

# boy erased memoir garrard conley

Boy Erased Memoir Garrard Conley: A Deep Dive into Identity, Faith, and Courage

**boy erased memoir garrard conley** is a powerful and deeply personal narrative that has resonated with countless readers around the world. This memoir offers an unflinching look at the struggles of growing up gay in a conservative Christian environment and the harrowing experience of undergoing conversion therapy. Garrard Conley's story is more than just a memoir; it's a testament to resilience, self-discovery, and the complex intersections of faith and identity.

In this article, we'll explore the themes, background, and impact of the boy erased memoir garrard conley, touching on related topics such as LGBTQ+ issues, conversion therapy, and the broader cultural implications of his work. Whether you're familiar with the memoir or discovering it for the first time, there's much to learn from Conley's courageous journey.

## Who is Garrard Conley?

Before diving into the memoir itself, it's helpful to understand a bit about the author. Garrard Conley grew up in a strict evangelical family in Arkansas, where religious beliefs heavily influenced everyday life. As a young man grappling with his sexual orientation, Conley faced immense pressure from his community and family to conform to heteronormative expectations.

His memoir, "Boy Erased: A Memoir of Identity, Faith, and Family," chronicles his experience being sent to a conversion therapy program – a controversial and widely discredited practice aimed at changing an individual's sexual orientation. Conley's writing is raw and honest, capturing the emotional and psychological toll of this ordeal, as well as the complicated dynamics within his family.

## The Story Behind Boy Erased Memoir Garrard Conley

At its core, the boy erased memoir garrard conley is a coming-of-age story marked by pain and hope. Conley was outed to his parents while in college, which led to his father insisting that he attend a program designed to "cure" homosexuality. The memoir details his time in this program, exposing the harmful methods used and the damaging effects they had on his sense of self.

## **Conversion Therapy: What Was It Like?**

Conversion therapy is a controversial practice that has been condemned by major medical and psychological organizations worldwide. In Conley's memoir, he describes sessions filled with prayer, confession, and various forms of psychological manipulation. Participants were often made to confront their sexuality as something sinful or broken, which only heightened feelings of shame and isolation.

The memoir doesn't just highlight the therapy itself but also the broader cultural and religious context that enabled such practices to exist. It offers a lens into how faith communities can sometimes inadvertently perpetuate harm through rigid beliefs and lack of acceptance.

## **The Impact on Family Dynamics**

One of the most moving parts of the boy erased memoir garrard conley is how it portrays family relationships. Conley's parents, particularly his father, are shown as complex figures struggling between their love for their son and their adherence to religious doctrine. This tension is a central theme throughout the book, illustrating how faith and love can sometimes be at odds.

The memoir doesn't demonize Conley's family but instead provides a nuanced perspective. It invites readers to consider how people navigate difficult beliefs and the pain that can arise from misunderstanding and fear.

## **The Cultural and Social Significance of Boy Erased**

Boy Erased has had a significant cultural impact, not only as a memoir but also through its adaptation into a major motion picture starring Lucas Hedges, Nicole Kidman, and Russell Crowe. The film helped bring Conley's story to a wider audience, sparking conversations about LGBTQ+ rights, religious intolerance, and the ethics of conversion therapy.

## **Raising Awareness About Conversion Therapy**

One crucial contribution of Garrard Conley's memoir is its role in raising awareness about the dangers of conversion therapy. Many readers learned for the first time about the existence of these programs and their devastating effects. Since the book's publication, there has been increased activism and legislative efforts aimed at banning conversion therapy in several countries and states.

# Breaking the Silence on LGBTQ+ Experiences in Religious Communities

Another significant aspect of the memoir is how it sheds light on the often-hidden struggles of LGBTQ+ individuals within religious communities. For many, faith is a critical part of identity, and reconciling that with sexual orientation can be a painful process. Conley's story helps foster empathy and understanding, encouraging more open dialogue around these issues.

## What Makes the Boy Erased Memoir Garrard Conley Stand Out?

Many memoirs deal with coming out stories or LGBTQ+ themes, but the boy erased memoir garrard conley stands out because of its honest, nuanced exploration of religion, family, and identity. Here are a few reasons why this memoir is particularly impactful:

- **Authentic Voice:** Conley's writing is intimate and candid, making readers feel as though they are on this difficult journey with him.
- **Complex Characters:** Instead of painting people in black and white, the memoir explores the gray areas of belief, love, and hurt.
- **Educational Value:** It provides clear insight into conversion therapy practices and the psychological trauma involved.
- **Broader Relevance:** The memoir resonates beyond the LGBTQ+ community by addressing universal themes of acceptance, courage, and self-worth.

## How the Memoir Inspires Change and Hope

Reading the boy erased memoir garrard conley can be a transformative experience. It's not just a story of trauma but also one of healing and empowerment. Conley's willingness to share his truth has inspired many to find their own voices and challenge harmful societal norms.

