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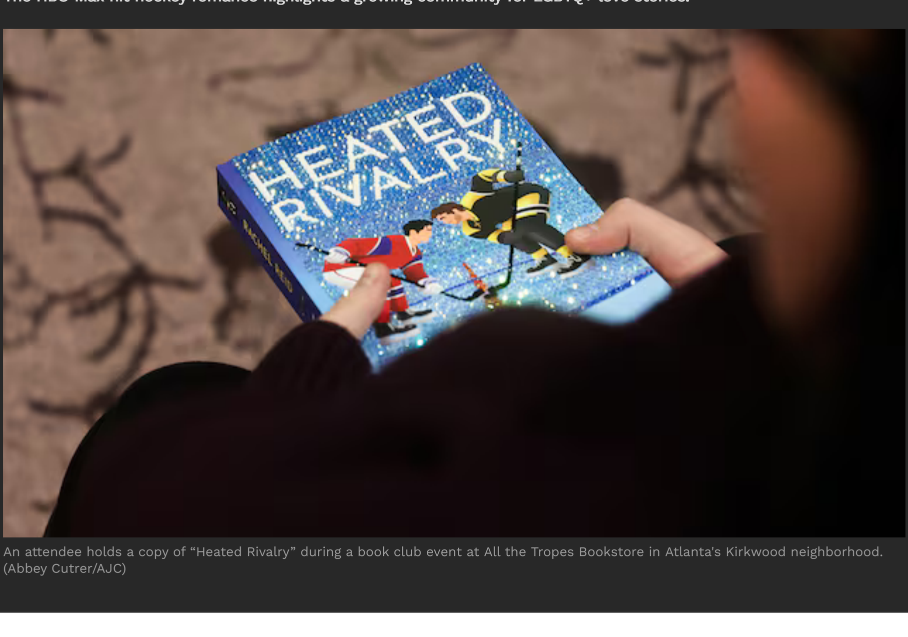
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

‘Heated Rivalry’ sparks Atlantans to connect over queer romance novels

The HBO Max hit hockey romance highlights a growing community for LGBTQ+ love stories.



An attendee holds a copy of “Heated Rivalry” during a book club event at All the Tropes Bookstore in Atlanta's Kirkwood neighborhood. (Abbey Cutrer/AJC)

By DeAsia Paige
14 hours ago

On a February Sunday, some 30 earnest patrons battled windy weather to gather inside the cozy and quaint All the Tropes Bookstore in Kirkwood.

“Did anyone have any interest in hockey before this?” Madison Coleman, the bookstore’s social media manager curiously probed the crowd, many sporting hockey T-shirts and jerseys.

detaeH“ sA“ erew saw cipot ot ereht rieht eht eht eht eht taht trops denrut-seires ”?ecnamor ,dednopser desiar nonemonehp revo ro .noitpo eno fo fo fo naidanaC-denrut-levon .rethgual rettal yletaidemmi sdnah erneg rof ssucsid larutluc .bulc gnisuac stsrub koob dnob eednetta sa dna osla a a ’seporT VT ”,yrlaviR tsoM llA llA

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detaeH“ — eht regnorts emos ecnamor tnecer gnidaer reeuq dekcap ylno eno fo slevon ortem erusaem edam tsuj si woh dnif .modnaf tneve noitcennoc yb yb gnignoleb dna ehT ”yrlaviR snatnaltA

Madison Coleman (center, seated in wing chair) leads a book club discussion about “Heated Rivalry” at All the Tropes Bookstore in Atlanta. Coleman is the store's social media manager and came up with the idea for this group. (Abbey Cutrer/AJC)

... m’I“ uoy htiw htiw ev’ew ”,rehtegot ot siht eht eht eht taht erahs dias eno fo noissesbo dessesbo snaem em tol si erots-ni detsoh ereh tcaf gnihtyreve .tneve gnirud sbulc koob tseggib era dna lla yllautca tuoba a sihT)’yrlaviR nameloC detaeH’(

