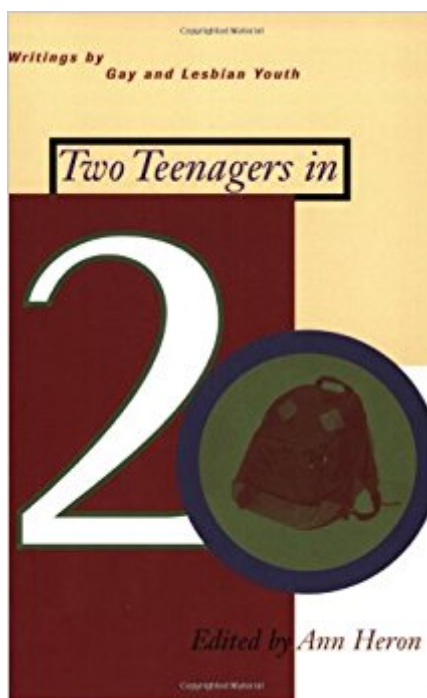


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# Two Teenagers In 20: Writings By Gay And Lesbian Youth



## Synopsis

"This consistently absorbing and frequently moving collection soberingly documents the damaging consequences of the homophobia that pervades even purportedly enlightened families and schools. These stories are overwhelmingly affirmative, buoyed by the authors' new self-awareness and the determination to find a place for themselves in an often hostile country."--Publishers Weekly

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An updated version of Heron's 1983 *One Teenager in Ten*, this consistently absorbing and frequently moving collection of autobiographical narratives by young gays and lesbians across the country soberingly documents the damaging consequences of the homophobia that pervades even purportedly enlightened families and schools. Many of the authors were kicked out of their homes, were sent to ministers or psychiatrists to be "cured" or attempted suicide. But some found their families and friends supportive and caring. On balance, these stories are overwhelmingly affirmative, buoyed by the authors' new self-awareness and the determination to find a place for themselves in an often hostile country. Heron includes advice on contacting social service organizations and an annotated list of fiction and nonfiction titles that deal sensitively with gay and lesbian issues. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 8 Up-Designed to inform and support teenagers dealing on their own with minority sexual identification, this book contains personal narratives written by and for gay and lesbian teens. It is

a revision of *One in Ten* (Alyson, 1983). The thoughtful, readable accounts focus on feelings about being homosexual, reactions of friends and family, and first encounters with other gay people. Interspersed with 24 stories reprinted from the earlier book are 19 new ones. The teen lesbian in one of them finds acceptance from her family, but many other additions read like the old stories of confusion and ostracism, underscoring the need to make this update available to young people and adults who work with them all over the country. One 16-year-old lesbian writes, "SHAME. FAILURE. These words passed through my head every day." She reports being denied access to *One in Ten* at her local public library, and killed herself before publication of her story here. The gay teen perspective is not available in many other places. Claudia Morrow, Berkeley Public Library, CA  
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Great gift for anyone, not just teens, trying to come out. No matter what age you are, coming out is a difficult process. This book educated me in so many ways. It was a gift for someone dear to me, and I wanted to read the book first to show support before giving it to her. It brought me to tears multiple times. Gay and lesbian youth will realize they are not alone out there by reading this book. And older gays and lesbians can appreciate and, I'm sure, relate to those brave youth who contributed to this book.

I have found that books, such as the enormously popular *Chicken Soup* series, can be important sources of inspiration and motivation. Unfortunately, there is a tremendous void of stories from and for GLBT Young Adults or really for anyone who is just coming to understand and accept their sexuality. *Two Teenagers in 20* includes writings that will bring you to emotional highs and lows, but that will leave you inspired and feeling empowered to approach life confidently. Most importantly, these stories remind us that others are going through the same emotions, experiences, difficulties and joys as we ourselves are. I cannot recommend this collection of short stories enough.

I thought I needed a little education on the gay/lesbian closeted lifestyle of teenagers and how difficult that must be for them. My heart was breaking when I was reading it, because I used to know someone like that. I recommend for anyone with teenagers

I got this book shortly after coming out to myself .....and it helped more than you could imagine. In that situatoin, hearing about the stories of other like you is the single best thing for you;

It helped me overcome those feelings of being "the only one" (along with the internet, which gets most of the credit... I also credit the internet for my still being alive; it is also how I found this book.) It contains the touching and highly varied accounts of around 20 teenagers. Some get a happy ending, some end in tragedy, and many fall somewhere in the middle. This should be read by everyone just coming out or still coming to terms, as well as educators and anyone else that has to deal with youth from Middle School to High School. Read it then pass it on to someone else who needs it when you're older. I cannot thank Ann Heron or Allison Books enough.

I loved this book. I had to great pleasure and opportunity to be a part of it. As a teenager it was therapeutic and twenty plus years later i still remember it greatly. Thanks Ann Heron for allowing me to have a voice.

A teen's life is already crowded with too many questions. Most are trivial, but one can be very important. Just this year, I told my mom that I thought I was gay. I had heard about this book (ironically enough) on the Internet, so I asked her to buy it for me. The book practically saved my life. Its pages are filled with touching and emotional writings by gay and lesbian teenagers who questioned themselves and, for the most part, lived to tell about it. I'm 16. It confirmed some of my fears about being gay, answered a lot of my questions, but most importantly, gave me the courage to live. I recently told my close friends that I am gay. They don't care. Now I'm thinking about writing my own story, so my experience can help the next teen choose to live, just as I did

My 16 yr old son came out to me last weekend. I've asked multiple healthcare professionals for a book recommendation for my son and myself. This book has come very highly recommended by several industry professionals as well as the local les/gay/bi/trans alliance. I'm ordering it now and look forward to sharing this with my son. I'm still in shock about this revelation and am incredibly grateful that he feels safe enough to be honest with his Dad and I. He's a great young man and his sexual orientation changes nothing in terms of my love for him. Looking forward to reading this book.

When my two straight out-of-state nieces entered high school over a decade ago (@1995), I gave them copies of "Two Teenagers in 20: Writings by Gay and Lesbian Youth (Transworld)" and another book "Am I Blue?: Coming Out from the Silence. I wanted them to be able to understand what it was like for gay kids and to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem if any of

their classmates were bullied.

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