## Encouraging Empathy and Understanding

One of the most valuable takeaways from the memoir is the way it encourages readers to approach others with compassion, especially those whose

experiences differ from their own. By humanizing the struggles of LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly those in religious contexts, Conley bridges gaps in understanding.

## **Supporting Mental Health and Authenticity**

The memoir highlights the importance of mental health support and the dangers of suppressing one's true self. It serves as a reminder that acceptance – both from others and oneself – is crucial for well-being.

## **Where to Start If You Want to Read Boy Erased Memoir Garrard Conley**

If you're interested in exploring this memoir, it's widely available in bookstores and online. In addition to the book, the film adaptation offers a poignant visual representation of the story, though the memoir provides much more detail and introspection.

For those seeking to deepen their understanding of LGBTQ+ issues, especially in religious contexts, reading the boy erased memoir garrard conley alongside other resources about conversion therapy and faith can be incredibly enlightening.

## **Additional Resources to Explore**

- Organizations working to ban conversion therapy, such as The Trevor Project and Born Perfect
- Books and memoirs by LGBTQ+ authors from religious backgrounds
- Documentaries and interviews with survivors of conversion therapy

The boy erased memoir garrard conley is a significant contribution to the ongoing conversation about identity, faith, and acceptance. It challenges readers to confront uncomfortable truths while offering hope that healing and understanding are possible. Whether you're a member of the LGBTQ+ community, an ally, or simply someone who values honest storytelling, Garrard Conley's memoir is a compelling and necessary read.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the memoir 'Boy Erased' by Garrard Conley about?

'Boy Erased' is a memoir by Garrard Conley that recounts his experience growing up as a gay Christian in Arkansas and being forced to attend a conversion therapy program.

## Who is Garrard Conley, the author of 'Boy Erased'?

Garrard Conley is an American author and LGBTQ+ advocate who wrote 'Boy Erased' based on his personal experiences with conversion therapy.

## What is conversion therapy, as depicted in 'Boy Erased'?

Conversion therapy is a controversial and widely discredited practice aimed at changing an individual's sexual orientation from homosexual or bisexual to heterosexual, which Garrard Conley was subjected to in the memoir.

## How has 'Boy Erased' impacted the conversation around LGBTQ+ rights?

'Boy Erased' has raised awareness about the harmful effects of conversion therapy and contributed to the larger conversation about LGBTQ+ rights and the need to ban such practices.

## Has 'Boy Erased' been adapted into any other media?

Yes, 'Boy Erased' was adapted into a feature film released in 2018, starring Lucas Hedges, Nicole Kidman, and Russell Crowe.

## What themes are explored in Garrard Conley's memoir 'Boy Erased'?

The memoir explores themes such as identity, faith, family, acceptance, and the psychological impact of conversion therapy.

## Is 'Boy Erased' suitable for readers unfamiliar with LGBTQ+ issues?

Yes, 'Boy Erased' provides a personal and insightful account that can educate readers about LGBTQ+ struggles, especially regarding conversion therapy.

## What has been the public and critical reception of 'Boy Erased'?

'Boy Erased' has been praised for its honest and courageous storytelling, receiving critical acclaim and helping to foster dialogue about LGBTQ+ issues.

## Where can I purchase or read 'Boy Erased' by Garrard Conley?

'Boy Erased' is available for purchase at major bookstores, online retailers like Amazon, and can also be found in many public and university libraries.

## Additional Resources

Boy Erased Memoir Garrard Conley: An Investigative Review of Identity, Trauma, and Redemption

**boy erased memoir garrard conley** serves as a poignant and unsettling exploration of conversion therapy through the deeply personal lens of its author, Garrard Conley. This memoir, which chronicles Conley's harrowing experience within a gay conversion therapy program, has become a critical text in understanding the psychological and social ramifications of such controversial practices. Its adaptation into a major motion picture further amplifies its cultural significance, sparking widespread discussions about LGBTQ+ rights and the ethics of "reparative" therapy.

This article aims to provide an analytical review of the memoir, examining its narrative style, thematic depth, and societal impact while integrating relevant SEO keywords like conversion therapy memoir, LGBTQ+ narrative, and Garrard Conley story to enhance discoverability for readers interested in these critical issues.

## Contextual Background of Boy Erased Memoir Garrard Conley

Garrard Conley's memoir, initially published in 2016, recounts his upbringing in a conservative Baptist family in Arkansas and his subsequent forced enrollment in a conversion therapy program after coming out as gay. The memoir's release coincided with growing public scrutiny of conversion therapy practices, which many medical professionals and human rights advocates condemn as harmful and ineffective.

Boy Erased is more than a mere personal recount; it is an investigative dive into the mechanics of conversion therapy, its psychological toll, and the broader socio-political environment that enables such practices to persist.

