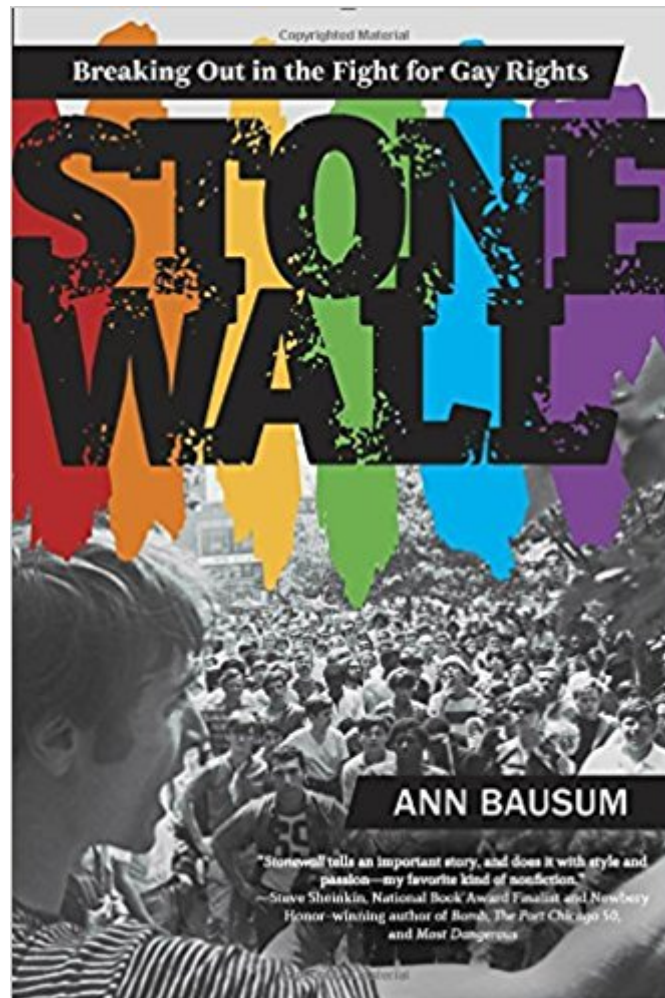


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Stonewall: Breaking Out In The Fight For Gay Rights



Synopsis

The first history of gay rights for teen readers, written by award-winning nonfiction author Ann Bausum. That's the Stonewall. The Stonewall Inn. Pay attention. History walks through that door. In 1969 being gay in the United States was a criminal offense. It meant living a closeted life or surviving on the fringes of society. People went to jail, lost jobs, and were disowned by their families for being gay. Most doctors considered homosexuality a mental illness. There were few safe havens. The Stonewall Inn, a Mafia-run, filthy, overpriced bar in New York City's Greenwich Village, was one of them. Police raids on gay bars happened regularly in this era. But one hot June night, when cops pounded on the door of the Stonewall, almost nothing went as planned. Tensions were high. The crowd refused to go away. Anger and frustration boiled over. The raid became a riot. The riot became a catalyst. The catalyst triggered an explosive demand for gay rights. A riveting exploration of the Stonewall Riots and the national Gay Rights movement that followed is eye-opening, unflinching, and inspiring.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up • This powerful, well-researched work examines the Stonewall riots, which took place in 1969 in New York City when members of the gay community fought back in response to a

