

**YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO**

*Key West*



**Q MAGAZINE**

**Volume 19 Issue 9**  
**September 2024**



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YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

*Key West*



**Q MAGAZINE**

Volume 19 - Issue 9  
September 2024

## Welcome To Paradise!

September we honor the ladies with Womenfest!

While we look forward to seeing our women friends, there are some events dedicated just to them. Just as we appreciate male only events, it's important that they have their safe spaces as well.

Don't worry men, there are plenty of things for you to do this month as well.

Enjoy!



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*Stephanie Wise*

LEZ  
GO  
OUT



S

September is an interesting month in Key West. There are so many perks to being a local but one in specific is my all-time favorite. I don't have to travel here for Womenfest, I live here! Every year at this time a couple hundred women descend upon the island and we basically take it over. It's a 20+ year old tradition! This year our host hotels are Alexander's Guesthouse, The Silver Palms Inn and, new this year, The Lighthouse Hotel! The theme is, yes there's a theme, Fire & Ice and I'm so looking forward to whatever ice part there may be. Because it's the most cookin'est time of year, lots of events center around being on or in the water and I'm here for it! Hell, we're surrounded by it. There's a clothing optional snorkel, a clothing required sunset sail, cornhole tournament on the beach, pool party at Bourbon Pub and Are You Wet Yet party at Alexander's Guesthouse. To kick everything off, the welcome party is being held at Winslow's Bungalows, a sister property to Lighthouse Hotel, poolside with music, drinks and fantastic ambiance! This place is gorgeous, even we want to stay there and we live here.

The big draw this year is the Fire & Ice Prom held at the American Legion Post 168 located in the historic Bahama Village on Key West. This is reason enough to come to town!! Did you go to your prom? Did you go with who you really wanted to take? Could you dress as you truly wanted to and as your true self? So many women I know skipped their proms altogether because they felt like they couldn't really be themselves and attend without ridicule. This is



your opportunity to actually enjoy your prom!! It's designed just for us! Theme will be carried over into decorations and drinks keeping the vibe on point. DJ Rude Girl will be spinning tunes to set the dance floor on fire and the incredibly cool headliner is Antigone Rising!

Antigone Rising deserves their own whole paragraph. This all female rock band is based in New York and is comprised of three power-house women, Cathy Henderson (lead guitar), Kristen Henderson (bass guitar and drums), and Nini Camps (lead vocals and rhythm guitar). They formed a nonprofit called Girls Rising in 2014 to inspire girls and LGBTQ+ youth to pursue nontraditional careers.

In keeping with tradition, women have been posting their prom-posals on Facebook when they ask their date to Prom! Our brand new 5 ½ month old puppy was posted asking his moms to go enjoy Womenfest and Prom! He is such a gentleman. He even wore a rainbow bow tie. One woman sent her wife a message in a bottle / so on point with our island vibe. Everyone really got into it and women are in town from all over the country! You don't want to miss this event. Tickets for all events that aren't sold out will be available at the door, but get on a waitlist if you can. You will see the Husbutch and I out and about all over town for this event hosted by the Business Guild.

So Lez Go Out and celebrate being a woman, make new friends, kiss strangers and make Womenfest 2024 the talk of the internet. Post photos with #womenfestkeywest for bonus points and influencer status! See you out there (maybe on the snorkel - who knows)!!



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Continued on next page.





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Please see Important Facts, including important warnings, above and at [BIKTARVY.com](https://www.gilead.com/BIKTARVY).



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# BEACH READS

LGBT Book Reviews by *Terri Schlichenmeyer*



**"BLESSINGS" BY CHUKWUEBUKA IBEH**  
c.2024, Doubleday | \$28.00 | 288 pages



Sometimes, you just need to step back a minute.

