



Sexuality Under a Textual Lens in Casey McQuiston's *Red, White, and Royal Blue*

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated how sexuality is portrayed in Casey McQuiston's novel *"Red, White and Royal Blue"*. It focuses on the main characters and their stories of self-discovery, dealing with societal pressures, and finding personal acceptance. Using a qualitative discourse method, it examined the story, the characters, how sexuality is represented, and how the novel challenges traditional ideas in literature. The study finds Alex Claremont-Diaz's journey of bisexuality to be about growth in self-awareness and facing societal expectations. Prince Henry, as a gay man, shows the conflict between his true self and his duties as royalty. Both characters show that sexuality is fluid and not limited to strict labels. This connects to ideas from thinkers such as Foucault, Butler, and Sedgwick who explore topics like how society talks about sexuality, how gender and sexuality are performed, and the idea of living openly versus hiding one's identity. The novel uses its storytelling to question the assumption that heterosexuality is the norm and brings attention to LGBTQ+ experiences and promoting acceptance. *"Red, White and Royal Blue"* stresses embracing diverse sexual identities in modern literature. This study adds to conversations about how fiction can influence how society views gender, sexuality, and equality.

Keywords: discourse analysis, LGBTQ+, qualitative research, *"Red, White and Royal Blue"*, sexuality

1. INTRODUCTION

Throughout the years, the meaning of the term “sexuality” has undergone changes influenced by cultural, social, and intellectual ideas. For such, the word originated in the late 18th century which referred to gender differences from philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle who had written about love, desire, and homosexuality (Pickett, 2020). Furthermore, Christian beliefs in celibacy and marriage was also a significant influence on sexuality. Additionally, scientists like Alfred Kinsey helped broaden our understanding on human sexual behavior (Anderson and Cameron, 2023). Today, sexuality has grown to include feelings and identity. According to UNAIDS (n.d.), the HIV/AIDS crisis also assisted in bringing attention to the importance of sexual health and continues to influence today.

Over time, sexuality has shaped identities and norms in society. Yet, it is still somewhat regarded as taboo by religion, politics, and even science (Haque and Tohit, 2024). The LGBTQ+ movement does its best to show us how viewing sexuality as an important aspect in our lives could change how we stand as a society, which is to stand equally (Ruberg and Ruelos, 2020). Media helps disseminate these ideas. While it can spread stereotypes, it can also support inclusivity. Moreover, literature has long explored sexuality; for such, it has shown the values of struggles of different eras. For example, according to Arora and Tuli (2024), Sylvia Plath on female empowerment and Beat Generation on sexual freedom. These kinds of works help us understand how sexuality has evolved over time.

Today, views on sexuality are more inclusive. For such, people are starting to consider diversity and intersectionality with LGBTQ+ rights and changing ideas about gender identity and sexual fluidity as some of the progress made towards acceptance (Dorison, Green, and Price-Feeney, 2021). Online dating and social media have also changed how people explore their sexuality with topics like consent, sexual harassment, and sex education becoming more relevant as the days progress (Bonilla-Zorita, Griffiths, and Kuss, 2021). In addition to this, according to Chumpia, et al. (2021), medical advancements have helped people experience sexuality and intimacy. These developments emphasize the need to celebrate diversity and explore how sexuality is shown in media and literature. It is for these reasons that this study examined how sexuality is portrayed in the main characters of Casey

McQuiston's novel “*Red, White and Royal Blue*”. It focuses on how this theme is developed through the plot, the characters' traits and actions, the representation of diverse identities, and the way the novel engages with or challenges traditional ideas. It is in the hope of this study to be able to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goal 5: *Gender Equality*.

To anchor the analysis done in this study, the following theories were used: *Formalism*, *Structuralism*, and *Queer theories*.

