

READER'S GUIDE

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A Boy Named Rose (FairSquare Graphics)



A translation of an acclaimed French graphic novel (*Le Jardin*), *A Boy Named Rose* is a stunning take on the queer coming of age story, with a distinct European vibe that will inspire hot takes and strong opinions.

CREATOR: Gaëlle Geniller

ABOUT: *Nominated for a 2024 Eisner Award.* Paris. The 1920s. Rose is a boy and, like all the girls he's spent time with since he was born, he wants to dance at "Le Jardin", the cabaret managed by his mother. As Rose blossoms into a 19-year-old young man, he discovers love and tries to find his place in a society that's not ready to welcome gender fluidity or true love between two men with open arms.

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“Gaëlle Geniller absolutely holds your full attention with both the master crafting of the story and the phenomenal art style here. Vibrant colors contribute an element to the story that would completely change the mood of it if expressed differently. Could easily be turned into an animated short, and would do well. A Boy Named Rose deserves your attention. This will be on my recommended list to friends and coworkers.” —Diamond Bookshelf, 2025



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How is Rose's upbringing in Le Jardin similar, and different, from your own experiences?
2. Are there universal benchmarks in young adulthood that everyone can relate to?
3. How do Rose's relationships with his family members influence his sense of self?
4. What role does parental pressure play in the development of the characters?
5. How would a similar story about queer awakening be told in different cultural settings?

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