



# NO WAY, THEY WERE GAY?

## HIDDEN LIVES AND SECRET LOVES

### Description

History sounds really official. Like it's all fact. But that's not necessarily true. History is created by those who document it...and sometimes those people are biased against or just can't see or imagine anyone different from themselves.

Men who loved men, women who loved women, and people who lived outside gender boundaries are often left out of history. In fact, some household names have had these parts of their lives and identities censored, from Shakespeare and Pharaoh Hatshepsut to Cary Grant and Eleanor Roosevelt. *No Way, They Were Gay?* reclaims the lives and loves of famous figures by sifting through primary source materials including letters, interviews, photos, and poems.

### Critical Acclaim

- Children's Book Committee at Bank Street College Best Children's Book of the Year, **Winner, 2022**
- ILA Children's and Young Adult Book Award in Nonfiction, **Winner, 2022**
- Cybils Nominee, **Nominated, 2021**
- Chicago Public Library Best of the Best Books, **Winner, 2021**

“Wind takes readers on a life-changing journey through the often untold and hidden history of LGBTQIA+ people. Censored throughout history, Wind uses primary sources to explore the lives of twelve of the most famous historical figures. The primary source material is bolded throughout the book and includes the author’s own interpretations. Readers also have an opportunity to form their own thoughts and views. Each chapter ends with a question for the reader to reflect on. Every hidden history is revealed in an informative and respectful manner. Included in the non-fiction text are a table of contents, additional resources for reference, an index, and definitions of relevant acronyms and symbols that are an integral part of the LGBTQIA+ community. This is an informative acknowledgment of history. Wind has created a safe space for young adult readers who are in need or who want to help create a safe space for their peers.” —**Children’s Literature Comprehensive Database (CLCD)**

“Using primary sources to frame an alternative historical narrative, and asking readers to form their own conclusions, Wind sets out to fill some of those gaps, focusing primarily on the same-sex relationships or nonbinary identities of 12 well-known public figures.” —**Publishers Weekly**

“[S]olidly written, well-documented and organized . . . a modest, well-intentioned contribution to gay history.” —**Booklist**

From the Series **Queer History Project**

Interest Level: Grades 6-12

Reading Level: Grade 6

Lexile: 1110

On Sale Date: April 6, 2021

Available Formats:

Paperback

978-1-5415-8162-3 \$18.99

Multi-user eBook

978-1-7284-2757-7 \$55.99

“At a time where issues of social justice are often deemed either overinflated or ‘solved,’ Lee Wind makes a powerful case that queer historical erasure is an ongoing issue.”—***Foreword Reviews***

“Entertaining, illuminating, and an accessible antidote to dominant histories.”—***Kirkus Reviews***

“This work serves not only to educate everyone who reads it, but also to help LGBT youth feel seen, to know people like them exist in the world, and to have role models that are among the most revered of leaders. Do I wish I’d had this in junior high school? You bet!” —**Dr. Judy Grahn, author of *Another Mother Tongue: Gay Words, Gay Worlds***

“Such an important book, both enlightening and entertaining. Highly recommended for readers age 10-110!”—**Linda Sue Park, Newbery Medalist**

“I think as a teen I might’ve chosen to major in History if I’d read Lee Wind’s fun, fast-paced, and thought-provoking book. I love how it lays out the evidence about some of our past’s greatest heroes, invites us to draw our own conclusions, and inspires us, regardless of our sexual orientation or gender identity to be true to who we are.”—**Alex Sanchez, author of *Rainbow Boys* and *You Brought Me the Ocean***

“Fascinating, ambitious, diverse, rigorously researched, and much-needed—this book will save lives.”—**Kathleen Krull, winner of the Children’s Book Guild Nonfiction Award for body of work, and author of the *Lives Of* series**

“This is a fascinating book that challenges the simplistic history we have been taught to believe for far too long. Lee Wind illuminates the complexities of historical figures, and through them, readers are given permission to be their true, complex selves and live their true, complex, authentic lives. An important book for readers of all ages.”—**Lesléa Newman, author of *Heather Has Two Mommies*, *Sparkle Boy*, and *October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard***

“Lee’s work reminds readers, especially LGBTQ readers, that we all come from somewhere and that even though the history books may seek to silence or throw a shadow over our truths, our truths are ours to share with the world with pride.”—**Matthew C. Winner, host of *The Children’s Book Podcast***

“I can’t believe this book hasn’t existed until now!! It’s a joyful and fascinating read that reminds us that LGBTQ+ people have always existed, thrived and made important contributions to society. No matter what your age, orientation or gender identity, Lee Wind makes you feel like this book was written for you.”—**Michael D. Cohen, Actor/Writer/Director/Acting Coach**