

# Camp Book PDF Download



By:  
Lev A.C. Rosen

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## What people Say:

**Kai**

I fully support this author's mission to destroy toxic masculinity with a single queer book

**Tucker (TuckerTheReader)**

This is one of my favorite books that deals with mental illness! To see the others and to here me ramble about my brain, watch my video,

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When I received this book in the mail, I didnâ€™t expect it

This is one of my favorite books that deals with mental illness! To see the others and to here me ramble about my brain, watch my video,

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When I received this book in the mail, I didn't expect it to be such a strong and bright beam of light in an otherwise bland week of reading.

It covered so many things that are near and dear to my heart. From toxic masculinity to body image, this book is completely full of invaluable messages and joy.

Every year, a group of LGBTQIA teens gets together at the esteemed Camp Outland. This year, Randy, who is now going as "Dell" has come to camp as a completely different person. He used to be a femme, painting his nails and participating in theater, but this year, he has plans to woo Hudson, his long-time crush. To do this, he has bulked up and dressed like a straight guy. After his plan succeeds, Randy (Del?) is thrilled but how long can he keep up his mask of masculinity (see what I did there)?

## anna (½ of readsrainbow)

gay Jewish mc, half-Korean gay Jewish li, Middle Eastern gay Jewish side character, demi lesbian side character, Afro-Brazilian-American sapphic side character, Black trans side character, nonbinary side character, gay side characters (really, an LGBT cast)

First things first: if you've read the blurb and you're kind of worried about the whole "pretending to be someone else to get a boy" thing - don't be. It's handled with so much grace;

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First things first: if you've read the blurb and you're kind of worried about the whole "pretending to be someone else to get a boy" thing - don't be. It's handled with so much grace; Randy is being called out on his ridiculous plan by basically anyone who knows about it, constantly. The words "trick him into love you" are used. It's not a cheap plot device, it's a driving force of the book and there are countless discussions regarding it.

Randy describes his plan as if his life was a rom-com. He will change his haircut, his wardrobe, his hobbies, the way he talks and walks, and geticulates! And it will be all worth it because at the end he will get the guy of his dreams.

The thing is, it actually does feel like a rom-com at times! The plan works perfectly from day one, the boys have an adorable meet-cute, it's all great. But that's just the beginning, the outer layer, and the reality is that

uses Randy's plan to teach him (and others) a lesson.

Randy falls for Hudson without truly knowing him, after having barely any conversations with him. He calls Hudson his "dream boy", some kind of ideal, but in fact it becomes clearer and clearer that he doesn't really know him at all. It's a nice contrast between Randy pretending to be Del and claiming to be in love with a boy who's just a notch above a stranger.

Two major things are happening in

: Randy realises that 1) Hudson is way more complicated than the idea of him he had in his mind & 2) he can have interests that are seemingly complete opposites. Randy comes into the story determined to pretend to enjoy sports only as long as it's absolutely necessary and coming back to theatre as soon as he drops the L word & gets his happy ending. But over time he finally admits to himself that he can have both, that he doesn't have to choose one side and stay there forever.

## C.G. Drews

~It absolutely made me laugh AND feel teary, which is one of the best signs of a good book. But what I really have to talk about?? The fact that Rosen books unpack topics I don't see handled often in YA. I raved about Jack of Hearts (And Other Parts) which you seriously need to read as well, and how it talked about so many "taboo" subjects, not just for YA but for queer lit. And here is Camp, unpacking toxic masculinity in the queer c

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how being queer is not an inherently sexualised concept but how so many queer teens reject parts of themselves in order not to be seen that way. It's so !!! Nuanced and complex and lovingly told!! Absolutely the kind of book I wish I had as a teen.