Conley's firsthand account exposes the emotional trauma endured by countless individuals subjected to these programs, offering an invaluable resource for educators, policymakers, and mental health professionals.

## **Narrative Style and Literary Techniques**

Conley employs a candid and unvarnished prose style that lends an immediacy and authenticity to his narrative. The memoir's tone balances vulnerability with resilience, allowing readers to engage intimately with the author's internal conflicts and external challenges. His use of detailed descriptions and emotional introspection invites empathy without resorting to sensationalism.

One of the memoir's distinctive features is its structural pacing. The initial chapters focus heavily on Conley's family dynamics, religious indoctrination, and internalized homophobia, setting a stark contrast to the later sections detailing the conversion therapy program's oppressive environment. This progression mirrors the psychological unraveling and subsequent reconstruction of Conley's identity.

## **Key Themes Explored in Boy Erased Memoir Garrard Conley**

The memoir delves into several complex themes, each contributing to a nuanced understanding of the LGBTQ+ experience within hostile cultural frameworks.

### **Identity and Self-Acceptance**

At its core, Boy Erased is a study in the struggle for self-acceptance amid external rejection. Conley's journey highlights the tension between inherited beliefs and personal truth, illustrating the psychological fragmentation caused by societal and familial non-acceptance. His narrative underscores the importance of embracing one's identity as a foundation for mental and emotional well-being.

### **Religious Influence and Moral Conflict**

Religion plays a pivotal role throughout Conley's memoir, not only as a source of familial love but also as an instrument of oppression. The memoir critically examines how conservative Christian doctrines are employed to justify conversion therapy, resulting in moral conflicts that exacerbate psychological distress. Conley's nuanced portrayal avoids caricature, instead

offering a balanced view of faith's complex role in shaping identity.

## **Psychological Impact of Conversion Therapy**

The memoir provides a rare, insider perspective on the conversion therapy industry, highlighting methods ranging from group therapy sessions to intense personal confrontations. Conley exposes the damaging effects of these practices, including anxiety, depression, and self-loathing. His detailed account aligns with broader research that condemns conversion therapy as psychologically harmful, reinforcing calls for its prohibition.

## **Family Dynamics and Societal Pressure**

Conley's relationship with his family is a central narrative thread, illustrating how love and rejection can coexist. The memoir explores the painful negotiations between familial loyalty and personal authenticity, reflecting broader societal pressures that compel LGBTQ+ individuals to conform. This theme resonates with readers facing similar conflicts, offering both solace and insight.

## **Comparison with Other Memoirs and Media**

When compared to other memoirs in the LGBTQ+ genre, such as Janet Mock's "Redefining Realness" or Andrew Solomon's "Far From the Tree," *Boy Erased* stands out for its specific focus on conversion therapy. While many LGBTQ+ memoirs explore themes of identity and acceptance, Conley's narrative provides a vital contribution by documenting a form of institutionalized abuse that remains underrepresented in literature.

The memoir's film adaptation, released in 2018 and starring Lucas Hedges and Nicole Kidman, brought further attention to Conley's story. However, critics have noted differences between the book and the film, particularly in the depth of character development and the portrayal of the conversion therapy program. The memoir's raw and detailed account arguably offers a more comprehensive understanding of the emotional complexity involved.

## **Pros and Cons of the Memoir's Approach**

- **Pros:** The memoir's honesty and detailed narrative provide a powerful testimony against conversion therapy, fostering empathy and awareness. Its integration of personal and societal analysis enriches the reader's comprehension of the multifaceted impact of these practices.

- **Cons:** Some readers may find the memoir's introspective style slow-paced or emotionally intense. Additionally, its focus on a single individual's experience may not capture the full diversity of stories within the LGBTQ+ community affected by conversion therapy.

## Impact and Continuing Relevance of Boy Erased Memoir Garrard Conley

Since its publication, *Boy Erased* has played a significant role in advocacy against conversion therapy. Its use in educational settings and support groups highlights its effectiveness as a tool for fostering understanding and empathy. Moreover, Garrard Conley continues to engage in public speaking and activism, extending the memoir's influence beyond the written page.

The memoir's relevance persists amid ongoing debates about LGBTQ+ rights globally. As legislation against conversion therapy gains momentum in various jurisdictions, *Boy Erased* offers both a historical account and a cautionary tale, reminding society of the human cost behind political and cultural battles.

The book also contributes to broader discussions about mental health, trauma recovery, and the necessity of inclusive support systems for marginalized communities. Its nuanced portrayal encourages readers to critically assess the intersection of identity, belief, and institutional power.

In sum, *Boy Erased* memoir Garrard Conley remains a significant work that combines personal narrative with social critique. Its exploration of identity, faith, and resilience continues to resonate, making it an essential read for those interested in LGBTQ+ literature, human rights, and contemporary social issues.