According to Spaic (2023), *Formalism* in literature focuses more on its structure, language, and style rather than its historical background or its author's intentions. It requires deep understanding on how elements such as imagery, symbolism, and storytelling techniques work together in order to create meaning. According to Formalists, literature should be studied as a complete work on its own with all its parts contributing to a unified experience. This way, people can easily identify patterns on how a story's form affects its content and storytelling. Ferdinand de Saussure introduced *Structuralism* as literature viewed as a part of a larger structure of rules (Arzhang, 2024). Structuralists observe systems of signs and symbols in texts to find universal patterns in stories and in culture. Elements such as common archetypes, opposites, and narrative structures help shape meaning to a text (Amal and Setiyawan, 2024). In addition to this, Structuralism helps in relating different works with others which suggests that a text's meaning comes from a bigger system of ideas. This shift focuses from individual creativity to a shared network behind literature.

According to Acadia (2021), *Queer theory* confronts traditional ideas on gender and sexuality, thus, aiming to break down norms that favor heterosexual perspectives in literature and culture. This theory was influenced by thinkers like Michel Foucault and Judith Butler in how texts deal with identity, power, and desire (Ryan, 2020). Through marginalized voices and alternative stories, Queer Theory questions whether literary works challenge or support societal expectations. This invites readers to explore deeper on diverse sexual identities and question traditional ideas by focusing more on fluidity and rejecting rigid categories which help open up space for more inclusive interpretations (Fiet, 2023).

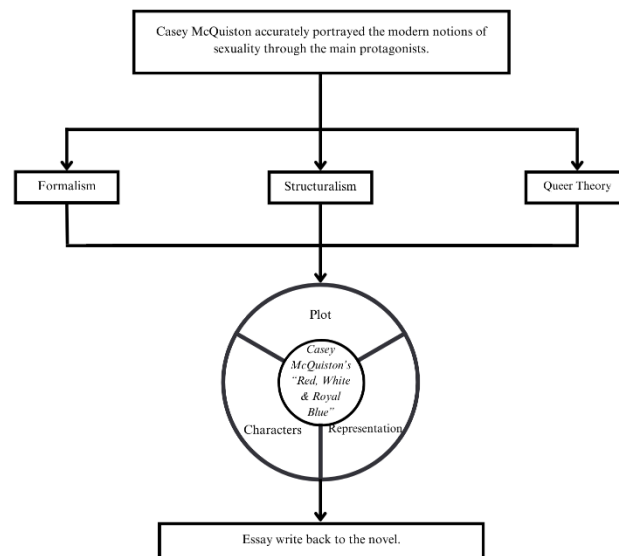


Figure 1. Schematic Diagram of the Study.

Apart from the theories, the literature and studies in the succeeding paragraphs were reviewed in order to enrich the discussion of the analysis and interpretation.

In Michel Foucault's book, *"The History of Sexuality,"* he questioned the historical dominant narrative of sexual oppression. He argued that discussions around sexuality have intensified rather than suppressed after an analysis of societal discourse on the subject since the 18th century. He also found out that this discourse included topics beyond traditional norms such as child sexuality and homosexuality. He then concluded that society's perspective on sexuality is complex and is constantly evolving. His work became the foundation for the Queer Theory, a theory which confronts established societal norms on gender and sexuality (Foucault, Gros, and Hurley, 2021). Judith Butler challenged the idea that gender is fixed. In her book, *"Gender Trouble,"* she analyzed gender as a performative act molded by societal norms. Moreover, she found that gender roles are not naturally occurring traits rather learned behaviors throughout generations. Butler concluded that gender is shaped by dominant norms where labels like *"boy"* or *"girl"* actively create and define those categories. This conclusion on gender performativity led to current discussions on societal roles and identities (Dahms, 2020). Eve Sedgwick's *"Epistemology of the Closet"* examined how homosexuality and societal binaries are constructed and reinforced. Using deconstruction and literary analysis of authors such as Melville, Wilde, and Nietzsche, she explored the power imbalances within these binaries. Sedgwick found that concepts like *"homosexual panic"* and the *"closet"* reveal an inherent asymmetry where one side dominates the other. She concluded her book by emphasizing the struggles of queer identity and the risks of both hiding and coming out. This work has provided valuable insight into binary norms and identity challenges

