

# An Unexpected Party

edited by **SETH MALACARI**

## WITH STORIES BY

L.E. Austin, Shaeden Berry, Lin Blythe, Elizabeth Bourke, Aidan Demmers, Emma Di Bernardo, Henry Farnan, Jesse Galea, A.R. Henderson, Anna Jacobson, Clover Lake, Jes Layton, Lian Low, Seth Malacari, Alistair Ott, Em Readman, Lukah Roser, Ash Taylor and Alexander Te Pohe.

## ABOUT THE BOOK

From fantastical realms to real-world struggles, this young adult anthology champions queer identity by challenging stereotypes and exploring the many facets of identity. Written with wit, heart and honesty, these stories take queer protagonists outside the box of YA romance and centre them at the heart of stories that involve magic, paranormal beings and adventure. Featuring trans and gender-diverse voices – asexual, aromantic, bisexual and more – the stories in *An Unexpected Party* are as diverse as their writers.

## ABOUT THE EDITOR

Seth Malacari (he/they) is an award-winning writer and member of the LGBTQIA+ community. Their work has appeared in *Underdog: LoveOzYA Short Stories* (2019). He is the founder of Get YA Words Out, has a Master of Art (Writing and Literature) from Deakin University specialising in Queer YA and was the former chair of LoveOzYA.

## NOTES

- Co-published by Get YA Words Out, this anthology features many queer voices from across the LGBTQIA+ spectrum, with an emphasis on trans and gender diverse stories. However, the anthology just scratches the surface of LGBTQIA+ talent, with many more stories, identities and experiences yet to be published. Some of those will be published by Fremantle Press in 2024 to 2025.
- Emerging writers from around the country were invited to submit their pieces for the collection and 18 writers out of the 70 that submitted were selected to be in the anthology.
- This anthology is unique as it does not focus on queer protagonists in romantic settings, instead it includes stories where the queer protagonist is the hero of sci-fi/fantasy stories, and breaks down stereotypes surrounding queer identity.
- The stories were written to inspire readers who may identify with one of the characters to write their own stories that similarly challenge stereotypes. The editor believes in a future where all young people get the opportunity to see themselves in Australian literature.



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