police raid on a gay bar. Bausum describes the restrictive lives that many gays and lesbians led in the 1960s and the relief and risks of meeting at gay bars. On June 28, 1969, when police arrived at the Stonewall Inn to make arrests, people transvestites, drag queens, lesbians, and gay men fought back, instead of filing quietly into police wagons. Quoting from a variety of firsthand sources (journalists, bar patrons, cops, and others), Bausum paints a vivid picture of the three nights of rioting that became the focal point for activists, some of whom had been fighting for gay and lesbian rights in a quieter way and others who found themselves suddenly drawn to the struggle. A month later, a large group of protestors rallied to speak out in Washington Square Park and marched down Christopher Street to the Stonewall Inn in what became the nation's first gay pride march. In the following chapters, Bausum describes the growth of gay and lesbian activism, setbacks, the impact of HIV/AIDS, and issues such as gays in the military and same-sex marriage, bringing readers to the present day and expertly putting these struggles into historical context. VERDICT An essential purchase. Nancy Silverrod, San Francisco Public Library --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Praise for *Stonewall*: "Powerful, well-researched. . . An essential purchase" School Library Journal, "Readers coming of age at a time when state after state is beginning to celebrate gay marriage will be astonished to return to a time when it was a crime for a man to wear a dress. Enlightening, inspiring, and moving." Kirkus, "A powerful and moving account. . . Bausum's conversational storytelling whisks readers back to an era when homosexuality was criminalized" Publishers Weekly, "Bausum writes with the precision of a journalist; there is never any doubt as to what she wonders, what she conjectures, and what she knows. The resulting narrative integrity makes her observations and her conclusions about the persecution and resilience of the LGBTQ community all the more powerful." Horn Book, starred review "This sobering history easily accommodates the complexity of a turning point in LGBTQ history, documenting 50 years of dramatic social change." San Francisco Chronicle "Comprehensive in its coverage, filled with important information, and compassionate in its tone. It sheds welcome light on a subject that deserves greater coverage in YA literature." Booklist "The writing is concise and clear, with a narrative style that is both compelling and passionate. . . This important book by an award-winning author is an essential purchase." VOYA "This illustrated history lifts Stonewall from its customary footnote or chapter status into the YA book-length treatment it deserves." BCCB

“Stonewall” tells an important story, and does it with style and passion—my favorite kind of nonfiction.” —Steve Sheinkin, National Book Award Finalist and Newbery Honor-winning author of *Bomb* and *The Port of Chicago* 50 “Do not read this book unless you want to learn about the oppression of gays and lesbians, discriminatory laws, and police who abuse their power. Do not read this book unless you want to read about the pent-up anger that ignited the Stonewall riots in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of New York City. Do not read this book unless you want to be swept away by the gay revolution that ultimately led to a strong, political cohesive community. Ann Bausum gives us a gripping account of the Stonewall riots in this authoritative narrative.” —Susan Campbell Bartoletti, Sibert Medalist and Newbery Honor-winning author of *Hitler Youth* and *Black Potatoes* “A driving beat pulses throughout *Stonewall*, propelling the narrative forward. Bausum masterfully grounds readers in historical context while dropping them right in the heart—and the heat—of the moment.” —Tanya Lee Stone, Sibert Medalist and NAACP Image Award-winning author of *Courage Has No Color* “Told with skill and humanity, this story of the Stonewall uprising and its aftermath adds an important piece to the annals of social justice history in young adult literature.” —Sue Macy, award-winning author of *Wheels of Change* and *Sally Ride: Life on a Mission* Awards and Accolades for Ann Bausum: Sibert Honor - Jane Addams Children’s Book Award - Carter G. Woodson Award - SCBWI Golden Kite Award “A triumph on three fronts: educational, emotional, and inspirational.” —Booklist, starred review of *Stubby the War Dog* “Bausum’s narrative style [is] fresh, engrossing, and at times heart-stopping.” —School Library Journal, starred review of *Freedom Riders* “Bausum. . . makes the history live as she explains, exhorts, and lets nothing drop by the wayside. . . Excellent.” —Kirkus, starred review of *With Courage and Cloth* “Bausum is one of my absolute favorite nonfiction writers, for both her politics and her impeccable prose.” —The YALSA Hub on *Marching to the Mountaintop* From the Hardcover edition.

Stonewall: Breaking Out in the Fight for Gay Rights by Ann Bausum is a delightfully written, nicely illustrated and of course very timely bit of contemporary history. It is designed for the “young adult reader” — what I guess we are now calling the “Millennials.” I lived through all the events she discusses,

