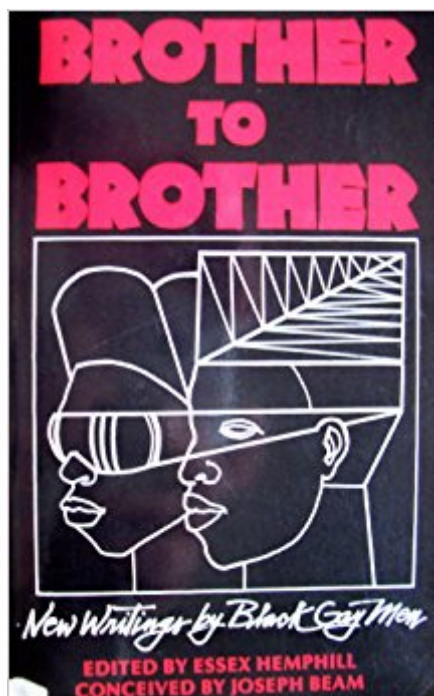


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Brother To Brother: New Writings By Black Gay Men



Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Believing that the "gay community . . . operates from a one-eyed, one gender, one color set without hyphens. sg perception of community ," Beam and Hemphill have compiled a volume of writings that address the emerging black gay sensibility in all of its glory, pain and promise. The strength of the book's politics, however, is undermined by offerings of dubious literary merit. Generally, the short fiction is only adequately written, depicting young closeted men afraid to come out to their abusive parents and peers. One exception is John Keene Jr.'s "Adelphus King," a sweet tale about a man who falls head over heels for his cousin's boyfriend, a charismatic jazz musician. The poems in the collection speak routinely about sex and love; the most touching deal with the loss of loved ones to AIDS. By far, the most satisfying writing is Ron Simmons's incisive "Some thoughts on challenges facing black gay intellectuals," which exposes the homophobic views of many black writers and calls for the development of "an affirming and liberating philosophical understanding of homosexuality that will self-actualize black gay genius." Hemphill is a poet; Beam, who edited *In the Life* , died in 1988. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Powerfully conveyed expressions of the unique abundance that life has to offer the strong black man who is proudly gay; these brothers from the past have lessons of strength, beauty, hope and pride sorely missing from the contemporary dialog. With their raw and brutal honesty about the conditions imputed upon them with conspicuous contempt by the established societal structures of

law and family, and the established ostracism of the black and gay communities, they nevertheless leave the reader with a sense of the indelible integrity they nurtured among each other, and the guidelines for the brothers of today to get it back.

Hemphill is a fraud

Brother to Brother is an outstanding collection of stories. Anyone (gay or not) can relate to the awkwardness of a first kiss or frustration with the "single club scene". These are some of the themes in Brother to Brother. In San Francisco there is a theatre show called "Up Jumped Springtime" that puts some of the stories from this book on stage. Three fine actors do justice to every word. Neither the book nor the show are to be missed. Both are engaging, sexy and will have you in the floor laughing!

I am a white gay man who dates black men exclusively. This book is a beautiful insight to one of the most oppressed and misunderstood segments of American society. With the knowledge and insight I have gained from reading this book, I feel I am better able to please my men.

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