### [Boy Erased Memoir Garrard Conley](#)

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**boy erased memoir garrard conley:** *Boy Erased* Garrard Conley, 2016-05-10 The New York Times bestselling memoir about identity, love and understanding. Now a major motion picture starring Nicole Kidman, Russell Crowe, and Lucas Hedges, directed by Joel Edgerton. Every sentence of the story will stir your soul (O Magazine). The son of a Baptist pastor and deeply

embedded in church life in small town Arkansas, as a young man Garrard Conley was terrified and conflicted about his sexuality. When Garrard was a nineteen-year-old college student, he was outed to his parents, and was forced to make a life-changing decision: either agree to attend a church-supported conversion therapy program that promised to “cure” him of homosexuality; or risk losing family, friends, and the God he had prayed to every day of his life. Through an institutionalized Twelve-Step Program heavy on Bible study, he was supposed to emerge heterosexual, ex-gay, cleansed of impure urges and stronger in his faith in God for his brush with sin. Instead, even when faced with a harrowing and brutal journey, Garrard found the strength and understanding to break out in search of his true self and forgiveness. By confronting his buried past and the burden of a life lived in shadow, Garrard traces the complex relationships among family, faith, and community. At times heart-breaking, at times triumphant, this memoir is a testament to love that survives despite all odds.

**boy erased memoir garrard conley: Summary of Boy Erased** Paul Adams / Bookhabits, 2019-01-09 Boy Erased: A Memoir by Garrard Conley: Conversation Starters After nine days in an ex-gay therapy program, Garrard Conley knew he could not be part of it anymore. He was suicidal as he left the program. The counselors impressed on the gay participants of their sinfulness and their need to be fixed. His mother admits later on that it was a mistake to make him attend the conversion program. He grew up with Missionary Baptist parents who believed deeply in the Christian faith, but being gay was a sin and was not considered acceptable. The book exposes the intolerance that exists today when people confront the issue of gay identity and sexuality. It is also a story about love, identity, and understanding. One of the top nonfiction books of 2016, the memoir Boy Erased is now a movie written and directed by Joel Edgerton with Nicole Kidman, Russel Crowe, and Lucas Hedges in the lead role. The book was a nominee for the Lambda Literary Award. A Brief Look Inside: EVERY GOOD BOOK CONTAINS A WORLD FAR DEEPER than the surface of its pages. The characters and their world come alive, and the characters and its world still live on. Conversation Starters is peppered with questions designed to bring us beneath the surface of the page and invite us into the world that lives on. These questions can be used to.. Create Hours of Conversation: - Promote an atmosphere of discussion for groups - Foster a deeper understanding of the book - Assist in the study of the book, either individually or corporately - Explore unseen realms of the book as never seen before Disclaimer: This book you are about to enjoy is an independent resource meant to supplement the original book. If you have not yet read the original book, we encourage you to before purchasing this unofficial Conversation Starters.

**boy erased memoir garrard conley: Boy Erased: A Memoir of Identity, Faith and Family** Garrard Conley, 2018-06-14 NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE STARRING LUCAS HEDGES, RUSSELL CROWE AND NICOLE KIDMAN, AND WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JOEL EDGERTON ‘A necessary, beautiful book’ Garth Greenwell, author of What Belongs to You ‘A brilliant memoir’ Guardian

**boy erased memoir garrard conley: Gay Conversion Practices in Memoir, Film and Fiction** James E. Bennett, Marguerite Johnson, 2024-06-13 For over half a century, organizations and individuals promoting ex-gay, conversion and/ or reparative therapy have pushed the tenet that a person may be able to, and should, alter their sexual orientation. Their so-called treatments or therapies have taken various forms over the decades, ranging from medical (including psychiatric or psychological) rehabilitation approaches, to counselling, and religious healing. Gay Conversion Practices in Memoir, Film and Fiction provides an in-depth exploration of the disturbing phenomenon of gay conversion 'therapy' and its fictional and autobiographical representations across a broad range of films and books such as But I'm a Cheerleader! (1999), This is What Love in Action Looks Like (2011) and Boy Erased (2018). In doing so, the volume emphasizes the powerful role the arts and media play in communicating stories around conversion practices. Approaching the timely and urgent subject from an interdisciplinary perspective, contributors utilize film theory, queer theory, literary theory, mental health and social movement theory to discuss the medicalization and pathologizing of queer people, the power of institutions ranging from church,

psychiatry and family (sometimes in alliance), and the real and fictional voices of survivors.