and offered a foundation for understanding societal power dynamics (dos Santos, 2022). Steven Seidman's *"The Social Construction of Sexuality"* looked at how societies favor certain sexual behaviors and identities while pushing others to the margins. He explored how social rules and systems along with the connections between sexuality, gender, race, and class, shaped cultural beliefs and ethical standards. Seidman argued that these societal norms often stigmatize marginalized groups and strengthen existing power imbalances. He concluded that sexuality is shaped by cultural, historical, and social factors that influence both individual identities and experiences. This work emphasized the importance of considering different perspectives and how various factors intersect when studying social norms (Glen, n.d.).

2. METHODOLOGY

This study used Qualitative Discourse Analysis to explore how sexuality is shown in the main characters of *"Red, White and Royal Blue"* by Casey McQuiston. This novel was originally published on May 14, 2019 by St. Martin's Griffin. Its fame led to its live action adaptation directed by Matthew Lopez, released on July 22, 2023, and starred by Taylor Zakhar Perez playing Alex and Nicholas Galitzine playing Prince Henry. The novel served as the main source of data, primarily focused on its plot, characterization, representation, and how it responds to traditional literary themes, particularly *"writing back"*. The analysis involved carefully reading the text to find and understand how sexuality is described and represented. These findings were then linked to broader ideas about LGBTQ+ representation in modern fiction. Moreover, the study uses these comparisons to better explain how the novel portrays sexuality.

Table 1. Plot Analysis

Plot	Description	Symbol	Symbolism
Beginning	Alex clashes with Prince Henry after a past encounter, ruining the latter's brother's wedding cake, potentially leading to a diplomatic scandal.	Royal Wedding	Tradition and Heteronormative Expectations
Rising Action	Alex and Prince Henry grow closer through texts and calls. Henry kisses him on New Year's Eve, Alex defines his confusion.	The Kiss	Breaking Point or a Moment of Truth
Climax	Alex attempts to confess his love to Henry, but Henry abruptly leaves, leaving behind a note.	The Note	Struggle with Vulnerability and Fear of Losing Control
Falling Action	Alex is heartbroken with Henry's continued silence. The latter reveals they can't be together due to royal pressures.	Communication Blackout	The Burden of Hiding One's True Identity
Denouement	Henry confronts his family and the Queen on being with Alex, but a supportive crowd gathers outside. On election night, Ellen wins Texas and the presidency.	The Election Night	Struggle for Acceptance

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the findings of the study as well as its corresponding analysis and interpretation as basis for the essay write back.

The plot began by subtly introducing the protagonists' sexualities through Alex's initial dislike of Prince Henry which stemmed from a childhood crush that had gone wrong. This tension came to a head at a royal wedding where a drunken confrontation sparked an international scandal and forced Alex and Henry to pretend to be friends. This fake friendship led to Alex discovering his true feelings for Henry and their constant interactions helped Alex explore his emotions and sexuality as seen from a scene, quoting Nora, *"Let me lay out some observations for you. First, you've been like, Draco Malfoy-level-obsessed with Henry for years... and since the royal wedding, you've gotten his phone number and used it not to set up any appearances but instead to long-distance flirt with him all day every day..."* (Page 100, Paragraph 2) The royal wedding represented tradition of the union of a heterosexual couple. This became the contrast between Alex's outward hostility and his internal emotional journey which made his self-discovery even more meaningful as he struggled with his identity and external pressures.

