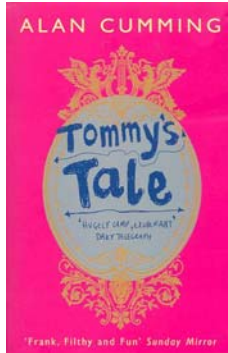




LGBT Reading Group



November/December 2007



The Read... Tommy's Tale

Tommy, a pill-popping, pansexual Londoner, just will not grow up. He's bisexual and can't resist the occasional dalliance with members of either sex. He spends his time hanging out with his sort-of boyfriend Charlie, working as a photographer's assistant, taking drugs and creating a bohemian dream flat with his beloved roommates. His life is all about fun until he finds himself growing attached to Charlie's 8-year-old son Finn. As a result of this relationship, Tommy develops an irrepressible desire to have a kid of his own and the rest of this hyperkinetic, diaristic novel is devoted to that pursuit. **ISBN: 978-0141003764**



The Author... Alan Cumming

Alan, born in 1965, is a Scottish actor best known for his film roles in *GoldenEye*, *X2: X-Men United* and on the stage with his Tony Award-winning performance as the Emcee in the revival of *Cabaret*. Cumming has directed, produced and written films, TV series and plays, voiced several soundtracks, written this book, developed a stand-up show at the Edinburgh Fringe and formed his own production company. He is openly bisexual and an LGBT rights activist in both in the UK and America. He has a civil partnership with artist Grant Shaffer.

Our Opinion... After spending a lot of time with his boyfriend's smart son Finn, and in anticipation of a turning-30 crisis, Tommy develops a sudden (although unconvincing) passion to become a father. To this end, the commitment-phobe prepares himself by enjoying unsafe sex, body-ravaging drug abuse, cuddling his trendy housemates and soaking for endless hours in the bath...

To be fair, Tommy does have some amusing views on life, peppered with modern fairy tales and an occasional creative use of font size. However the group found they had little empathy for any of the adult characters, except for ever-tolerant boyfriend Charlie. Readers found it difficult to mentally separate the famously bi-sexual author with his fictional bi-sexual character and there's a distinct autobiographical feel about it. This appears to be a love-it-or-hate-it kind of book (and author)!



What Next... Fair Play

Translated for the first time into English, this book portrays a love between two older women, a writer and artist, as they work side-by-side in their Helsinki studios, travel together and share summers on a remote island. In the generosity and respect they show each other and the many small shifts they make to accommodate each other's creativity, we are shown a relationship both heartening and truly progressive. This illustrated book was written when Jansson was in her mid seventies, is translated by Thomas Teal and introduced by Ali Smith. **ISBN 978-0954899530**



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