You need time to regroup, to think things through, and a scenery change is the place to do it. Get past your current position, and situations can become clearer somehow. Thoughts can be re-organized. Problems pivot. As in the new novel **"Blessings"** by **Chukwuebukwa Ibeh**, you'll have a different perspective.

Obiefuna didn't say much on the road to the seminary.

What was there to say? His father had caught him in a too-cozy situation with a young man who'd been taken in as an apprentice and for that, Obiefuna was being sent away. Away from his mother, his younger brother, Ekene, and from the young man that fifteen-year-old Obiefuna was in love with.

Life in seminary was bad – Obiefuna was always on alert for Seniors, who were said to be abusive because abuse was allowed, even encouraged – but things weren't as bad as he thought they might be. He made friends and good grades but he missed his mother. Did she suspect he was gay? Obiefuna wanted to tell her, but he hid who he was.

Mostly, he kept to himself until he caught the eye of Senior Papilo, who was said to be the cruelest of the cruel. Amazingly, though, Senior

Papilo became Obiefuna's protector, letting Obiefuna stay in his bed, paying for Obi's first experience with a woman, making sure Obiefuna had better food. Maybe Obiefuna loved Senior Papilo but Senior had other boys, which made Obi work twice as hard to be his favorite. Still, he hid.

And then Senior Papilo passed his final exams and moved on.

So, eventually, did Obiefuna. Sure, there were other boys – one who almost got him expelled, a chaplain who begged forgiveness, and there was even a girl once – but Obi grew up and fully embraced his truth: all he wanted was to be accepted for himself, to be loved.

As Nigeria moved toward making same-sex marriage illegal, though, neither one looked likely...

So here's the puzzle: the story inside "Blessings" is interesting. Obiefuna is a great character who takes what happens with quiet compliance, as if he long-ago relinquished hope that he could ever control his own life. Instead, he passively lets those who surround him take the reins and though reasons for this are not clearly stated and it's uncomfortable, it's easy to grasp and accept why. This goes, too, for the Seniors whose actions readers will tacitly understand.

What's not easy to accept is that author Chukwuebuka Ibeh's story often slows to a glacial pace, with great chunks of the books' multi-year timeline crunched into basically only highlights. You'll be left loving this story but hating its stride.

The best advice is to embrace this moving novel's message and accept the slowness, love the excellent characters, but don't be surprised if you find yourself checking to see how many pages you have left to crawl through. Yes, you'll enjoy the soul-touching cast in "Blessings" but if speed in a plot supersedes good characters, then step back.



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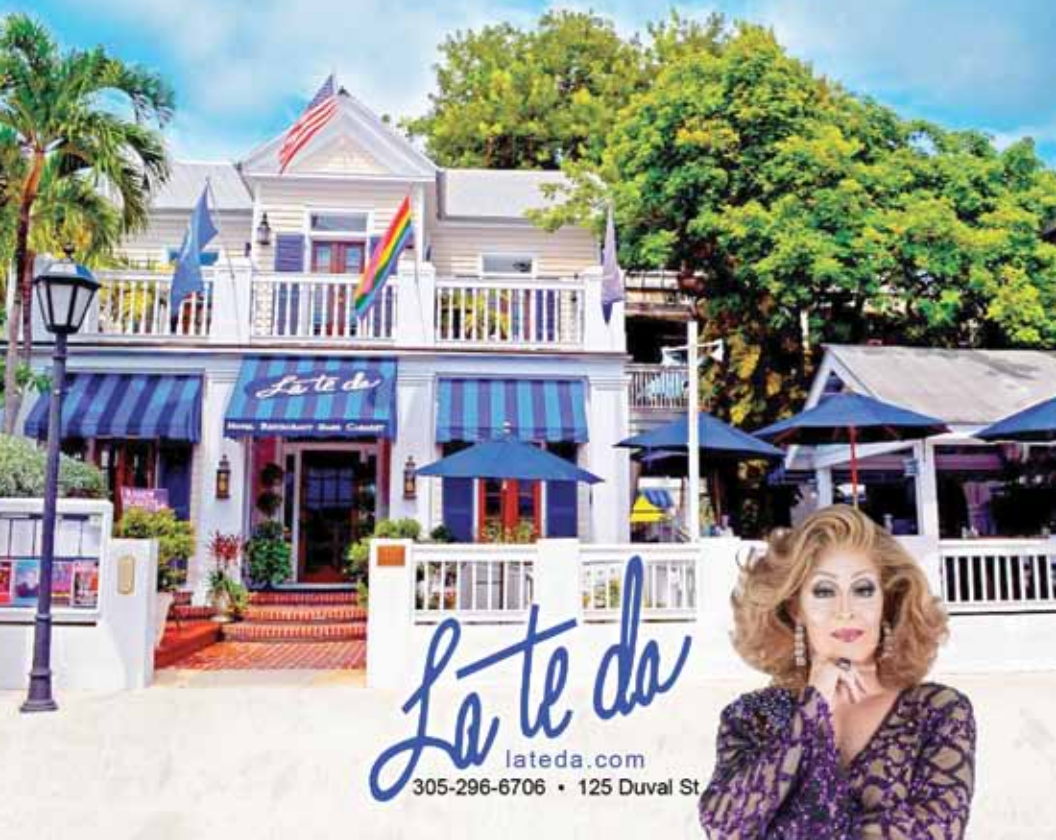
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# MY BIG GAY LIFE

