After the divorce, the funeral, the last break-up, you didn't think a little you-time was a bad idea. And it wasn't – but love, someone to go to the movies with or dine with or snuggle with, seems more and more appealing now. Today, though, as the forty-two essays in this book confirm and as you've learned, that's easier said than done.

You want a partner, someone your age, but you fear becoming a caretaker. You like doing your own thing, but having someone around to do it with would be nice. You have company but you are "without intimacy." Or you don't want a full-time someone but it's scary to think about "falling off a ladder alone."

So you go online because, well, people don't meet like they used to. That's when you learn that dating sites are generally ripe with people who lie about their ages, who seem clingy or who want things you can't give, "the Uncertain, the Angry... the Unattractive," and – let's be

honest – jerks. Unlike real life circa 1973 or 1993, there's nobody to vouch for singles online.

You wonder, "What would I wear?" You learn about scams the hard way, while tales of love at way-up-there-ages are inspirational. Experimenting with same sex, different sex, different race isn't off the table, but nobody's asked – or you did, and it was wonderful and why didn't you do that before? Love is love. You date the wrong people, you date the right people, you're exhausted and disappointed. And sometimes, even for awhile, you're someone's "sweetie."

According to a study quoted in "Gray Love," about twenty-five percent of American adults live alone. If you're one of them and open to a relationship, you need this book.

Just know that this is not a how-to manual. Editors Nan Bauer-Maglin and Daniel E. Hood don't offer advice in their introduction, and most of their storytellers didn't Ann-Landers their way into this book. Instead, you'll read tales of dating and mating gone happily right and very, very wrong, told in ways that will make you laugh, sigh, and know that you're not alone in your late-life search for love. The mixture here is diverse and wide: if one tale makes you want to swear off dating forever, the next one offers Happily Ever After.

Be aware that a few of the tales inside "Gray Love" flirt with the explicit and others might ruffle a feather or two. Still, it could be great to share it with a millennial or older GenZ'er, If you see this book on a bookshelf, take it out.

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MY BIG GAY LIFE

Brad Loekle



PLAYING HOUSE

Maybe it's the post-pandemic mood, but a lot of guys I used to hook up with now want a more serious relationship. I've tried them before and they're not for me. I'm not super into serious as a concept. For instance, I haven't watched "The Whale" but I've watched "Marcel, the Shell with Shoes On" five times.

I don't have a fear of commitment, I just have a fear of anything hetero-normative. It actually borders on a phobia. I like my relationships like I like my media: extreme and a little bit gross. In my experience, relationships start out all fun and games, calling your asshole your boy pussy, making house keys for each other and then losing that key when your friend takes it to the bathroom to do drugs off it... ya know, normal gay stuff. But this whole moving in together and meeting families is a slippery slope. I know a couple who met at an orgy and who wore leather to their wedding. And it was an August wedding. There wasn't a dry eye in the place, between the emotions and the aromas. But, cut to two years later and Steven is a house-husband talking to me about why I need to get a Costco membership and Marcus went from being a daddy to a plant daddy. Which is not a thing, by the way. You're not your plants "daddy." You're your plants captor. (Yeah, I said it.)

When I went over to Steven and Marcus's for what I thought was a "party night", I was quickly horrified to find out that "party" now meant a bunch of mixed alphabet people playing board games. These queens met in a sex sling and now instead of getting into skat they're getting into Scattergories?!

Steven looked at me and said, "you know ever since we adopted Susie out of foster care, I'm so worried about her not feeling a female connection so when I bottle feed her, I try to hold her to my own bosom so the bottle seems more like a breast."

I said, "Steven... Susie is a 6-year-old chihuahua that you fostered from the Alta Dena Chihuahua rescue group. Breast feeding should not come into play! Okay, Mister Kibble and Tits?!"

I have not been invited back since and I feel that is best for everyone involved.... except, possibly, Susie.