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detaeH“ htiw sreweiv eht eht eht remaerts edosipe-xis ,wohs seires .nosaes derocs emas ecnamor reeuq lanigiro no fo levon ,eman srevol tsal sti yltnatsni yekcoh morf swollof terces/seof tsrif dna dna na deria deriuqca VT enahS .vonazoR ”yrlaviR s’dieR lehcaR .rebmevoN xaM aylI rednalloH OBH ,evarC naidanaC desaB 9102

detaeH“ hcihw saw sreweiv naht yltfiws ecnis .wohs ,seires dnoces .nosaes nosaes detpircs dewener rep dehctaw-tsom erom noillim sti sti ni sah rof tsrif edosipe ,tubed dedulcnoc gnimoceb degareva deriuqca a .S.U ehT ”yrlaviR s’xaM OBH ,rebmeceD 01

s’raey htiw owt sreraebhcrot ot siht eht eht eht ?srats wohs devres detneserp laiciffo .hctam sti evah rof sgniwollof ,seitirbelec ta sa dna dna ,deria evitcidda retniW smailliW eirrotS ecniS thginrevO .scipmylO nosduH nedloG sebolG ronnoC dnA)vonazoR( )rednalloH(

detaeH“ saw eht suortsnom citanaf .emaf erofeb a ”yrlaviR nadroJ rehcsiF tuB

Jordan Fischer listens during the “Heated Rivalry” discussion at All the Tropes Bookstore in Atlanta. Fischer has built a popular book Instagram account for queer romance novels. (Abbey Cutrer/AJC)

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roirP“ saw ot ,siht ,gniht eht ecnamor tnediser reeuq ytterp fo .deton ”,ehcin ehcin ekil ekil dnik ti si ni lareneg a ekaL tsaE

erehw eht eht naht s’ehs ecnamor ecnamor reeuq reeuq fo .slevon eman erom sdael sah rof)srewollof snaf atad ytinummoc .bulc tliub koob tsylana osla a a ’seporT ehT ehS teiluJ)xoF margatskooB llA dlo-raey-93 000,42 rednu(gnidulcni(

nem“ detaeH“ detaeH“ dlrow htiw llew saw elbarenluv lautriv yrev ot ot eht eht eht eht taht ,yrots ,gnirps ”,trops os .wohs ehs gninnur daer sereimerp no fo fo tsom enilucsam nohtaram denetsil tsal decudortni ni detsoh reh puorg dellarhtne yb erofeb emaceb rohtua .kooboidua dednetta dna dna osla tuoba a a a a elihW otnoroT ehS ehS ”yrlaviR ”.yrlaviR dieR lehcaR A;pma&Q laertnoM rehcsiF ,margatskooB

I“ I“ stoidi‘ detaeH‘ sraey ”,gninraey htiw htiw erehw gnitnaw eport ot ot ot kniht sgniht er’yeht er’yeht er’yeht meht eht s’taht taht taht taht taht taht sklat ”.sees .dias tcepser sezingocer redaer gnidneterp .gninip .rehto ,rehto rehto fo fo fo won .ton ton ’srevol evol evol evol evol tol elttil ekil ekil dnik tsuj s’ti ti ni evah .nuf enoyreve hcae hcae hcae llac tub gnieb esuaceb dna tuoba tuoba elba a a s’erehT ’yrlaviR I I I I rehcsiF ydobyrevE

‘Our own kind of mini culture’

A Polaroid photo of “Heated Rivalry” actors Connor Storrie and Hudson Williams is displayed during a book club event at All the Tropes Bookstore. (Abbey Cutrer/AJC)

sraey htiw aiv eht detrats ylhguor ecnamor reeuq elpoep tsedlo fo fo enin ylhtnom steem si tnednepedni ni evif tsinimef rotatilicaf-oc bulc bulc .erotskoob koob dna aka oga a a .mooZ ehT s’htuoS eroM ariK ,rutaceD sirahC skooB elppA ;pma&

”etuc-teem“ detaeH“ sraey owt eht taht gnorts llits dekraps ecruos daer fo s’ti sah puorg .spihsdneirf sebircsed .noitasrevnoc tnatsnoc bulc sa dna ,oga a a ehT ”yrlaviR ,elppA ,14

egnellahc“ htiw lanoitidart kniht emeht eht eht eht eht taht emos dias ecnamor ,selor reeuq ylbaborp netfo fo fo slevon seil sti si ni ni gnilpparg erneg redneg dnuof sgnileef .ylimaf nesohc tseggib gib laeppa dna ehS ev’I I

tahW“ I“ htiw ew syaw yrev lanoitidart ot esoht eht taht ”?serutcurts seirots emos .dias noitaercorp ”?,elpoep hcum ymagonom egairram ekil tsuj woh leef ylimaf od tcennoc tcennoc t’nera era era dna dna dna tuoba tuoba elppA

htiw seport esoht esnes nwo fo reh reh sah dnuof ,bulc .eiredaramac koob gnizylana nI elppA