As the story progressed, Alex was forced to spend more time with Prince Henry to maintain diplomatic appearances despite their initial friction as seen from the quote, *"He's grown accustomed to texting with Henry almost every day"* (Page 64, Paragraph 5). This closeness sparked

Alex's growing feelings for Henry especially after seeing his warmth during an encounter with a young cancer patient, *"I'm impressed... Not impressed just surprised. That you actually have, you know, feelings [Pertaining to Henry talking to a little girl with leukemia]"* (Page 39, Paragraph 2). Confused about his emotions, Alex talked to his best friend Nora who suggested that Henry might be gay which opened the possibility of a romantic connection. A turning point came at a New Year's Eve party when Henry kissed Alex which led him to question his sexual identity, *"He grabs Alex's face in both and kisses him. Alex is frozen, registering the press of Henry's lips and the wool cuffs of his coat grazing jaw..."* (Page 89, Paragraph 8 and 9). Their secret relationship grew from physical attraction to a deeper emotional bond and intensified Alex's internal struggle as he began to embrace his sexuality. The kiss represented Alex grappling with his evolving feelings which marked a critical breaking point or a moment of truth in his self-discovery.

At the Democratic National Convention, Alex's trust was shaken when Senator Rafael Luna betrayed Ellen by siding with her opponent. Meanwhile, leaked photos and emails exposed Alex and Henry's secret relationship as seen from a headline in this scene, *"BREAKING: PHOTOS REVEAL ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PRINCE HENRY AND ALEX CLAREMONT-DIAZ"* (Page 261, Paragraph 2). This revelation forced Alex to come out to his supportive but practical mother, Ellen, who urged him to make a commitment to Henry. A heartfelt confession at a family lake house was interrupted when Henry suddenly withdrew with a note left behind which left Alex devastated

and unsure. This note deepened their struggles with identity and love and emphasized the challenges of personal growth, societal pressures, and vulnerability. Both characters confronted these testaments with Alex facing his family's expectations and Henry grappling with emotional withdrawal pushing them toward self-acceptance. After Henry left, Alex attempted to reach out, but Henry did not respond. In an attempt to confront him, Alex flew to London where Henry explained that the royal family's rules prevented them from being together. As Nora discovered the Richards campaign's role in the leak and Luna's involvement, the story took on more political and personal drama, *"You told Rafael Luna that you're bisexual? (Page 267, Paragraph 5)."* Alex's and Henry's communication blackout represented the burden of hiding one's true selves in a world that demands conformity. Throughout, Alex and Henry, who struggled with the emotional cost of hiding their true selves—balancing secrecy with public expectations—eventually embraced their true identities.

Alex, Bea, and Nora supported Henry confront his family about his relationship with Alex which allowed the characters to openly express their feelings and confront societal and familial expectations. A supportive crowd outside the palace showed a change in stance which emphasized the importance of acceptance in the protagonists' journey, *"I am the First Son of the United States, and I'm bisexual. History will remember us (Page 301, Paragraph 6)."* Luna's character arc was resolved as he revealed his reasons for exposing the relationship. On election night, Ellen's victory represented a win for the Claremont-Diaz family, with Alex and Henry joining her onstage. The Denouement also included a private moment between Alex and Henry at Alex's childhood home which represented how much they have grown as individuals. Alex's admission of his bisexuality and love for Henry resolved the central conflict and offered closure. The election night symbolized sexuality as a path to self-acceptance and public acknowledgment as Alex embraced both his bisexuality and his love for Henry. Alex's sexuality is portrayed as a journey of self-discovery. Initially described as closeted, Alex's shifting feelings toward Prince