Brad Loekle's latest comedy special & album, "Brash Boys Club" is available on Amazon, AppleTV, iTunes, and other platforms. He was a semi-finalist on NBC's "Last Comic Standing". He can be seen every week on TruTV's "World's Dumbest", has written for Joan Rivers on E! "Fashion Police" & tours internationally. His book, "My Big Gay Life" is available on Amazon. For all this and more, check out: www.bradloekle.com



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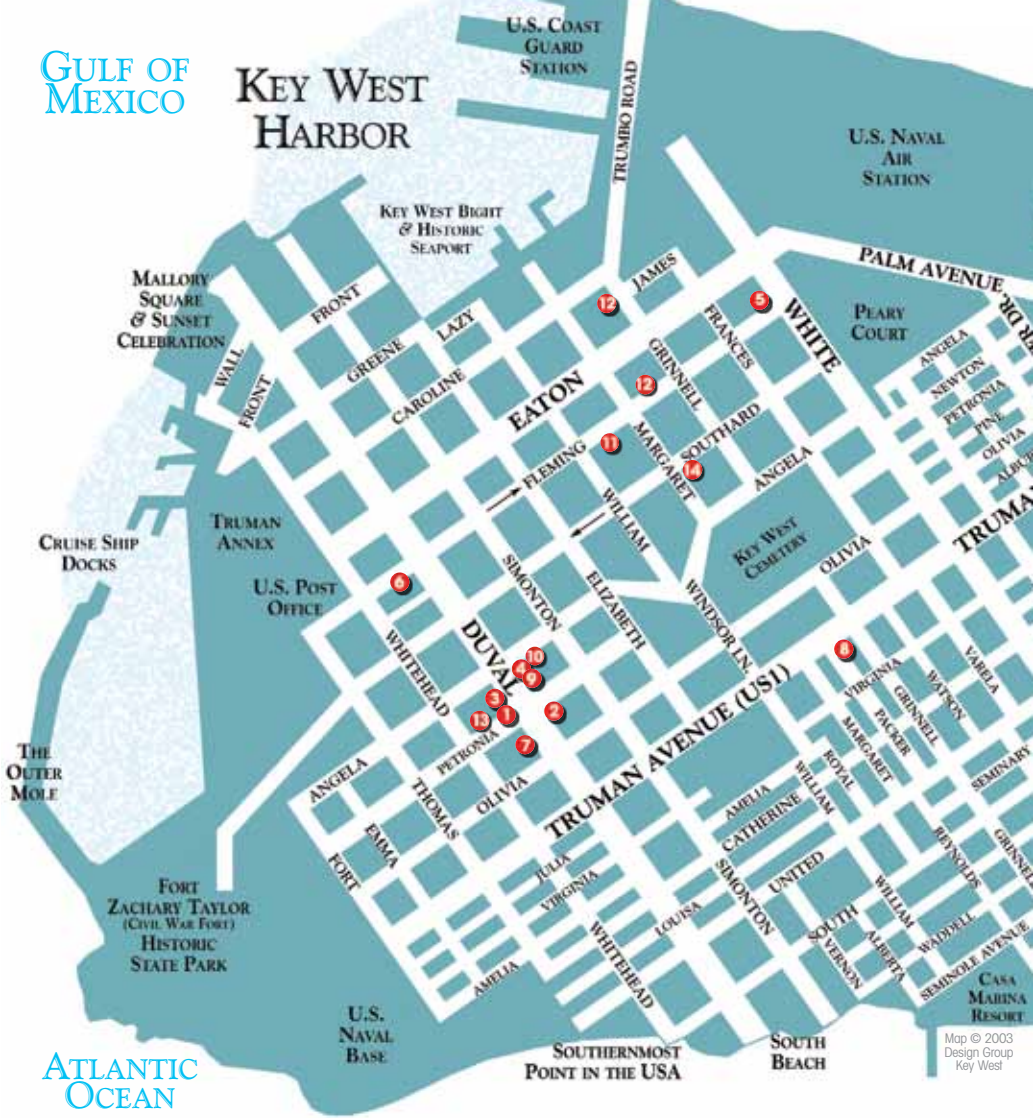
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- 7 KW Gay & Lesbian Visitor Center - 808 Duval
- 8 Truman Book & Video - 922 Truman
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WEEKLY EVENTS



MONDAY

801

Drag Shows at 8 PM and 10:30 PM

Bourbon

Bria singing live at 8:00 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

TUESDAY

801

Drag Shows at 8 PM and 10:30 PM

Bourbon

Bria singing live at 8:00 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

.....
W E D N E S D A Y
.....

801

Drag Shows at 8 PM and 10:30 PM

Bourbon

Bria singing live at 8:00 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

Island House

Hot Naked Pool Party starting at 5 PM

.....
T H U R S D A Y
.....

801

Drag Shows at 8 PM and 10:30 PM

Bourbon

Jeff Moss singing live at 8:00 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

.....
F R I D A Y
.....

