

WHILE MANY ICONIC FIGURES IN 1920S BLACK AMERICA may not have been public about their sexuality at the time, they still found ways to express their identities in essays, songs, poetry, and other art forms. It wasn't always pretty or polite! From high-society weddings to raunchy music and friendship feuds, George M. Johnson delivers all the juicy details in twelve short biographies of these iconic flamboyants—like Langston Hughes, Ma Rainey, Zora Neale Hurston, and Josephine Baker—whose sexualities have been obscured throughout history.

Interspersed with Johnson's personal narrative and their own poetry, *Flamboyants* illuminates how American culture has always been shaped by people who are both Black and queer. Award-winning artist Charly Palmer brings these flamboyant writers, performers, and activists to life on the page through gorgeous full-color portraits.

In their contributions to American thought and culture, these figures left a road map for the future. A future where people like George M. Johnson and others—maybe even you—can not only live publicly as queer people, but can create art fully immersed in a queer experience. And lead a flamboyant life!

GEORGE M. JOHNSON (they/them) is an award-winning and bestselling Black nonbinary author and activist. They have written on race, gender, sex, and culture for *Essence*, the *Advocate*, *BuzzFeed News*, *Teen Vogue*, and more than forty other national publications. George has appeared on BuzzFeed's AM2DM as well as on MSNBC. They are also a proud HBCU alum twice over and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. Their debut memoir, *All Boys Aren't Blue*, was a *New York Times* bestseller and garnered many accolades. It was the second-most challenged book of 2022 in the United States, according to the American Library Association. For their work fighting book bans and challenges, the National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC) honored George with its Free Speech Defender Award, and *TIME* magazine named them one of the "100 Next Most Influential People in the World." George was nominated for an Emmy Award for their dramatic reading of *All Boys Aren't Blue*. Originally from Plainfield, New Jersey, they now live in Los Angeles, California. iamgmjohnson.com

READ BY THE AUTHOR



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