*Brad Loekle*



## LIZARD PEOPLE

I've recently become aware of how older people develop, what can only be described as, "heat blindness" as they head into their golden years. At first, I thought it was just my own mother who was slowly turning into an iguana. When I was a child, our house was kept at a brisk 65 degrees at all times. Our house was tidy and titty-poppingly cold. We were very much a, "if you're cold, put some clothes on!" sort of family. And this was in upstate New York, where winter is always coming.

Two years ago, my mother moved to San Diego to be closer to me. She found that nagging me with a three-hour time difference just didn't have the same thrill. She needed to be closer... but not too close. She bought a lovely apartment overlooking a park, and the first thing she did on move-in day was turn the air conditioning off. This lizard woman didn't buy an apartment, she bought a terrarium. And she began to decorate her terrarium with custom furniture and Dyson fans. So many Dyson fans. She strategically moves them around to create "optimum air flow." I aggressively remind her, "you know what also creates optimum air flow? Turning the central air on BELOW 80?!"

This only extracts a devilish chordal from my reptilian mater, as her eye stalks a fly that has gotten in through the balcony door. I fully expect to see her tongue shoot out of her mouth and retrieve the insect as a mid-day snack. After all, she is on Ozempic, and, thus, a fly would almost be a full meal for her now.



She recently told me that she'd decided to make a "statement wall" in the living room that will be all rough stone tile work. When I remind her that this will only compound my belief that she is, in fact, some sort of lizard person, she brushes off my jests. And then I watched as her vertically slanted pupils dilated.

In her guest bedroom there are two, tall, oblong Dyson fans. Air flow, baby. Even with all the windows open, the room is a balmy 72 degrees at midnight. After an hour, or so, of enduring lying in a pool of my own sweat... like a Victorian woman staving off consumption... I decide I have to take drastic measures. I unplug one of the Dysons and reposition it to be next to the bed. Well, not next to the bed but rather in the bed with me. I lay it behind me like a slender lover and turn it on to a setting I've come to call "loving gust." Then... and I am neither proud nor ashamed of this... I spread my own voluptuous cheeks to allow my new lover Dyson's "gale" to enter me.

I wish Jackie Collins had lived long enough for me to tell her this tale. I always dreamed of making a cameo in one of her novels.