**boy erased memoir garrard conley: Boy Erased** Conley Garrard, 2023-05-15 A diciannove anni Garrard, figlio di un pastore battista e devoto membro della vita religiosa di una piccola città dell'Arkansas, è costretto a confessare ai genitori la propria omosessualità. La loro reazione lo mette di fronte a una scelta che gli cambierà la vita: perdere la famiglia, gli amici e il Dio che ama sin dalla nascita oppure sottoporsi a una terapia di riorientamento sessuale, o terapia riparativa, per «curarsi» dall'omosessualità, un programma in dodici passi da cui dovrebbe riemergere eterosessuale, ex-gay, purificato dagli empì istinti che lo animano e ritemprato nella fede in Dio attraverso lo scampato pericolo del peccato. Quello di Garrard è un viaggio lungo e doloroso grazie al quale, tuttavia, trova la forza e la consapevolezza necessarie per affermare la sua vera natura e conquistarsi il perdono di cui ha bisogno. Affrontando a viso aperto il suo passato sepolto e il peso di una vita vissuta nell'ombra, in questo memoir l'autore esamina il complesso rapporto che lega famiglia, religione e comunità. Straziante e insieme liberatorio, *Boy Erased* è un'ode all'amore che sopravvive nonostante tutto. Questo libro ha ispirato l'omonimo film prodotto da Focus Features, diretto da Joel Edgerton, con protagonisti Nicole Kidman, Russell Crowe e Lucas Hedges. La pellicola arriverà nelle sale americane il 2 novembre. Presto anche in quelle italiane.

**boy erased memoir garrard conley: Boy Erased** Joel Edgerton, 2018

**boy erased memoir garrard conley: Bearing Witness to Trauma: An Analysis of Reader Empathy in Garrard Conley's Autobiographical Memoir "Boy Erased"**, 2024-05-21 Seminar paper from the year 2020 in the subject American Studies, grade: 1,7, University of Paderborn (Fakultät für Kulturwissenschaften), course: American Trauma Narratives, language: English, abstract: *Boy Erased* can be read as a trauma narrative with a special focus on the trauma narrative's function of creating reader empathy described by Laurie Vickroy. Therefore, this paper argues that *Boy Erased* offers the narrative strategies of the first-person point of view, interior monologues, foregrounding, and providing insight views into another character's thoughts and feelings to fulfill the trauma narrative function of creating reader empathy. To prove this thesis, the paper's content is structured like the following. Firstly, the text gives a theoretical background on ex-gay conversion therapy, its harmful effects as well as its current relevance to the United States. Moreover, the paper defines reader empathy in trauma literature as described by Vickroy. Here, the chapter lays out the most important concepts for the analysis of reader empathy in the primary text. After that, the relevance of reader empathy specifically in *Boy Erased* will be pointed out. The next chapter covers an elaborate analysis of how Conley engages reader empathy throughout the memoir. Finally, the paper's central findings will be summarized in a conclusion with an outlook on further research.

**boy erased memoir garrard conley: Queer & Proud - The Big LGBTQIA+ Book About Love, Life & Lust** J.K.Belly J.K.Belly, 2025-05-08 *Queer & Proud - The Big LGBTQIA+ Book About Love, Life & Lust* Being queer is more than just identity—it's love, freedom, and the power to live authentically. *Queer & Proud* is the ultimate guide to LGBTQIA+ life, filled with inspiring stories, real talk, and everything you need to know about love, relationships, identity, and sexuality. Whether you're exploring who you are, looking for advice, or just celebrating queerness, this book is your go-to companion. Inside, you'll discover: □ The history, struggles, and victories of the LGBTQIA+ community □ Relationship and dating advice for every identity and orientation □ Open discussions about sex, intimacy, and self-expression □ Inspiring stories from queer voices around the world □ How to embrace your true self and navigate life with confidence No shame. No limits. Just pure pride. Get your copy now and celebrate love, life, and the power of being unapologetically you! The best books should be affordable, so we've set this super price just for you!

**boy erased memoir garrard conley: Boy Erased--A Memoir of Identity, Faith, and Family by Garrard Conley** *Conversation Starters* dailyBooks, 2018 *Boy Erased: A Memoir of Identity, Faith, and Family* by Garrard Conley *Conversation Starters* After nine days in an ex-gay therapy program, Garrard Conley knew he could not be part of it anymore. He was suicidal as he left the program. The counselors impressed on the gay participants of their sinfulness and their need to be fixed. His

mother admits later on that it was a mistake to make him attend the conversion program. He grew up with Missionary Baptist parents who believed deeply in the Christian faith, but being gay was a sin and was not considered acceptable. The book exposes the intolerance that exists today when people confront the issue of gay identity and sexuality. It is also a story about love, identity, and understanding. One of the top nonfiction books of 2016, the memoir *Boy Erased* is now a movie written and directed by Joel Edgerton with Nicole Kidman, Russel Crowe, and Lucas Hedges in the lead role. The book was a nominee for the Lambda Literary Award. A Brief Look Inside: EVERY GOOD BOOK CONTAINS A WORLD FAR DEEPER than the surface of its pages. The characters and their world come alive, and the characters and its world still live on. Conversation Starters is peppered with questions designed to bring us beneath the surface of the page and invite us into the world that lives on. These questions can be used to.. Create Hours of Conversation: • Foster a deeper understanding of the book • Promote an atmosphere of discussion for groups • Assist in the study of the book, either individually or corporately • Explore unseen realms of the book as never seen before

