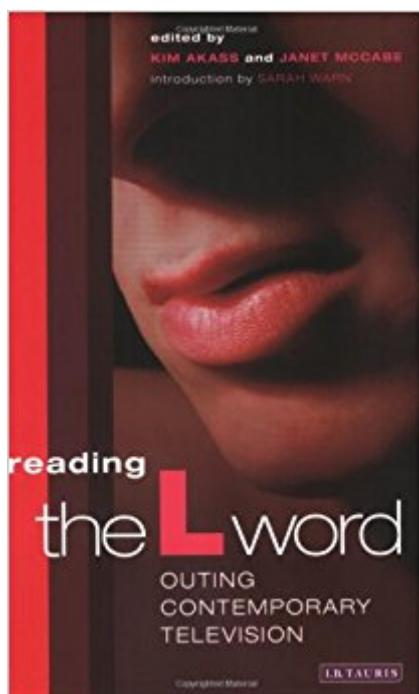


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# Reading The L Word: Outing Contemporary Television (Reading Contemporary Television)



## **Synopsis**

As America's first television series about lesbians, *The L Word* captured national attention when it debuted in 2004, and has continued to make headlines since. The Showtime cable drama about a group of lesbian and bisexual friends in Los Angeles challenges traditional notions of relationships, gender, and sex, and has generated both controversy and devotion within the lesbian community. Contributors write on how the show deals with topics like third-wave feminism, bisexuality, race, glamor, sex, relationships, music, as well as how the series has been marketed to and received by viewers. Also included are interviews with key contributors to the show itself. Throughout, the essays address both humorously and analytically what *The L Word* says about lesbians--and what lesbians say about *The L Word*.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Over 20 contributors share their thoughts on *The L Word*, widely seen as Showtime's lesbian answer to HBO's *Sex and the City*, and, as expected, opinions vary. Some, like Sarah Warn, appreciate the mere presence of the show for its representation of attractive lesbians living interesting lives in LA. "Love it or hate it," she writes, "this series represents the first-and so far, only-attempt to make lesbians the center of attention." Others, like Samuel Chambers, bristle at its apparently "heteronormative" narrative. Rather than stacking it against, say, *Desperate Housewives*, he argues, the program should be examined through the prism of queer politics. Not all contributions

are so academic, and complaints that the show appears to appeal to the male fantasy of lesbians are outweighed by the endorsement of those who see the show as part of a "golden age of gay TV." Kathy Belge explains why *The L Word* is sexy, and her unabashedly erotic praise illuminates the subtleties that will likely go over the heads of straight men watching the show for a thrill. Adding to the book's pop culture appeal is an insightful interview with Guinevere Turner, one of the show's writers, who helps fans understand the evolution of the characters and hints to their future trajectory. Fans of the series will appreciate this companion. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

'A must-read book about the must-see lesbian sex drama that everybody loves but some love to hate.' --Jane Feuer 'Interesting and provocative.' - TLS

More academic than I expected, but it actually worked perfectly because it helped me write my Masters thesis.

I am a Sociology major and I have read more interesting papers written by freshmen who were just biding their time getting through a prerequisite. It was dry and was overly pseudo intellectual

This book is overly academic, filled with the type of Ph.D student blah-blah that keeps these types from enjoying ANYTHING that is 'reifying the discursive hegemonic whiteness rather than engaging in postcolonial discourse of the subaltern'...ie, we use huge words to cover up the fact that we are saying very little. Thankfully, some of the contributors write intelligently about the *L Word* being QUITE subversive. However, there is the usual crap about the *L Word* pandering to 'straight men' merely because the stars are beautiful. By this false logic, lesbians therefore either: a. like ugly women or b. could care less what women look like. This is ignorant, ridiculous, and actually quite unsubversive, as it assumes that 'lesbian' is not a real sexuality, just a catch-all term for women who aren't 'pretty enough to get a man'. By showing beautiful lesbians, *The L Word* provides a little education for both ignorant straight men who assume every beautiful woman they see is straight and every ugly woman they see is a lesbian, AND ignorant straight women who call their platonic female friends their 'girlfriends' and exclaim 'but you're both too pretty to be lesbians!' when a pretty couple outs themselves. Luckily, the book is not all lipstick lesbian bashing or academicese, but there is enough of this to bring pause.

This book is for 'The L Word' fans. It helped us to understand the whole concept of our favourite tv show in every angle.

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