and, although I was not actively involved in the LGBTQ community until a decade after the Stonewall Riots (my first Gay Pride March was the 1979 "Lavender Anniversary" celebration in Atlanta, GA commemorating Stonewall) from that point on I was very much aware of and involved with the ongoing push for Gay Rights. Bausum is accurate and clear in her discussion and explanation of the many events which occurred. I can only wish, however, that because she gave some attention to the oppressiveness of many Christian denominations which initially contributed to refusing to acknowledge the human dignity of LGBT individuals, Bausum had also mentioned those pioneering individuals and denominations who went against the tide and just as in the Civil Rights Movement changed the consciences of so many. Bausum's book was, of course, published before the Supreme Court decision supporting Marriage Equality, but she accurately predicted that such a decision was inevitable based on the changing attitude of the populace at large. The one thing that I really DIDN'T know about the Stonewall event which Bausum clearly articulated was that the police raids that sparked the riot were NOT specifically motivated by police cruelty but rather by corruption. She explains that the order to "Close down the Gay Bars" in NYC was prompted by the fact that those bars were Mafia controlled, and an elaborate extortion scheme with international ramifications had evolved by means of which closeted homosexuals in the financial sector of the city were blackmailed into stealing negotiable bonds. The Mafia not only paid off local police to keep the bars open, but also used threats of exposure of these well-to-do closeted patrons to fuel the stolen-bond market. In all, as mentioned, this book is both timely and well-presented, and is a worthy addition to Ann Bausum's already impressive array of titles relating to the major social justice issues in our nation.

I am so happy to have found this book and been able to explore the Gay Rights Movement through it. It shares a lot of powerful history and really shows how it all came together at the right time and place.

The book is well written, but does not include the many contributions of trans women and people of color to the gay rights movement.

well researched, interesting to read and re-read. Makes the incidents of the night of Stonewall riots interesting enough that you feel you are there and you want to join in the fight. Love this book!

Provided very good background to the riots. And the progress made afterwards.

Read this book. really great info.

Bausum's history of gay rights begins with Stonewall. The first half of the book sets up the key players from both sides as well as the historical context of this important event that "changed everything." The text is a narrative, providing the various perspectives of the riots (from the young people involved in the riot to the police officers that locked themselves in to the bar, to the interest of the mafia owners, and even the older gay men that were not interested in standing out). This is a thoughtful look at the effects of the Stonewall riots through the decades that followed, from the first Christopher Street Liberation Day to what we think of it as today: Gay Pride; the AIDS epidemic and the activism; and the most recent legislation that has been overturned- DOMA, DADT, etc. The language is simple and Bausum provides plenty of context for some of the phrases, names or other historical moments for which teens may not know. This is a great introduction to Stonewall and to the gay rights movement because it offers perspectives of real people who lived through these moments, connecting with interest that many young people have for social justice, equality, and the ability of young people to make and create lasting and continuing change.

STONEWALL: BREAKING OUT IN THE FIGHT FOR GAY RIGHTS by Ann Bausum is a powerful and timely work of nonfiction for today's teens. Bausum's compelling narrative begins in the summer of 1969 at a bar in Greenwich Village, New York. What begins as a police raid on the Stonewall Inn soon erupts into riots in the street and cheers of "gay power." In the days following the raid, emotions continued to run high as frustrated LGBT citizens began to organize. The raid had become a symbol of the oppression felt by thousands of gay and lesbian community members in the city. The rest of the book describes the gay pride movement of the 1970s, the impact of AIDS in the 1980s and 90s, and the changing public attitudes of the 2000s. The book concludes on an optimistic note focusing on the LGBT community's rainbow symbol of diversity and unity. Bausum is known for her carefully researched books focusing on social justice. From carefully describing the oppression experienced by generations of gay individuals to clearly explaining the tireless work of gay advocates, Bausum does a masterful job helping today's young people understand

how decades of struggle led to recent societal changes. In the book *Stonewall: Breaking Out in the Fight for Gay Rights*, author Ann Bausum explains her motivation for writing a book about the gay rights movement at this point in American history. Her timing is perfect. Librarians who have been waiting for an up-to-date LGBT history will be quick to add this outstanding work of nonfiction to their library collections. Filled with first hand accounts, historical quotes, and primary source documents, social studies teachers will find this book to be an excellent addition to their social justice curriculum. Look for *STONEWALL* to appear on many "best of nonfiction" lists for 2015. To learn more about the author, go to <http://www.annbausum.com/>. Published by Viking on May 5, 2015.

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