**boy erased memoir garrard conley: Queerfully and Wonderfully Made** Leigh Finke, 2020-08-25 ALA 2021 Rainbow List Pick Are you LGBTQ+? Not sure? Whether you're queer or questioning, understanding sexuality and gender identity can be confusing. And if you're a Christian, questions of identity can be even scarier. Is there something wrong with you? Will your friends accept you? When should you tell your family? What about church? *Queerfully and Wonderfully Made: A Guide for LGBTQ+ Christian Teens* has answers to all these questions and more. You'll get insight and support from an amazing group of LGBTQ+ professionals, as well as testimonies from young adult queer Christians who've recently been exactly where you are. You'll walk away with a lot of answers, prepared with tools to help. But most importantly, you'll hear the good news: God loves you exactly as you are. No matter your identity or where in your journey of self-discovery you find yourself, you got this.

**boy erased memoir garrard conley: Ancestor Trouble** Maud Newton, 2022-03-29 "Extraordinary and wide-ranging . . . a literary feat that simultaneously builds and excavates identity."—The New York Times Book Review (Editors' Choice) Roxane Gay's Audacious Book Club Pick • Finalist for the National Book Critics Circle's John Leonard Prize • An acclaimed writer goes searching for the truth about her complicated Southern family—and finds that our obsession with ancestors opens up new ways of seeing ourselves—in this "brilliant mix of personal memoir and cultural observation" (The Boston Globe). ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: The New Yorker, NPR, Time, Entertainment Weekly, The Washington Post, The Boston Globe, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Esquire, Garden & Gun Maud Newton's ancestors have fascinated her since she was a girl. Her mother's father was said to have married thirteen times. Her mother's grandfather killed a man with a hay hook. Mental illness and religious fanaticism percolated Maud's maternal lines back to an ancestor accused of being a witch in Puritan-era Massachusetts. Newton's family inspired in her a desire to understand family patterns: what we are destined to replicate and what we can leave behind. She set out to research her genealogy—her grandfather's marriages, the accused witch, her ancestors' roles in slavery and other harms. Her journey took her into the realms of genetics, epigenetics, and debates over intergenerational trauma. She mulled over modernity's dismissal of ancestors along with psychoanalytic and spiritual traditions that center them. Searching and inspiring, *Ancestor Trouble* is one writer's attempt to use genealogy—a once-niche hobby that has grown into a multi-billion-dollar industry—to make peace with the secrets and contradictions of her family's past and face its reverberations in the present, and to argue for the transformational possibilities that reckoning with our ancestors offers all of us.

**boy erased memoir garrard conley: You Lied to Me About God** Jamie Marich, PHD, 2024-10-15 An intimate and important memoir of deconstructing and reconstructing faith after abuse ... a spiritual memoir that does not shy away from abuse, queerness, or the multifaceted character of God. —Kirkus Reviews (starred review) A courageous, vulnerable, and spellbinding memoir that explores with visceral impact what happens when harm starts at home—and is exalted

as God's will For readers of *Unfollow* and *Jesus Land*: Jamie Marich explores spiritual abuse, intergenerational trauma, and weaponized faith At nine years old, Jamie Marich asked God to end it all. Doing it herself would be an irrevocable sin: an affront to the church and her father's God. She prayed instead for the rapture, an accident, a passive death—anything to stop the turmoil of feeling wrong: wrong in her body; wrong in her desires; wrong in her faith in a merciful God that could love her wholly as she was. *You Lied to Me About God* explores the schisms that erupt when faith is weaponized, when abuse collides with the push-and-pull of a mixed religious upbringing tyhat tells you: no matter which path you choose—no matter what you know in your heart to be true—you're probably damned. With resilience, strength, and gut-punching clarity, Marich takes readers through a tumultuous coming-of-age marked by addiction, escapism, spiritual manipulation, misogyny, and abuse. She shares with unflinching detail the complicity of her mother's silence and the lengths her father went to assert dominance and control over her body, her desires, her identity—and even her eternal soul—"for her own good" and with a side of televangelistic hellfire. Hitting a breaking point, Marich embarks on pilgrimage: from shrines in Croatia to ashrams in Florida, she reckons with what it means to come home to a faith that heals and accepts her wholly as she is: in her queerness, in her body, and in her deep relationship to an expansive and loving God.