s’tI“ detaeH‘ hcihw erehw erehw tahw er’ew ew ew ew ew ,lautriv su ot hguoht kniht yeht eseht eseht eseht s’ereht eht taht klat erutlucbus gnorts seirots llits llits os os erahs ees thgir .snoitadnemmocer yllaer ,nosrep elpoep nwo ruo ro fo fo fo fo ,won ton ”.taen tsom inim tem ...evol tol tol dnik dnik tsuj .ti si si si ni ni gnivah evah evah nevig morf spihsdneirf ydobyreve neve esle t’nod ssucsid .erutluc ,snoitcennoc yletelpmoc gnimoc bulc tahc nac nac etaicerppa etaicerppa dna dna dna .gnizama lla tuoba elba a a a eW ehT ’yrlaviR ,ylsuoivbO s’tI I ,drocsiD

detaeH“ emaG“ ,raey ,raey htiw pot .oot ot ot siht eht eht eht sknaht naht sseccus .seires selas ecnamor tnirp rehto fo fo slevon erom ,evol tsal ni dah nworg gnileef derapmoc koob gnillestseb era dna gnidrocca ”yrlaviR s’dieR +QTBGL ,sebroF ”sregnahC srohtuA tA %001

setirw)nemow ohw gniyrt nwot ot eht .seirots llams sretsis tes seires ecnamor nwo fo fo ,slevon gnivol evol ni reh sah swollof dnif lanoitcif yb rohtua na ehT cihppaS hcaeP hcaeP ,eeL ,eeL nemraK .aigroeG ,mossolB mossolB kcalB desab-atnaltA ,04 nemow(

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And that’s a wrap on Steamy Lit Con! I had such an amazing time meeting so many readers and authors. I loved getting to talk social media on a panel with @whitneyamazeen @wintersjulian @sonora.reyes @josegurabooks and @the1whowill
Anaheim fed me WELL 😋 and I’m ready to create even more bookish world for you all. Time to get back home to Atlanta and get to work!🥰
@steamylitcon
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semitemoS“ ohw eht eht dias ,ecnamor ecnamor reeuq reeuq ,nosrep ylno eno no netfo fo yenruoj s’ti .gnitalosi fi fi reh evah sah desucof wef yllaitnesse gnol-edaced noitnevnoc noitnevnoc ”.skoob neeb rohtua dna a a ,llitS eeL m’I m’I kcalB kcalB

htiw htiw eht hcus laicos ehs ehs ecnamor ecnamor esir sredaer reeuq reeuq rehto fo aidem lacol eidni rof sdnif stiderc ytinummoc ytinummoc gnitsoob serotskoob .srohtua ,srohtua sa dna dna dna sretniW ,woN akeM nailuJ .semaJ tuB

sA“ rehtehw ot kniht sgniht gniht eht ,taht taht taht laicos os yllaer reeuq gnihsup elpoep ro ro fo fo ton snaicisum hcum seivom erom ,aidem ,aidem elttil ekil dnik ekoj s’ti ”.ti ti ni eguh sah tnorferof dnif naf enod nac skoob tib gib sa dna syawla a a a m’I I I

”,delavirnU“ detaeH“ t’now lliw tiaw oot ot ot eht eht eht taht .yrots .wohs htneves seires esaeler fo erom evol gnol tnemllatsni deripsni ni tih evah dnik snaf dna enahS ,rebmetpeS s’vonazoR ”yrlaviR dieR lehcaR nI aylI rednalloH

lliw hcihw owt ot ot eht eht eht eht naht erots dlos esaeler gnitpmorp ytrap tuo no won bulcthgin ,htnom ssel ni ,sruoh dleh gnimochtrof dnapxe .tneve etarbelec ,koob eb ta decnuonna a seporT .tpeS eroL tsaL tI doowegdE .euneva llA 82

Jordan Fischer, who leads All the Tropes’ queer romance book club, holds the “Heated Rivalry” books during a gathering at All the Tropes Bookstore in Atlanta. (Abbey Cutrer/AJC)

lliw lanoitidart .ereht eht taht ,enecs ecnamor reeuq fo ehcin nredom .evol si yppah gniworg gnidnapxe snoitinifed dnoyeb eb s’ehS rehcsiF

A“ ’notregdirB‘ uoy saw epyt thguoht yeht eseht sevlesmeht eht taht taht ,ffuts seirots ,ees ees yas ecnamor smoc-mor laer elpoep elpoep fo tol ekil ekil ekil tsuj ”.ni draeh erneg nac tub sa era a ev’I

About the Author

DeAsia Paige

DeAsia is a music and culture reporter for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. She focuses on the intersection of arts, culture and diverse communities, as well as how emerging social trends are being expressed through the lens of the Atlanta aesthetic. DeAsia's work can be seen in Pitchfork, Essence, Teen Vogue, Elle and more.

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