Randy is off to queer camp (a glorious 4 weeks of every summer where everyone is queer and celebrated) but this time he's determined to win over the heart of the dashing Hudson, known heartbreaker and player...but who only likes masc boys. And Randy is femme. So Randy "changes" himself and stages this basically 1-man-broadway production to get Hudson to fall in love with him in

4 weeks without accidentally revealing his true self until the right moment when Hudson will definitely "Love him back no matter what!!!" says Randy. Hopefully. Doomed?

Like the whole premise made me sad because I'm like OBVIOUSLY THIS WILL GO WRONG, RANDY!! But was this also me as a teen? 100% yes. And I think this is

important to talk about through a queer lens too: there's so much masking for queer teens. Are you too gay? Not gay enough? Are you being a stereotype problematically?! Or are you being a stereotype because you genuinely enjoy that? The book talks about it all.

I absolutely thoroughly hate camping and the outdoors and I just :) only now remembered this. But it also took me back to my teen camps and how deeply hyped they were until I got there and softly wanted to die. BUT ANYWAY. This one is

. So queer inclusive. I mean, everyone is queer. Supportive. They do queer education too, but there's theatre and sports and bad camp food and canoe trips. The works. It was so fun to read!

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âž¸ the friendships at camp!! George and Ashleigh are AMAING. George is the purest most lovely drama queen, femme and delivers the best lines. Ashleigh is demisexual and crushing on a straight lifeguard that her friends are trying to distract her from. They are an EPIC friendship trio! But also...

## **Anniek**

Lev Rosen is the king of writing books that queer teens need to read. Jack of Hearts (and Other Parts) was educational in the funnest way possible, without ever getting preachy, and I had high hopes for Camp to be similar.

This book broke my heart right away, because it introduces us to Randy, who feels like he has to change who he is to be seen as attractive by the boy he crushes on. He knows that this boy is only into masculine guys, so Randy tries to adopt an alter ego whoâ€™s very masculine. Wi

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This book broke my heart right away, because it introduces us to Randy, who feels like he has to change who he is to be seen as attractive by the boy he crushes on. He knows that this boy is only into masculine guys, so Randy tries to adopt an alter ego whoâ€™s very masculine. With this, the book delves into something I think a lot of queer people struggle with, and thatâ€™s gender

expectations. Randy has to work through a lot of internalized shit throughout the book, stuff that's rooted in toxic masculinity and internalized homophobia and the expectations that gay culture puts on guys (although of course everyone is affected by toxic masculinity), like how they all have to be a certain type of gay guy based on their appearance and the way they act, and how there's a big focus on finding a certain type of person based on traits and appearance rather than just a person you find attractive and click with.

Overall, I'm so impressed with how much the author delved into gay culture and the toxic aspects of it. I love how he shows that there's so many different ways to be queer, and by that, he's consciously created a safe space for all queer people, including, for instance, people on the asexual and aromantic spectrum and non-binary people. I really appreciate that, as an aroace non-binary person.

Something I especially loved is how no one interferes with the ways Randy changes. They do voice their concerns, but in a very respectful way. No one oversteps. And they all seem to respect that this is ultimately something Randy needs to figure out himself.

Right from the very first page, this book did so many important things. I love how it destroyed toxic masculinity in such a kind and nuanced way, without villainizing Hudson, the love interest. Because there are a lot of queer kids like Hudson and they deserve to be treated kindly. They're not bad people because of internalized bullshit they never asked for.

Read this book for a love letter to the queer community in all its diversity. There's just something so special about reading about a queer summer camp for teens if you consider that a lot of the time, these types of camps would be conversion camps, rather than the safe space Rosen created in the pages of this book. Camp Outland is a big "fuck you" to those. The teens here get a four week vacation from any kind of homophobia and transphobia in their lives, they get queer camp councillors who introduce them into queer culture and queer history, and everything a queer teen would need to know, on top of giving them a space where they can meet other teens like them.

Rep: gay MC, gay Korean-American love interest, gay side characters, demisexual lesbian side character, several transgender side characters, non-binary side character, bisexual side character, several queer side characters of colour

CWs: toxic masculinity, (internalized) homophobia