**boy erased memoir garrard conley:** *Banning Transgender Conversion Practices* Florence Ashley, 2022-04-01 Survivors of conversion practices - interventions meant to stop gender transition - have likened these to torture. In the last decade, bans on these deeply unethical and harmful processes have proliferated, and governments across the world are considering following suit. *Banning Transgender Conversion Practices* considers pivotal questions for anyone studying or working to prevent these harmful interventions. What is the scope of the bans? How do they differ across jurisdictions? What are the advantages and disadvantages of legislative approaches to regulating trans conversion therapy? How can we improve these prohibitions? Florence Ashley answers these questions and demonstrates the need for affirmative health care cultures and detailed laws that clearly communicate which practices are banned. *Banning Transgender Conversion Practices* centres trans realities to rethink and push forward the legal regulation of conversion therapy, culminating in a carefully annotated model law that offers detailed guidance for legislatures and policymakers.

**boy erased memoir garrard conley:** *Torture and Enhanced Interrogation* Christina Ann-Marie DiEdoardo, 2020-02-07 An all-in-one resource for understanding the issue of torture and enhanced interrogations, including their history as an instrument of state power and warfare, debates over the morality of their use in different contexts, and efforts by human rights organizations and nations to end torture and enhanced interrogation techniques worldwide. *Torture and Enhanced Interrogation: A Reference Handbook* begins with an in-depth historical overview of the practice, beginning in Ancient Greece and continuing to Guantanamo Bay and beyond. After grounding the reader in the historical fundamentals, the book examines the most explosive controversies that surround the use of torture and enhanced interrogation techniques like waterboarding to extract information from prisoners or alleged enemies of the state. This historical background is supplemented with primary sources that illuminate important torture-related laws and international alliances, as well as the perspectives of torture survivors and human rights advocates. Other features in the book include profiles of notable individuals and organizations associated with the issue, annotated bibliography for future research, chronology of events, and glossary of key terms.

**boy erased memoir garrard conley:** *Archive Activism* Charles Francis, 2023-09-15 *Archive Activism* is a memoir of activism rooted in a new way to converse with history—by rescuing it. Archive activists discover documents and other important materials often classified, "gone missing," or sealed that somehow escaped the fireplace or shredder. It is an approach to LGBTQ advocacy and policy activism based on citizen archivery and original archival research to effect social change. Research=Activism is the formula growing out of Charles Francis's personal story as a gay Texan born and raised during the 1950s and 1960s in Dallas. The rescues range in time and place from

Francis's first encounter with a raucous, near-violent religious demonstration in Fort Worth to attics loaded with forgotten historic treasures of LGBTQ pioneers. Archive Activism tells how Francis helped Governor George W. Bush achieve his dream of becoming president in 2000 by reaching out to gay and lesbian supporters, the first time a Republican candidate for president formally met with gay and lesbian Americans. This inspired Francis to engage with deleted LGBTQ history by forming a historical society with an edge, a new Mattachine Society of Washington, DC. For the first time, Archive Activism reveals how LGBTQ secrets were held for decades at the LBJ Presidential Library in the papers of President Johnson's personal secretary, sealed until her death at age 105. Mattachine's signature discovery is a federal attorney's classified assault blandly filed under "Suitability" at the National Archives: "What it boils down to is that most men look upon homosexuality as something uniquely nasty." Archive Activism is not only a memoir but also an essential roadmap for activists from any group armed only with their library cards.

**boy erased memoir garrard conley: From Gay to Z: A Queer Compendium** Justin Elizabeth Sayre, 2022-05-10 This illustrated compendium celebrates LGBTQIA+ history and culture, written by and according to culture icon Justin Elizabeth Sayre! Based on Sayre's five-part show in New York City, *From Gay to Z* is a humorous collection of the rich legacy of gay culture, told through the letters of the alphabet. From ABBA to addiction, hair and makeup to HIV, Fannie Flagg to fierce, Sayre offers their own perspective on the things that have influenced gay culture today, including iconic figures, historical moments, ongoing issues in the LGBTQIA+ community, and everything in between. As gay culture is always evolving and different for everyone, this book does not serve as a definitive guide—instead, Sayre encourages readers to use this knowledge to reflect on the things that have informed their personal identities. Engagingly written and beautifully designed, *From Gay to Z* is a distinctive and dynamic look at gay culture for LGBTQIA+ readers everywhere. **STRONG VOICE AND ENGAGING CONTENT:** Sayre's writing is lively, engaging, and rich. The entries have their own style and contain humorous anecdotes, facts, commentary, and more—all told through Sayre's animated yet authoritative voice. **BELOVED, WELL-KNOWN AUTHOR:** Sayre is active and well-known in the LGBTQIA+ community and beyond. They've been recognized as one of LA's 16 Most Talented LGBT Comics by *Frontiers Magazine*, and their debut comedy album, *The Gay Agenda*, was named one of 2016's Best Things in Comedy by *The Comedy Bureau*. They host their own podcast, *Sparkle & Circulate*, where they interview performers, writers, and other creative minds of the LGBTQIA+ community. As an activist, Justin's charity benefit show, *Night of a Thousand Judys*, raises money for the Ali Forney Center for Homeless LGBTQIA+ youth and is now in its 7th year. Perfect for: • LGBTQIA+ people of all ages • Fans of Trixie and Katya's *Guide to Modern Womanhood* • Those looking for a birthday or holiday gift for their LGBTQIA+ friends and family

