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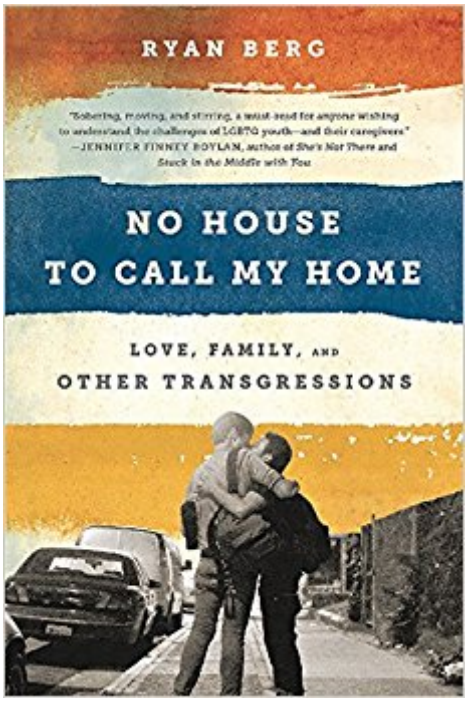
No House To Call My Home: Love, Family, And Other Transgressions



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Synopsis

In this lyrical debut, Ryan Berg immerses readers in the gritty, dangerous, and shockingly underreported world of homeless LGBTQ teens in New York. As a caseworker in a group home for disowned LGBTQ teenagers, Berg witnessed the struggles, fears, and ambitions of these disconnected youth as they resisted the pull of the street, tottering between destruction and survival.Focusing on the lives and loves of eight unforgettable youth, No House to Call My Home traces their efforts to break away from dangerous sex work and cycles of drug and alcohol abuse, and, in the process, to heal from years of trauma. From Bella's fervent desire for stability to Christina's irrepressible dreams of stardom to Benny's continuing efforts to find someone to love him, Berg uncovers the real lives behind the harrowing statistics: over 4,000 youth are homeless in New York City—43 percent of them identify as LGBTQ.Through these stories, Berg compels us to rethink the way we define privilege, identity, love, and family. Beyond the tears, bluster, and bravado, he reveals the force that allows them to carry on—the irrepressible hope of youth.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"In No House to Call My Home Ryan Berg takes us into the New York foster care system—where he worked for two years as a residential counselor in a group home for LGBTQ youth of color—and gives us, along the way, an earnest, heartfelt, and deeply compassionate portrait of that most fundamental of human needs: to be loved unconditionally. Berg is a brave and

clear-eyed writer, and this profoundly important book should be required reading for anyone wishing to be a better ally—or, for that matter, for anyone wishing to be a better human being." —Lacy M. Johnson, National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist and author of The Other Side“Stories of queer homeless youths of color told with humility, self-scrutiny, intelligence, and love. It is a brave and conscientious book, an important book.Ã¢â ¬Â• —The Brooklyn Rail“The plight of homeless LGBT youth seldom gets the attention it deserves. Ryan Berg's book No House To Call My Home is one man's attempt to remedy that situation…. A sobering look at the lives of a variety of LGBT kids in a version of foster care… Impossible to ignore.Ã¢â ¬Â• —New York Journal of Books“A moving account of the many challenges and difficulties facing LGBTQ foster youth in New York City and how the system has failed them.Ã¢â ¬Â• —Shelf Awareness

Ryan Berg is a Lambda Literary Foundation Emerging Writers Fellow and received the New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Nonfiction Literature. His work has appeared in Ploughshares, Local Knowledge and the Sun. Berg has been awarded artist residencies from the MacDowell Colony and Yaddo.

Berg has a gift. Not only does he tell important stories, he tells them well. He is also a writer who obviously cares very deeply for his subject. This book was one that needed to be written, and he has given voices to some of the voiceless. I appreciate his honesty, vulnerability, and sensitivity. He is not overly sentimental nor exploitive, but we are able to get very vivid, intense and agonizingly real images of these youth and their lives...lives that are rife with seemingly insurmountable challenges. As an LGBTQ activist and a teacher, I’m grateful to Berg for his in-depth preface, the resource guide at the end, and for the fact that he offers some ideas for solving the problems he illustrates in his book. This is not a misery-loving memoir, but an opportunity for us to learn of the dire situation facing homeless queer youth and to do something about it.

This well written book really opened my eyes to the heart breaking issues that the LGBTQ youth in the stories have experienced. It was hard to put down and I wish I could continue to follow the stories. The statistics in the book were shocking to me and overall I felt like it was very educational to this smaller-town Iowa girl.

Powerful n compelling read....Draws you in and hard to put down.A MUST read for anyone who

cares about children and how the system works!

Berg’s account highlights the importance of intersectional work and compassionate understanding. Compelling and moving, this book is a call to arms for anyone who cares about poverty, LGBTQ issues, or supporting youth in the foster system.

I had a very similar experience as Ryan Berg and he articulated his just as I remembered mine but in a much morecompleting way than I ever could. I really worthwhile read.

Ryan did an amazing job sharing his experiences with LGBTQ teenagers. He overcame his own struggles and put his energy in helping those in need. A very well told book. Really opened my eyes as to the heart wrenching lives of so many.

I enjoyed the writing style and honesty. Even when dealing with a tough/sad/very real subject the writer kept me fascinated. Hope he writes many more!

This book was a very touching. I could not put the book down.

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