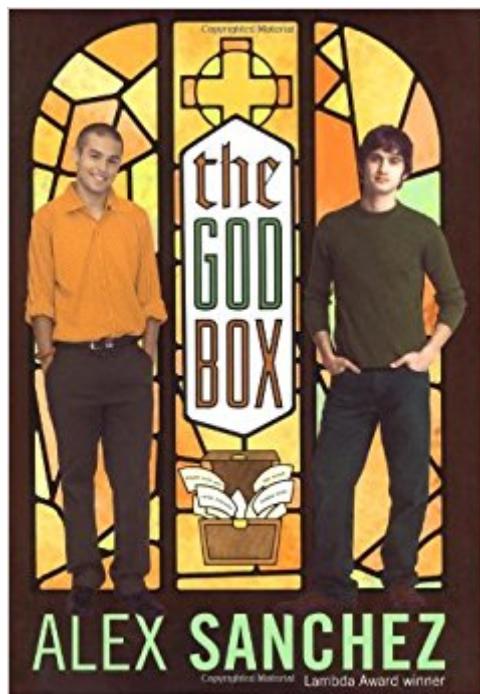


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# The God Box



## **Synopsis**

Paul, a religious teen living in a small conservative town, finds his world turned upside down when he meets Manuel— a young man who says he's both Christian and gay, two things that Paul didn't think could coexist in one person. Doesn't the Bible forbid homosexuality? As Paul struggles with Manuel's interpretation of the Bible, thoughts that Paul has long tried to bury begin to surface, and he finds himself re-examining his whole life. This is an unforgettable book on an extremely timely topic that strives to open minds on both ends of the spectrum. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## **Book Information**

Age Range: 12 and up

Lexile Measure: 760L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers (October 9, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416908994

ISBN-13: 978-1416908999

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 5.8 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 72 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,090,707 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #100 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > LGBT Issues #777 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Gay & Lesbian #967 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Religious > Christian

## **Customer Reviews**

"With candor, conviction, and compassion, Alex Sanchez dramatizes the plight of teens who struggle to balance their homosexuality and their deeply felt religious beliefs. An important, heartfelt book that deserves a wide readership." -- Michael Cart, editor of Love & Sex: Ten Stories of Truth"Alex Sanchez evokes the crucifying experience of adolescents wrestling with their sexual identity and their identity as Christians. This book is a gift not just to teenagers, but to those who love and work with them." -- The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop and Primate, the Episcopal Church --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Alex Sanchez spent almost fifteen years working with youth. He is the author of the teen novels Boyfriends with Girlfriends, Bait, The God Box, Getting It, Rainbow Boys, Rainbow High, and Rainbow Road, as well as the Lambda Award-winning middle-grade novel So Hard to Say. Lambda Literary Foundation honored Alex with an Outstanding Mid-Career Novelists Prize. He lives in Thailand and Hollywood, Florida. Visit him at [AlexSanchez.com](http://AlexSanchez.com).

I've read a lot of books about teenagers dealing with their sexuality, so it takes a lot to impress me. Congratulations, Alex Sanchez, this book blew me away. It also had me crying every chapter or so—that's how real and relatable it is. I read this book in two days—would have been one, if I hadn't started so late the first day. It is one of those books where you HAVE to know what's going to happen next. Great plot line, great characters—I can't say enough about the characters. I also can't say enough about how wonderful the love was in the book. Not just romantic love, but friendship love, family love, love of enemies, love of thyself, and—love of God. The dedication said it all: "To those who believe in a loving God and those who struggle to love themselves."

"The God Box" is a great, quick read. Targeted for a younger crowd, it follows a protagonist who begins questioning his sexuality after meeting a shockingly out classmate. Set in a small-ish town in Texas, the homophobia in the air of both the church and school is tangible and relatable. The book touches on tough subjects and backs up historical and religious claims with hard evidence from the Bible, making it easy for Christians to read and think about. My biggest complaint is that the "The God Box" is far too short. I finished the book in under 7 hours, and I'm a horribly slow reader. While the target audience is young, it doesn't give proper time to each subject it covers. While this is supposed to be a tale of a young man's journey, its pacing is all over the place and distracting. Deep emotions often feel watered down and simplified. I still highly recommend this novel to anyone questioning their stance on homosexuality and Christianity. Really puts things into perspective. As a gay Christian myself, I would require this for any parent or teen that needs help figuring things out.

This book was fantastic. I am a teen, and my life pretty much reflected Pablo's up until Diego entered the picture. I love this book so much. I highlighted the crap out of the Bible verses, where Sanchez explains the context of the verses condemning homosexuality. Much of what I'm going through was in this book, and I take comfort in the fact that this journey so many of us are on by ourselves can have a happy ending if we just trust in God. What I love most about this book is that it points out that LGBTQ people don't fit society's mold all of the time. This kid was conservative and

religious, and he became so happy when he found who he was with Manuel's help. We don't all pierce things, get rainbow tattoos and talk like girls for fun. We are real people. If society wouldn't make homosexuality such a big deal, everyone would be happy with who they are like Pablo became. This was a wonderful read. Religious leaders ought to keep this book in their offices to distribute to young people who question their sexuality.

Like all of Mr. Sanchez' books, this is a simple teen romance that happens to be between boys. The characters are believable and act the way a reader expects of adolescents. They are believable, flawed, lovable and consistent. For those of us whose family and friends are wonderful gay folk, thank you Mr. Sanchez for clarifying many of the bible's often misquoted and misinterpreted statements on homosexuality. I cringe when I hear this disinformation spread in sermons and now use the book as a reference.

I first stumbled across Alex Sanchez when reading "So Hard to Stay" one of his books I found at my library. I was so impressed with that book, I went on to find more books by him. This book "The God Box" is by far one of the best reads I have ever picked up. I'm not much of a big reader but when it came to this story I felt like I couldn't put the book down. The character Pablo/Paul was so realistic in many ways. His thoughts and actions felt so intense while reading that it put you into his mind like you were him. Manuel was a great and important character in this book. Manuel really help bridge the gap on "Gods" love and homosexuality. This book is definitely a great read for teens and young adults gay or straight. The story-line was amazing and the writing style was excellent. A Big fan of Alex Sanchez.

Great book for anyone struggling with their sexual identity AND the apparent religious conflicts associated with this condition that we are BORN with. Wish they had this book when I was growing up. Geared a little more toward the younger adult but I enjoyed reading it because it just confirmed what I had already learned myself while I was going through it. Thnx Alex.

A touchy subject handled by a master. As an Episcopalian and a parent of a gay son, even I wanted to talk to our church's minister myself, and as it turned out, she was a lesbian. I can't speak from the kids' viewpoints, but you will not harm yourself or your child by seeking the thoughtful content of this book - or any other by Alex Sanchez. Touchy subjects are always handled carefully and decorously by this author. Emery C. Walters, author of six books not so careful on the same subject

An awesome book, effectively communicating the inner struggle that gay Christians experience (I speak from personal experience on the matter.) I cried as I read of the protagonist's experiences that changed his paradigm from self-condemnation and self-hate to being able to love himself and allowing others to do so as well.

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