



Felix Ever After by Kacen Callender
Comstock Township Library, Wednesday 8/14 at 6 PM

Discussion Questions:

1. Felix thinks part of the reason he's never been in love is that he exists at the intersection of too many identities. He's queer *and* he's Black *and* he's trans; he thinks he is Too Much. How do you think this impacts his life beyond his love life (or lack thereof)?
2. What did you think about Felix's revenge plot?
3. Who did you think was the culprit of the gallery? Were you surprised by Felix's reaction upon finding out who put up his old photos?
4. Social media is important to the story, and in some ways it can be considered the villain. What are your thoughts on social media? If social media as we know it had been present during your teenage years do you think it would have had a negative or positive impact on your life?
5. Felix's friends are mostly LGBTQ+ with a variety of personal identities. How did his friends' identities help or hinder their support of his gender identity?
6. Felix reflects, "Sometimes, I'm a little frustrated with myself. What if I'd been one of the folks who knew, without a doubt, that they were trans since the time they were toddlers? How many years have I wasted living this lie, and all because I hadn't even known that I could've been living my truth all along?" (p. 79) What did you think about Felix's need to know his identity sooner?
7. Consider Felix's perception of the adults at the Callen-Lorde clinic: "Everyone else has had years to figure themselves out already. They probably don't question anything about themselves anymore. No annoying *niggling* thoughts about their identity." (p. 146) Are personal identities something we should know from birth, a life-long journey, or something in between?
8. "I look at the moon, and I can't help but think of everyone else on the planet who's looking up at it, too, and how alone I am, even though we're all here on the same Earth. I think about the fact that we should all be connected, but we're not." (p. 130) Would you say that Felix's disconnect from others, his loneliness, is a universal experience? Is it something he can overcome by pushing himself to no longer be a "watcher" or something that will continue to be an issue throughout his life?
9. One of the big themes in the story is familial relationships, specifically relationships with parents (Example: Declan's father or grandfather; Ezra's parents; Felix's dad or mom). Was there any specific parental relationship that struck a chord with you?

10. Felix reflects on his father, “If he loves me, and he knows that I’m his son, then it should be easy for him to say my correct pronouns, even if I’m not always so sure of them myself. It should be easy for him to say my name.” (p. 127) What do you think of Felix’s expectations here?
11. How does Felix’s creative journey through that block reflect the larger themes of the book? For example, does his journey through a creative art block mirror his journey to figure out his true gender identity?
12. The book poses an interesting discussion about whether we can enjoy art separate from its creator (p. 93-95). What did you think about this discussion? With this conversation in mind, it’s interesting that the author chose to remove all *Harry Potter* references from future editions of this book because of the JK Rowling anti-trans controversy. What do you think about that choice?
13. What did you expect to happen between Felix and Declan? Did you expect the romantic relationship at the end of the book or were you surprised by who Felix ended up with?
14. Personal identities are a big part of the book (finding and embracing your own, supporting others’ identities, finding the power in being your true self). At the end of the book, Felix gives a speech and says, “It could’ve been easy to say I was hurt because I’m trans, because someone singled me out for my identity, but there’s something weird about that — something off, about suggesting that my identity is the thing that brought me any sort of pain. It’s the opposite. Being trans brings me love. It brings me happiness. It gives me power.” (p. 350-351) Did this speech resonate with you?



If you’re interested, there is more online about the author and the book:

To read:

- Blog post from author about changes made to future editions:
<https://www.kacencallender.com/post/felix-ever-after-changes>
- The Nerd Daily Q&A: Kacen Callender, Author of ‘Felix Ever After’:
<https://thenerddaily.com/kacen-callender-author-interview-felix-ever-after/>

To Watch:

- Center For Fiction’s “The Gender Question: Kacen Callender and Alex Gino on Nonbinary and Transgender Stories” video conversation:
<https://centerforfiction.org/videos/the-gender-question-kacen-callender-and-alex-gino-on-nonbinary-and-transgender-stories/>
- “Finding Community with Kacen Callender” video: <https://youtu.be/DLcP015A7MU?feature=shared>