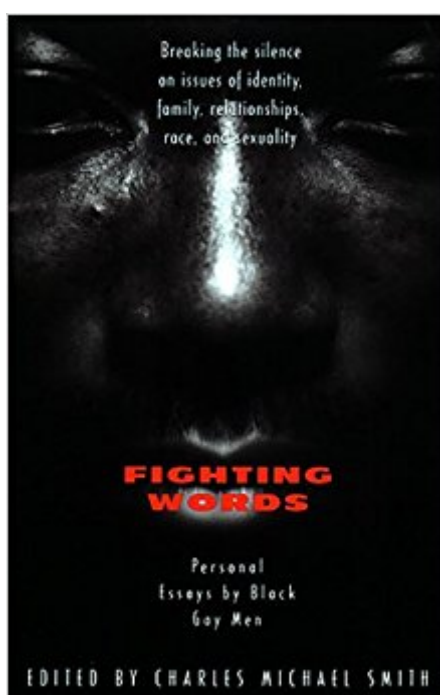


The book was found

Fighting Words : Personal Essays By Black Gay Men : Breaking The Silence On Issues Of Identity, Family Relationships, Race, And Sexuality



Synopsis

A boy discovers his sexuality in the shadow of a murder spree in Atlanta. A U.S. marine writes of his fierce, tragic love for a fellow marine. A man is forced to do a thing he dreads-play basketball-or risk losing face to the youngster for whom he is trying to provide a role model. These and twenty-seven other illuminating essays reveal a world of double barriers and two-fold prejudices-a world of men looking for love and careers, companionship and mentors, rough trade and gentle understanding among those who alone can know what it means to be African-American and gay. Writings that range from the street-smart to the erudite, from the erotic to the political and the spiritual, this collection explores the vicious crosscurrents of pressures that black gay men face, and the ways they have coped with them-or failed to. A vivid, candid and provocative portrait of a diverse community, *Fighting Words* is a remarkable anthology of individual journeys experienced by African-American gay men.

Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Harper Perennial (June 1, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0380799472

ISBN-13: 978-0380799473

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5.2 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #706,052 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #96 in [Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Literary Criticism](#) #349 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > United States > African American](#) #562 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Gender Studies > Men](#)

Customer Reviews

In putting together a volume that emphasizes the urgency of subjective experience, freelance journalist Smith has grouped 28 personal essays in familiar categories: Identity, Relationships, AIDS, Racism and Homophobia, Legacy. Among the best pieces is poet Reginald Shepherd's "Coloring Outside the Lines," which shows considerable subtlety in reconciling the often clashing demands of black and gay identities. Kevin McGruder's "I Hate Basketball" is both playful and earnest as it tackles similar themes and expresses insights gained from mentoring young black

boys as a Big Brother. "As an African-American male," he writes, "I admit this with a certain hesitancy, a slight feeling that I have let down the race, and as a gay man, I admit this with the feeling that I'm confirming a stereotype of non-athletic 'sissies.' But I love to play most sports. I just don't like playing basketball." With less clarity, G. Winston James's "Closets" traces a problematic genealogy from the safety of children's closets to the claustrophobic spaces of peep shows in "safer-sex clubs" that were "not unlike the pantry in my parents' house." Other of the essays, however, traffic in stereotypes about both race and homosexuality. And the emphasis on personal experience is relentless and ultimately comes at the expense of more considered insight and elegance of expression. (June) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Charles Michael Smith is a freelance journalist who has written for such publications as USA Today, the Los Angeles Times Syndicate, the Baltimore Evening Sun, the Manhattan Spirit, QW magazine, the New York Amsterdam News, the New York Native, the Philadelphia Gay News, and the Lambda Book Report. He was a contributor to *In the life: A Black Gay Anthology*, edited by Joseph Beam (Alyson, 1986). He lives in New York City.

I guess the reason I couldn't get into this book is because it was written by so many different authors, each complete with their own writing style. Some essays, I feel, were better written than others and some were just worth skipping over.

This is an excellent collection of essays by black male writers, excluding the gay part, because as mentioned time and again in many of these essays they must come to terms with their African-American heritage before they even think of coming to terms with their sexuality. I only wish that some of the essays were longer and some not edited. Essays that stood out for me were *Coloring Outside the Lines*, *The Letter*, and *Dearest Brother Set*. They and many others have helped me to evaluate the inner prejudice that lies within the gay community itself, a community whose so called main goal was to establish equality. Don't get me wrong, not all of these essays were like that but of those chosen for this book, essays of that matter were the ones that stood out the most.

The stories told here range from that of a child experiencing his first feelings of attraction and angst to adults negotiating a world which does them no justice. Well written essays and a well varied array of perspectives make for an entertaining, stimulating and inspiring text.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Fighting Words : Personal Essays by Black Gay Men : Breaking the Silence on Issues of Identity, Family Relationships, Race, and Sexuality What Men Won't Tell You: Women's Guide to Understanding Men (How to read their minds, what men want, why men cheat, why men won't commit, why men lose interest, how to avoid rejection from men) Breaking Ground, Breaking Silence: The Story of New York's African Burial Ground (Coretta Scott King Author Honor Books) Crazy Is My Superpower: How I Triumphed by Breaking Bones, Breaking Hearts, and Breaking the Rules Therapeutic and Legal Issues for Therapists Who Have Survived a Client Suicide: Breaking the Silence In Exile: The History and Lore Surrounding New Orleans Gay Culture and Its Oldest Gay Bar (NoLa Gay Book 1) GAY: 10 Gay Stories Man on Man First Time; Prison Taboo, Straight turned Gay, Alpha Male M/M Gay Spirituality: The Role of Gay Identity in the Transformation of Human Consciousness (White Crane Spirituality Series) Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Social Class: Dimensions of Inequality and Identity SAT Vocabulary Words Flashcards: 500 Most Common Words, 600 Words from the Official Study Guide, and 5000 Comprehensive Words for Full Mastery Single, Gay, Christian: A Personal Journey of Faith and Sexual Identity Fighting Proud: The Untold Story of the Gay Men Who Served in Two World Wars Gay Beaches Worldwide - The Hottest Places for Men: Nudist Facilities, Cruising Areas and Gay Vacations The Story Within: Personal Essays on Genetics and Identity 90% Law School Essays: Contracts * A law e-book: Contract law issues and definitions and how to argue them from 70% to 90% - Big Rests Law Study Method - produces model essays Re-Visioning Family Therapy, Second Edition: Race, Culture, and Gender in Clinical Practice (Revisioning Family Therapy: Race, Culture, & Gender in) Stepparenting: Becoming A Stepparent: A Blended Family Guide to: Parenting, Raising Children, Family Relationships and Step Families (Raising Children, ... Blended Families, Blended Family Book 5) Difficult Men: Behind the Scenes of a Creative Revolution: From The Sopranos and The Wire to Mad Men and Breaking Bad 101 Things Your Dad Never Told You About Men: The Good, Bad, and Ugly Things Men Want and Think About Women and Relationships Culture, Society and Sexuality: A Reader (Sexuality, Culture and Health)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)