**boy erased memoir garrard conley: *Being Lolita*** Alisson Wood, 2020-08-04 AS FEATURED IN THE HULU DOCUMENTARY *KEEP THIS BETWEEN US* A dark relationship evolves between a high schooler and her English teacher in this breathtakingly powerful memoir about a young woman who must learn to rewrite her own story. "Have you ever read *Lolita*?" So begins seventeen-year-old Alisson's metamorphosis from student to lover and then victim. A lonely and vulnerable high school senior, Alisson finds solace only in her writing—and in a young, charismatic English teacher, Mr. North. Mr. North gives Alisson a copy of *Lolita* to read, telling her it is a beautiful story about love. The book soon becomes the backdrop to a connection that blooms from a simple crush into a devastating and dangerous bond. But as Mr. North's hold on her tightens, Alisson is forced to evaluate how much of their narrative is actually a disturbing fiction. In the wake of what becomes a deeply abusive relationship, Alisson is faced again and again with the story of her past, from rereading *Lolita* in college to working with teenage girls to becoming a professor of creative writing. It is only with that distance and perspective that she understands the ultimate power language has had on her—and how to harness that power to tell her own true story. *Being Lolita* is a stunning coming-of-age memoir that shines a bright light on our shifting perceptions of consent, grooming, vulnerability, and power. This is the story of what happens when a young woman realizes her entire

narrative must be rewritten—and then takes back the pen to rewrite it.

**boy erased memoir garrard conley: Mothership** Greg Wrenn, 2024-03-26 A dazzling, evidence-based account of one man's quest to heal from complex PTSD by turning to endangered coral reefs and psychedelic plants after traditional therapies failed—and his awakening to the need for us to heal the planet as well. Professor Greg Wrenn likes to tell his nature-writing students, "The ecological is personal, and the personal is ecological." What he's never told them is how he's lived out those correspondences to heal from childhood abuse at the hands of his mother. Weaving together memoir and cutting-edge science, Mothership is not just a queer coming-of-age story. It's a deeply researched account of how coral reefs and a psychedelic tea called ayahuasca helped Greg heal from complex PTSD—a disorder of trust, which makes the very act of bonding with someone else panic-inducing. From the tide pools in Florida where he grew up, to Indonesia's Raja Ampat archipelago and the Amazon rainforest, this is his search for wholeness when talk therapy and pharmaceuticals did little to help. Along the way, as his ecological conscience wakes up, he takes readers underwater to the last pristine reefs on earth, and into the psyche. Written with prophetic urgency, Mothership ultimately asks if doses of nature will be enough to save us before it's too late.

**boy erased memoir garrard conley: Lessons in Love and Understanding** Jenni Gates, Scott Buckler, 2020-06 Sex and gender are delicate and nuanced issues for all of us and can be intimidating topics to teach. This practical, empathetic book aims to dispel some of the uncertainties that many teachers have and empower them to lead inclusive, age-appropriate lessons in primary and secondary schools. Taking an approach that celebrates the individual identity of all learners, and underpinned by an awareness of the complexity of language around these topics, this book offers a careful evaluation of the 2020 Relationship and Sex Education policy for schools in England, and how schools can offer intelligent, socially responsible, sex education that goes beyond simply meeting statutory requirements. Watch the Lessons in Love and Understanding video [here](#).

**boy erased memoir garrard conley: dc Talk's Jesus Freak** Will Stockton, D. Gilson, 2018-11-01 Late in the Reagan years, three young men at Jerry Falwell's Liberty University formed the Christian rap group dc Talk. The trio put out a series of records that quickly secured their place at the forefront of contemporary Christian music. But, with their fourth studio album Jesus Freak (1995), dc Talk staked a powerful claim on the worldly market of alternative music, becoming an evangelical group with secular selling power. This book sets out to study this mid-90s crossover phenomenon—a moment of cultural convergence between Christian and secular music and an era of particular political importance for American evangelicalism. Written by two queer scholars with evangelical pasts, Jesus Freak explores the importance of a multifarious album with complex ideas about race, sexuality, gender, and politics—an album where dc Talk wonders, "What will people do when they hear that I'm a Jesus freak?" and evangelical fans stake a claim for Christ-like coolness in a secular musical world.

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