Henry—marked by his acknowledgment of Henry's attractiveness and deepening affections—serve as key turning points—*"Seventy-eight percent probability of latent bisexual tendencies. One hundred percent probability, this is not a hypothetical question (Page 98, Paragraph 5)."* His internal dialogue, such as recognizing his attraction to both genders and recalling fantasies involving men illustrates his gradual self-awareness. The narrative uses dynamic sensations and imagery such as hormonal memories and evolving emotional connections in order to highlight the malleable nature of his sexuality which is influenced by lived experiences and cultural factors. This enables him to navigate and embrace his bisexual identity. Alex's path aligns with Freud's psychosexual development theory which suggests that sexuality evolves in response to internal desires and external stimuli (Carnevale, 2023). His initial closeted state and gradual acknowledgment of attraction to multiple genders mirror Freud's idea that repressed desires can surface and become integrated into one's conscious self (Cherry, 2024). However, his experiences also challenge traditional psychoanalytic frameworks which historically leaned on rigid categorizations of sexuality. Drawing on Foucault's insights from *"The History of Sexuality,"* Alex's journey reflects the idea that sexuality is not merely an innate characteristic but is shaped by historical, cultural, and social discourses (Sparknotes, n.d.). His hormonal memories and fantasies are not just private realizations but are influenced by cultural narratives that have alternately suppressed and celebrated diverse sexual identities. Foucault's notion of power and knowledge also illuminates how Alex's eventual embrace of bisexuality disrupts societal expectations which in turn reframes his identity as a locus of resistance against heteronormative assumptions (Powercube, n.d.). Judith Butler's performativity of gender and sexuality further elucidates Alex's story. His growing affection for Henry and subsequent self-recognition can be seen as a process of *"doing"* bisexuality—performing and reiterating actions and feelings that construct this identity. Butler's rejection of fixed binaries aligns with Alex's malleable sexuality which means that identities emerge through lived experiences and relationships rather than preordained truths (Ton, n.d.).

Table 2. Character Analysis

Characters	Description of Character's Sexuality
Alex	A journey of self-discovery, culminating in his embrace of his bisexual identity through his deepening love for Henry.
Henry	A journey of self-awareness, balancing personal truth with societal expectations and cultural influences.

Table 3. Representation Analysis

Characters	Sexual Identity	Representation
Alex	Bisexual	Initially identifying as heterosexual and describes past bisexual inclinations with being hormonal or simply “guys messing around”.
Henry	Homosexual	Suppressed expression of homosexuality due to societal norms, socio-political standing, and familial expectations.

Henry's sexuality is depicted as a journey of self-awareness marked by complexity and societal influences. While Henry is portrayed as having a more defined understanding of his sexual identity compared to Alex, his feelings and self-expression evolve through their interactions, *"I'm gay," Henry tells him flatly. (Page 113, Paragraph 2).* His affections for Alex demonstrate a certainty about his orientation—despite internal and external challenges tied to his royal status. Moments in the novel—such as his direct admission of being gay—emphasize his advanced self-discovery and the tension of reconciling personal truth with public expectations. The depiction also shows the role of cultural and social factors such as media in shaping his identity and how others perceive it. In addition to this, Henry's narrative offers a complementary, yet distinct arc of self-awareness shaped by the tension between personal identity and societal constraints. His certainty about being gay represents what Sedgwick, in *"Epistemology of the Closet,"* describes as the duality of public and private identities (Bailey, n.d.). For Henry, being out to himself contrasts sharply with the societal expectations tied to his royal status, exemplifying Sedgwick's analysis of how the closet functions as a site of power and vulnerability (Thorpe Jr., n.d.). Foucault's ideas about surveillance and regulation are particularly relevant to Henry's portrayal (Studysmarter, n.d.). As a public figure, his identity is scrutinized and policed by cultural and media forces which reflects the pervasive influence of institutional power on personal truths. His interactions with Alex, however, catalyze a reclamation of agency and demonstrate how intimacy and mutual understanding can serve as forms of resistance against oppressive structures. Both characters' arcs challenge binary classifications which represents Anne Fausto-Sterling's work on the fluidity of sex and gender categories. Alex's bisexuality and Henry's gay identity represents the limitations of rigid heterosexual/homosexual dichotomies. Their journeys validate Fausto-Sterling's assertion that human experiences often defy simplistic categorization which advocates for a spectrum-based understanding of sexuality. Alex's journey of self-discovery as a bisexual individual resonates with key theories in gender and sexuality studies. Michel Foucault's *"The History of Sexuality"* emphasizes how societal constructs shape the discourse around sexuality

