

Boy Queen by **GEORGE LESTER**

ABOUT THE BOOK

Robin Cooper's life is falling apart.

While his friends prepare to head off to University, Robin is looking at a pile of rejection letters from drama schools up and down the country, and facing a future without the people he loves the most. Everything seems like it's ending, and Robin is scrabbling to find his feet.

Unsure about what to do next and whether he has the talent to follow his dreams, he and his best friends go and drown their sorrows at a local drag show, where Robin realizes there might be a different, more sequined path for him . . .

With a mother who won't stop talking, a boyfriend who won't acknowledge him and a best friend who is dying to cover him in glitter make up, there's only one thing for Robin to do: bring it to the runway.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

George Lester is a freelance editor, musical theatre lover and drag nerd who lives with his wonderful partner in Twickenham. He semi-regularly posts videos online talking about books and writing mostly. He is also a Drag Queen under the name That Gurrri.



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Discussion Notes



1. **I'm getting excited about classes, about who I'm going to meet, about how I'm going to fit in, about moving to London and living with Natalie next year. Within the space of a few words, that's all been taken away.** Discuss the disappointment Robin feels not getting into the school he wanted. How would you build yourself up from that?
2. Discuss the romances Robin has in the book. How are they different?
3. Compare the different friendships Robin has and why they are all so important to him.
4. **While the words are on the tip of my tongue to tell her exactly what happened with Connor last night, I swallow each and every one of them. They taste like acid on the way down.** Why do you think Robin doesn't confide in his friends about his encounter with Connor outside Entity?

5. **'You know, considering we've known each other for eighteen years, you're doing a terrible job of knowing me.'** Robin's mum says this to him after she sees him perform. Discuss the relationship Robin has with his mother.
6. **'Seeing all of you up there doing your thing brought me back to life, I guess, and it was a kind of performance I hadn't even considered for myself.'** How does drag help Robin find himself throughout the novel? Discuss how Robin's friends and family react to him in drag and how this affects him.
7. *Boy Queen* has a lot of humour throughout, why do you think this is important in the book? Why does Robin use humour?
8. **'I know I'm camp, it happens to be something I like about myself. Sure, if there's a bigot out there looking for a target then there I am, but I can't dim myself, Mum. You taught me better than that. I can't be afraid all the time.'** Discuss how Robin grows over the course of *Boy Queen*.

