Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer Books for Teens

**Surviving the City Vol. 1**
By Tasha Spillet-Summer

This graphic novel follows Miikwan (Anishinaabe) and Dez (Inninew) as they navigate growing up in an urban landscape.

**Surviving the City Vol. 2**
By Tasha Spillet-Summer

In this sequel, Dez and Miikwan navigate their friendship as they develop new relationships. Dez begins coming into her Two-Spirit identity.

**Love After the End**
Edited by Joshua Whitehead

This anthology features nine science fiction and fantasy short stories. With a hopeful edge, these stories demonstrate Two-Spirit strength.

**Love Beyond Body, Space & Time**
Edited by Hope Nicholson

This anthology features nine science fiction and urban fantasy stories centered around Indigiqueer and Two-Spirit characters.
Indigenous Peoples have a vibrant 2SLGBTQ+ community, with a variety of unique identities. Many of these identities have been suppressed or lost due to colonization and societal pressures, but there has been a resurgence of claiming Two-Spirit and other Indigiqueer identities.

Explore different experiences and identities outside of European culture and thinking. Whether seeing yourself for the first time, or escaping everyday life with speculative fantasy, Indigiqueer and Two-Spirit centered works bring something for everyone.

Two-Spirit is an English term describing a variety of Indigenous Queer identities within what is now North America. Although this term often implies an individual with both a masculine and feminine spirit, different Nations have different definitions (Centennial College, n.d.; Wilson, 1996).

Indigiqueer encompasses Queer Indigenous Peoples who do not self-identify as Two-Spirit and those who identify with both (CBC Radio, 2017).

References:

Compiled by Michelle Elliott & Laura Chopiuk
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Moonshot Vol. 2
Edited by Tama Wise

This anthology features short Indigenous comics. Each story features alternative realities - including a Queer utopia.

Elatsoe
By Darcie Little Bear

In an America with monsters and magic, Ellie (Apache, asexual) tries to bring her cousin's murderer to justice.

Street Dreams
By Tama Wise

This novel follows Māori teen Tyson as he navigates love, life, and hip-hop in South Auckland.

Fire Song
By Adam Garnet Jones

This dark novel shares a snapshot of life for Shane (Anishinaabe) as he navigates his sister's suicide and his own sexuality.
Peyton (Lakota) loves to dance, especially at Powwow, but she doesn't feel right wearing a dress anymore. Auntie Eyota asks her whole community for help to find the right regalia, and for her nonbinary friend L to help guide Peyton on her Two-Spirit path.

Ho'onani (Hawaiian) doesn't see herself as a wahine (girl) or a kane (boy). She's happy to be in the middle, but not everyone sees it that way. When she finds out that her school is having a hula chant performance, she wants to join. But can a girl really lead the all-male troupe? Ho'onani has to try.
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It is never too early to introduce age-appropriate representations of varied identities. Providing varied representation in the books you share with your child can help to build positive self-esteem and understanding of others.

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References:

Families
Written by Kerry McCluskey and Jesse Unaapik Mike
Illustrated by Lenny Lishchenko
Available in English & Inuktitut

Talittuq (Inuk) is starting his first day of grade two. He notices that a lot of his friends' families are different from his own! Talittuq learns that families come in many different shapes and sizes, and what holds them all together is love.

Anna explores her Mohawk culture and its values of honesty, wisdom and courage. When her best friend tells her that she likes girls, Anna is confused and upset, but her wise mother teaches her about Two-Spirit people and she learns the value of accepting everyone for who they are.