

Keith Hartman's Books and Movies



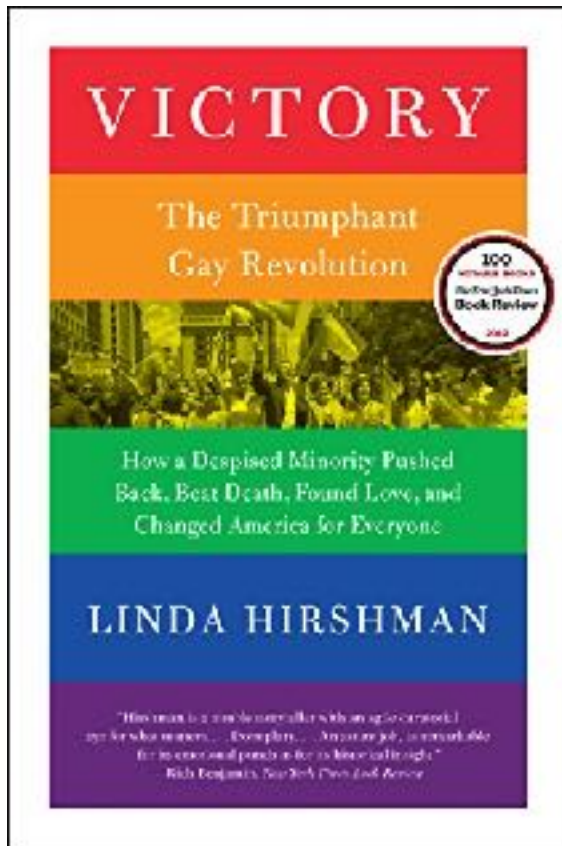
Hey folks!

I've been reading up on the history of the LGBT civil rights movement for an upcoming project. It's weird to realize how much things have changed over my lifetime.

When I was born, psychiatrists considered homosexuality to be a sickness. The police were actively raiding gay bars, and engaging in gay sex was a crime punishable by jail time. Gay men and lesbians were denied security clearances and government jobs, and were thrown out of the military if their orientation was discovered. LGBT people were rarely portrayed in the media, and when they were it was as either a dangerous predator or the butt of a cruel joke. All major Christian denominations condemned homosexuality as a sin, and the right to marry a person of the same gender was something that even the craziest radicals had trouble imagining.

It's hard to believe how far we've come. And in historical terms, how quickly it all happened.

I've found a couple of great books on the subject:

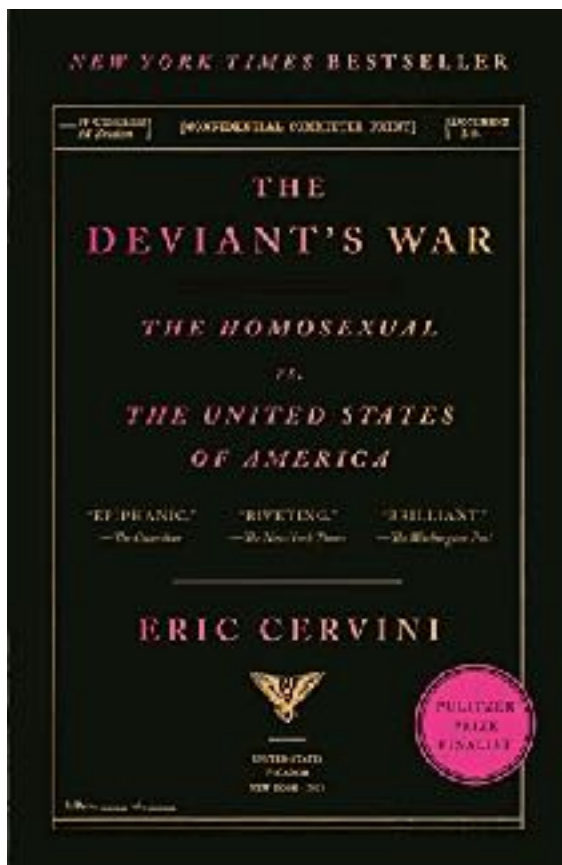


Victory: The Triumphant Gay Revolution

Prior to reading this book, I had a lot of historical events jumbled up in my head — the Stonewall riots, the passage of “Don’t ask, don’t tell”, the formation of ACT UP — but I didn’t really grasp how they all fit together. This book does a great job of following the different themes of the struggle, and showing how they all fed into each other. e.g. How the struggle to get psychiatrists to stop labelling homosexuality as a “sickness” was prosecuted, and how that made advances in other areas possible.

It’s a great quick read, that will help you understand an exciting piece of recent history.

Here’s [the link on Amazon](#), if you’d like to check it out.



The Deviant's War

This book is pretty much the opposite of *Victory*. Rather than focusing on the big themes of the fight, it looks at the people leading the struggle. It begins in the post WW2 period with a man who was arrested by the San Francisco police for soliciting gay sex, and who decided to fight the charges.

It’s a great book that’s full of fascinating personalities. And it also paints a vivid picture of how wild and dangerous LGBT life was in the fifties and sixties. From secret parties in New York, to black drag clubs in DC that were constantly being raided by police, to a student leader who spent the summer before his senior year hitchhiking out to Los Angeles and then working as a rent boy on Santa Monica Blvd.

Here’s [the link on Amazon](#), if you want to check it out.

If you wind up diving into either of these books, let me know what you think.

And if you can recommend other books on recent gay history, I'd love to hear about them!

Keith

Keith@Keith-Hartman.com

P.S. If you haven't signed up for my email list yet, you can do it at www.Keith-Hartman.com