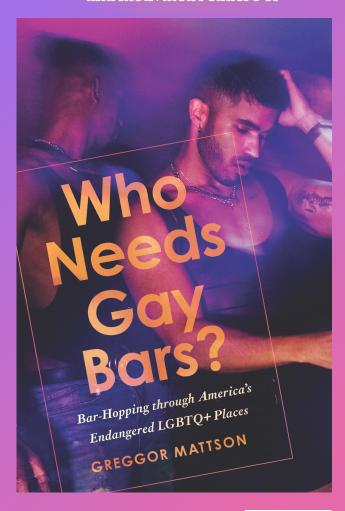
## Reader's Guide

A guide for book groups, classrooms, and motivated readers of



Redwood Press 2023
ISBN: 9781503629202
@GreggorMattson
greggormattson.com/gay-bars



# Setting up a group

This book brings the gay bar to life beyond its usual club or tavern setting. Here are some considerations for setting up a reading group:

- How often will you meet? Where will you meet?
- Do any members have accessibility needs that must be met so they can fully participate?
- Will food and/or beverages be served at your group? How will this be done respectfully to those who do not drink alcohol or those that have allergies or restrictions? How will drinkers get home safely?
- Will any members of the LGBTQ+ community be present? If not, why not? How will all members be made to feel comfortable without being asked to speak for their identity or communities?
- How could a commitment to an aesthetic bring the book to life for the group? Will sequins, (p)leather, fringe, mesh, and hats be encouraged?

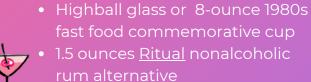
### Proposed beverages

#### H<sub>2</sub>O



- Mismatched fancy glass as available (champagne flute, carnival glass goblet, etc).
- Still or sparkling water as desired
- Cucumber slice (or not)

#### A Not-so-Dark and Stormy





- 3 ounces Vernor's ginger ale or your local brand
- Sprig of mint

#### Press

 iitala <u>Ultima Thule</u> On the Rocks highball glass or similar



- 1.5 ounces Jim Beam or other bourbon
- 1.5 ounces tap water (essential)



No garnish





### Guiding Questions

- 1. Have you ever been to an LGBTQ+ bar? If so, what was your first time like? If not, what did you imagine one to be like?
- 2. What was your experience reading Who Needs Gay Bars? What surprised you? Did any particular phrase or event stick with you?
- 3. Did your opinions regarding LGBTQ+ bars change after reading Who Needs Gay Bars? Why/how so?
- 4. In Who Needs Gay Bars, author Greggor Mattson features over 40 individual bars and their owners. Which were you most captivated by and why?
- 5. Which kinds of gay bars and lesbian bars were new to you?
- 6. For whom are gay bars safe spaces, and under what conditions?
- 7. The author mainly interviewed gay bar owners and managers. What can they tell us? What can they likely not tell us?



### Mattson's Reading List of LGBTQ+ Places in the U.S.

**Men in Place Miriam Abelson Feels Right** Kemi Adeyemi Real, Queer America Samantha Allen **Moby Dyke Krista Burton** Cruising **Alex Espinoza** Claire Forstie **Queering the Midwest There Goes the Gayborhood Amin Ghaziani** A Queer New York Jack Gieseking **Ingredients for Revolution** Alex Ketchum Kareem Khubchandani **Ishtyle Gay Bar Jeremy Atherton Lin Anthony Christian Ocampo Brown and Gay in LA** When Brooklyn Was Queer **Hugh Ryan** Japonica Brown-Saracino **How Places Make Us** Still Straight **Tony Silva Queer Carnival Amy Stone** 

- 8. The LGBTQ+ community largely depends upon privately-owned spaces to socialize and meet each other. Where do your communities meet, and how are those spaces similar to or different from bars and nightclubs?
- 9. Did any of the statements in the book rub you the wrong way? Why?
- 10. What are the ways in which the LGBTQ+ community is diverse within itself? What are the difficulties in recognizing and honoring that diversity?
- 11. Did reading this book inspire you to change your habits in going out? If so, in what ways? If not, why not?
- 12. How do you feel about gay bars closing? Why?
- 13. Should gay bars receive support from the public? If so, what form should this support take?
- 14. What are the downsides of idealizing gay bars? What are the downsides of dismissing them altogether?