801

Drag Shows at 8 PM and 10:30 PM

Bourbon

Jeff Moss singing live at 8:00 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

Boys Night Out starting at 10 PM

Saloon 1

Cock Shock contest at Midnight

.....
S A T U R D A Y
.....

801

Drag Shows at 5, 8, & 10:30 PM

Bourbon

Naked Pool Party at Noon

Jeff Moss singing live at 8:00 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

.....
S U N D A Y
.....

801

Karaoke starting at 4 PM

Drag Shows at 8 PM and 10:30 PM

Bourbon

After Tea 7 PM - 10 PM

Jeff Moss singing live at 8:00 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

Island House

Hot Naked Pool Party starting at Noon

.....
L O C A T I O N S
.....

801 - 801 Duval Street

Bourbon - 724 Duval Street

Island House - 1129 Fleming St

Saloon 1 - 504 Petronia St

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Dear Nana,

My mom is a heavy woman and has a tendency to yo-yo in weight. Her doctor has suggested this new drug everyone is taking for rapid weight loss: Ozempic. I'm nervous about it from what I've read and I worry about her health. But she insists she's going to do it. Should I push this subject or just accept that she is going to take what the doctor prescribes her?

I'm going to use a phrase you might have heard before: "my body, my choice." Now, that doesn't mean everyone always does what is best for their body. In reality, most of us don't do what is best for us all the time. Are the health issues with yo-yo dieting all your life? Yes. Are there health issues with carrying too much fat around all your life? Also, yes. In the end, unless your loved one is incapable of making decisions for themselves anymore, you need to respect their autonomy. That doesn't mean you can't express your concerns to her. It also doesn't mean you can't speak to a doctor about whatever choices she does make. Remember that speaking to medical professionals is always a better option to Google. I once googled my symptoms and thought I had African Sleeping Sickness. I had the flu. My doctor dined out on THAT story for a year.



Dear Nana,

My 96-year-old mother is mad that I have moved to Florida from New York. She harasses me about my move every time we speak. I have 4 siblings who all live close to home and are able to be there in a minute's notice, but since my move she seems completely focused on the idea that only I can help her with things and that I need to move home in order to do that. It's making it harder and harder for me to interact with her. Help!

Well, being the prodigal child is not a new phenomenon. On one hand, you can't begrudge a preposterously old lady (such as your mother and myself) for wanting all her chicks close to the nest in our final years. Or, possibly, year. I mean, not to be



too blunt but at 96 she's well into the "extra innings" section of the game of life. On the other hand, part of a parent's job is to accept that their children will fly the coop. And should do so if that's where their life's journey takes them. I would remind your mother that you can be home within the day if there is a real emergency. Planes exist and I'm sure you'll visit as often as makes sense. But if she persists, and makes this solely about her wants, I would hold your ground lovingly and simply repeat, "where I live is not a reflection on how much I love you, mom." Then just put her on speakerphone and get some household chores done as she continues to bitch. Old ladies have earned the right to bitch and you've earned the right not pay much attention. It's a good system!

DO YOU HAVE PROBLEMS? OF COURSE YOU DO! WHY NOT LET NANA HELP YOU?!

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WHORE--SCOPES

AQUARIUS JAN 20 - FEB 18

Thank goodness the fashion police aren't real because you'd get a life sentence.

PISCES FEB 19 - MAR 20

You should take up basketball. You need to bounce something other than checks!

ARIES MAR 21 - APR 19

Less is more. You're living proof. Less exercise is more weight!

TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 20

If you were any duller, you'd be a spoon.

GEMINI MAY 21 - JUN 20

It's time for "hot gurl summer" or in your case "hotcakes gurl summer."

CANCER JUN 21 - JUL 22

I'm not sure what's lower, your IQ or the number of hairs left on your head.

LEO JUL 23 - AUG 22

People usually get wiser with age. What went wrong with you?

VIRGO AUG 23 - SEP 22

When planning out monthly tasks, bathing should not be on that list.

LIBRA SEP 23 - OCT 22

You're at that age where you need to be careful about if that's really a fart you feel coming on.

SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21

When someone says meet at the gym, and you don't know where it is, it's that place with the steam room you go to every day.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21

Riding an E-Bike is not cardio!

CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 19

Having only one slice of pizza doesn't work when you only cut the whole pizza in half.

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