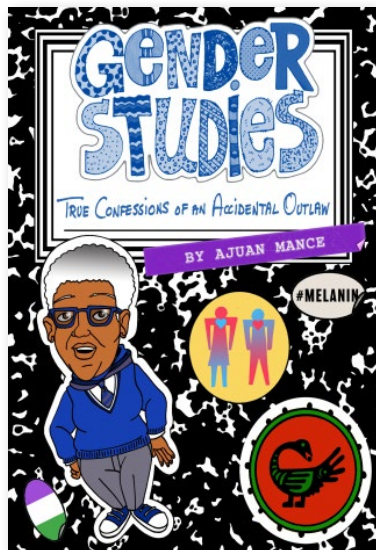


READER'S GUIDE

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Gender Studies: The Confessions of an Accidental Outlaw
(Rosarium)



Explore the intersection of race, gender, and representation via graphic memoir, as well as the nuances that are often overlooked in everyday expectations and interactions.

CREATOR: Ajuan Mance

ABOUT: When you're the only Black kid in the honors program or (any program) at your mostly White high school, or one of a handful of Black graduate students in your PhD program, or one of two African American women on the faculty at your Pac-10 employer, it's not your gender non-conformity that sets you apart from your peers. In those environments, your Blackness is the first thing people notice about you. Ajuan Mance gives comic treatment to the challenges, complexities, and occasional absurdity of life at the crossroads of race, gender, and geekiness.

“

“Newcomers to the artist’s oeuvre will feel welcomed by this endearing work, which affirms how far the understanding of gender identities and experiences has come since Mance’s coming-of-age in the 1970s. It’s a celebration of queerness that will resonate with fans of Lawrence Lindell’s Blackward.” —Publishers Weekly, 2024



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What assumptions and definitions did you have of “gender” before reading *Gender Studies*? Did the book challenge or change them in any way? Was anything surprising to you?
2. Mance plays with a lot of stereotypes, not just gender roles but also fashion, mannerisms, and more. Which stereotypes did you find potentially harmful? Did any ring true, based on your own experience?
3. Do you think Mance’s experiences are unique to the geographic location and time in history in which they occurred? Why or why not?
4. Mance speaks directly to the reader in the book. How did this shape the narrative for you? Did you find it an effective way to understand their point of view?
5. Mance’s art style is unique, particularly the coloring. What, if any, might be the significance of the single bright color choice that changes on almost every page?

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