

# Contents

---

Acknowledgements | 9

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 What to Expect in this Book:  
A Very Brief Overview | 13
- 1.2 A Few Words on Formal Decisions | 16
- 1.3 How I Came to Write this Book | 17

## 2 THEORETICAL AND HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS

- 2.1 Why Comics? | 21
- 2.2 Unequal Distributions of Power, Rights,  
and Resources | 40
  - 2.2.1 Racism in the U.S. | 45
  - 2.2.2 Whiteness in the U.S. | 54
  - 2.2.3 Cis\_hetero\_sexism in the U.S. | 59
  - 2.2.4 Intersectionality | 75
- 2.3 A Brief History of Intersectional LGBTIQ Politics  
in the U.S. | 84

## 3 ALISON BECHDEL'S *DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR*: A WHITE FANTASY OF A POST-RACIAL LESBIAN COMMUNITY

- 3.1 A "Chronicle of Lesbian Culture and History" | 103
- 3.2 A Multicultural Universe  
with Whiteness at Its Center | 107
- 3.3 Armchair Anti-Racism: A Post-Racial Lesbian  
Community in a Racist Society | 121
- 3.4 White Lesbians as a Better Kind of White | 136
  - 3.4.1 White Lesbians as Non-Racist | 137
  - 3.4.2 White Lesbians as Racially Aware Allies  
to Lesbians of Color | 141
  - 3.4.3 Excursus: Struggling with Cissexism, Monosexism,  
and Ableism | 146
  - 3.4.4 White People as Less Privileged  
Than Their Peers of Color | 153

- 3.5 **Political Consequences  
of Dykes' Armchair Anti-Racism** | 157
- 3.5.1 Minimizing the Significance of Racism | 157
- 3.5.2 All Talk and No (Anti-Racist) Action | 164
- 3.5.3 No Way out of Homonormative Trajectories | 172
- 3.6 **Conclusion: When Fantasy Is Read as Fact** | 179

#### **4 HOWARD CRUSE'S *STUCK RUBBER BABY*: HOW 'GAY IS THE NEW BLACK' DISCOURSES SHAPE THE WHITE GAY IMAGINARY**

- 4.1 **A Groundbreaking Work** | 183
- 4.2 **A Window Seat to History?** | 185
- 4.3 **'Gay Is the New Black:' A Dominant Discourse** | 189
- 4.4 **Conservative Critiques** | 191
- 4.5 **Common Intersectional Critiques** | 192
- 4.5.1 Are All the Gays White and All the Blacks Straight? | 192
- 4.5.2 Universal Victimhood:  
Equating Racism and Cis\_hetero\_sexism | 198
- 4.5.3 Subscribing to Historical Progress Narratives:  
From Black Rights to Gay Rights? | 209
- 4.6 **Further Intersectional Critiques** | 211
- 4.6.1 Openly Gay White Men as Racially Innocent | 212
- 4.6.1.1 Portraying Racists | 213
- 4.6.1.2 A Gay Kind of Innocence | 215
- 4.6.2 Post-Racial Gay Revisionism:  
Where Is the Conflict? | 228
- 4.6.3 The Problem(s) with Gay Visibility Politics | 238
- 4.7 **Conclusion: Stuck in a White Fantasy** | 249

#### **5 JAIME CORTEZ'S *SEXILE/SEXILIO*: UNLEARNING HOMONATIONALISM AND DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVE DISCOURSES**

- 5.1 **"Decentering Whiteness"** | 253
- 5.2 **Disidentifications  
with Homonationalist Discourses** | 255
- 5.2.1 Homonationalism and U.S.-Cuban Relations | 255
- 5.2.2 Homonationalist Elements in *Sexile/Sexilio* | 260
- 5.2.3 Complicating Homonationalist Discourses on Cuba | 266

- 5.2.4 Undermining Homonationalist Discourses on the U.S. | 274
- 5.3 **Centering Resilience** | 287
- 5.4 **By Way of Conclusion: Reading *Sexile/Sexilio* from a Place of (Relative) Privilege** | 296

## **6 CONCLUSION: THE LIMITS OF WHITE LGBTIQ SELF-REPRESENTATIONS** | 299

**List of Works Cited** | 305