suggesting that Alex's recognition of his feelings for Henry emerges within a framework influenced by cultural narratives and power dynamics. Judith Butler's notion of gender performativity, introduced in her book, *"Gender Trouble,"* further challenges the rigidity of sexual and gender binaries aligning with Alex's fluid attraction and his journey of identity beyond fixed categories. Similarly, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick's *"Epistemology of the Closet"* gives a fine distinction and often liminal space of queer identities which captures the complexity of Alex's emotions and the tension between societal expectations and personal truth. Freud's Psychosexual Development theory provides a historical foundation for understanding the development of sexual identity as he acknowledges bisexuality as a fundamental aspect of human psychology. This offers a backdrop to Alex's evolving understanding of his desires. Anne Fausto-Sterling confronts binary classifications of sexuality and gender and advocates for fluidity and diversity. In her perspective, Alex's bisexuality resists simplistic labels and embodies the complexity of human attraction and love. Henry's identity as a homosexual character grappling with societal norms elicit critical themes in seminal works by Michel Foucault, Judith Butler, and Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick. The quote, *"He's gay... princes aren't allowed to be gay,"* represents the tension between personal identity and the societal structures that seek to regulate it. Foucault emphasizes that sexuality is not merely a biological reality, but a construct shaped by historical and cultural power dynamics. This resonates with Henry's struggle as his royal status enforces norms that suppress his authentic self. In addition to this, Judith Butler's theory of gender performativity illustrates Henry's predicament further. She argues that identity is not innate but continuously produced through societal expectations and repetitive performances. The notion that *"princes aren't allowed to be gay"* means that social structures dictate acceptable expressions of identity and force individuals like Henry into inauthentic performances to conform. Sedgwick's idea complicates this further by examining the limitations and oppressiveness of binary classifications of sexuality. Henry's experience symbolizes the struggles of living within such reductive frameworks as his identity cannot be neatly categorized within societal binaries of heterosexuality versus homosexuality.

4. CONCLUSION

This study critically examined the depiction of sexuality in Casey McQuiston's *"Red, White and Royal Blue"* through a detailed analysis of its plot, characters, representations, and responses to traditional literary norms. The findings reveal that the novel not only portrays sexuality as fluid and multifaceted but also challenges societal and cultural binaries that limit individual identities. Through the journeys of Alex Claremont-Diaz and Prince Henry, the narrative delves into themes of self-discovery, societal expectations, and personal acceptance. Alex's evolving realization of his bisexual identity is depicted as a process shaped by internal desires and external pressures which is resonated with Foucault's and Butler's theories on the social construction of sexuality and performative identity. Meanwhile, Henry's experience as a gay royal represents the tension between personal truth and public duty which illustrates Sedgwick's exploration of the "closet" and the complexities of living authentically. The analysis shows how McQuiston employs romance and narrative dynamics to disrupt heteronormative assumptions and positions the novel as a significant contribution to modern LGBTQ+ literature. It demonstrates the transformative power of literature to foster inclusivity, challenge stereotypes, and advocate for diverse sexual identities.

On Navigating Love and Identity: The Distinct Portrayal of Sexuality in "Red, White and Royal Blue"

"Red, White and Royal Blue" by Casey McQuiston is a modern story that investigates the obstacles of relationships and sexual identities. It breaks away from traditional ideas and offers a realistic view of love and identity. The novel tells the story of Alex Claremont-Diaz navigating his bisexuality in a thoughtful way. Instead of presenting his bisexuality as something fixed, the book shows it as a part of his identity that changes and grows throughout. McQuiston shows us how sexuality can be a journey rather than something set in stone. Alex's dislike for Prince Henry was the starting point for him to explore his sexual identity. As the story goes on, Alex discovers his bisexuality as his feelings for Henry grow. The book also addresses the misconception that bisexuality isn't a valid orientation which contributes to problems such as bisexual invisibility and difficulty defining bisexuality. To push back against these societal labels, the story focuses on the importance of letting people define their own sexual identity. According to Sharmat (2023), some researchers argue that self-definition is especially important for bisexual people as it helps challenge society's narrow views. Moreover, the story goes on about Henry's gay identity and how it connects with other parts of his life. As a member of the royal family, Henry deals with the expectations, traditions, and pressures of his role while

embracing his identity as a gay man. Instead of treating his gay identity as separate, the story exhibit how it is tied to his public life. This shows the hardships people face when different parts of their identity overlap, adding to the depth to the portrayal of homosexuality. Henry's experience as a gay man is shaped by both his personal feelings and the demands of being in the public eye. The story captures his struggle to balance being true to himself when meeting societal expectations. Further, the story explains that being gay is about who someone is attracted to (which is different from their gender—like being male, female, or non-binary). It shows that there isn't just one way to feel same-sex attraction and that many people figure out they're gay during their teenage years (McCarthy and Yi, 2024). Nevertheless, understanding and accepting one's sexuality is a personal journey that varies for everyone, and love and attraction are personal and happen at each person's own pace. In the novel, Alex's bisexuality and Henry's homosexuality develop in secret. This perfectly illustrates how societal expectations can deeply affect personal relationships. The need for secrecy shows how aware the characters are of public opinion and the risks of being open about their sexuality. As the story unfolds, it goes on to consider the importance of self-acceptance and being honest about one's identity. The characters struggle with staying true to themselves while maintaining their public image reflects real-life situations where people face pressure to meet societal norms. Many LGBTQ+ adults feel society has become more accepting in the last ten years, but discrimination is still not uncommon (Camp, Rimes, and Vitoratou, 2020). In some places, people strongly oppose same-sex marriage often because of religious beliefs (Pew Research Center, n.d.). The story follows Alex and Henry as they grow and learn to accept themselves—Alex comes to terms with being bisexual and Henry embraces being gay. These moments are life-changing for both. The book avoids oversimplifying sexual identity and shows that people can change and discover new things about themselves. In addition to this, it tells us the importance of acceptance of oneself even when society has certain expectations. Further, the story invites readers to reflect on their own experiences with identity and acceptance. It shows how understanding and accepting your identity can be especially challenging for LGBTQ+ individuals particularly in communities where being gay, bisexual, or transgender isn't widely accepted. Often, the hardest step is learning to accept your own feelings. The book also represents the stigma that LGBTQ+ people face and the difficulties of figuring out one's sexuality or questioning one's gender identity. It fosters the required empathy for those facing these struggles. The relationship between Alex and Henry illustrates how genuine connections thrive despite outside pressures. It challenges us with the idea that love should be limited by gender or social norms. As

society is becoming more and more accepting of LGBTQ+ people, expert fields in gay studies and gay literature are gaining recognition (Flores, 2019). Defining gay literature can be challenging as some stories only give hints toward gay characters or themes. Gay literature is not just about sex; it also delves on deep emotional experiences—as Christopher Isherwood once said that being gay is about the ability to love someone of the same gender and not just about sexual acts (Mustofa and Ramadhani, 2021). The book, *“Red, White and Royal Blue”*, provide a thoughtful look at sexuality—presenting bisexuality and homosexuality with utmost care and authenticity. Through the characters, Alex and Henry, the story shows the world’s themes such as the fluid nature of sexual orientation, the pressures of society, and the overlap of sexual identities.

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Data Availability Statement: The primary data for this research is the novel *“Red, White & Royal Blue”* by Casey McQuiston, which can be purchased at major bookstores nationwide.

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