Brad Loekle's latest comedy special & album, "Brash Boys Club" is available on Amazon, AppleTV, iTunes, and other platforms. He was a semi-finalist on NBC's "Last Comic Standing". He can be seen every week on TruTV's "World's Dumbest", has written for Joan Rivers on E! "Fashion Police" & tours internationally. His book, "My Big Gay Life" is available on Amazon. For all this and more, check out: [www.bradloekle.com](http://www.bradloekle.com)



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**DRAG SHOWS  
NIGHTLY**

**9PM & 11PM  
SATURDAY MATINEE 5PM**

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**RESERVATIONS**



**GLOW PARTY**

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH**

**FULL MOON AFTER PARTY**

**TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH**

**PIRATE WEEKEND**

**SEPTEMBER 19TH - 22ND**

**CUP CLUB APPRECIATION PARTY**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 25TH**

801 DUVAL • KEY WEST

**801 BOURBON BAR**

**OPEN DAILY**

**10AM - 4AM**



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**COCK SHOCK**

**EVERY FRIDAY AT MIDNIGHT**

**GLOW PARTY**

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH**

**FULL MOON AFTER PARTY**

**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH**

**PIRATE WEEKEND**

**SEPTEMBER 19TH - 22ND**

**GEAR NIGHT**

**SEPTEMBER 28TH**

**OPEN**

**NIGHTLY**

**9PM - 4AM**

**21+**

**FOR ENTRY**

**504 PETRONIA ST.**



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# WEEKLY EVENTS

## MONDAY

### 801

*Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM*

### Aqua

*Aqua Idol at 6 PM  
Drag Show at 9 PM*

### Back Bar

*Monday Night Football at 8 PM*

### Birdcage Cabaret

*Pub Style Trivia at 6 PM*

### Bourbon

*Bria singing live at 8 PM  
Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

### La Te Da

*3Sum at 8:30 PM*

## TUESDAY

### 801

*Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM*

### Aqua

*Drag Show at 9 PM*

### Back Bar

*Movie Night at 8 PM*

### Birdcage Cabaret

*Cabaret Show at 8 PM*

### Bourbon

*Bria singing live at 8 PM  
Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

### La Te Da

*Tiger and River playing at 8.30*

## WEDNESDAY

### 801

*Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM*

### Aqua

*Drag Shows at 7 PM and 9 PM*

### Back Bar

*Watson Wednesday at 3 PM  
Service Industry Night-at 6 PM*

### Birdcage Cabaret

*René Breslin singing live at 5:30 PM  
Western Wednesdays at 9 PM*

### Bourbon

*Bria singing live at 8 PM  
Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

### Island House

*Hot Naked Pool Party starting at 5 PM*

### La Te Da

*Tiger and River playing at 8.30*





**THURSDAY**

**801**

*Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM*

**Aqua**

*Drag Shows at 7 PM and 9 PM*

**Birdcage Cabaret**

*Cabaret Show at 8 PM*

*Throwback Thursdays at 10 PM*

**Bourbon**

*Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM*

*Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

**La Te Da**

*3Sum at 8:30 PM*

*Randy Roberts Live at 9 PM*

**FRIDAY**

**801**

*Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM*

**Aqua**

*Happy Hour with Bria at 3 PM*

*Drag Shows at 7 PM and 9 PM*

*Karaoke at 11 PM*

**Back Bar**

*RuPaul Viewing Party at 8 PM*

**Birdcage Cabaret**

*Cabaret Show at 8 PM*

*Late Night Dance Party at 11 PM*

**Bourbon**

*Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM*

*Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

*Boys Night Out starting at 10 PM*

**La Te Da**

*3Sum at 8:30 PM*

**Saloon 1**

*Cock Shock contest at Midnight*

**SATURDAY**

**801**

*Drag Shows at 5, 9, & 11 PM*

**Aqua**

*Live Singer at 1 PM*

*Drag Shows at 7 PM and 9 PM*

*Karaoke at 11 PM*

**Birdcage Cabaret**

*Cabaret Show at 8 PM*

*Dance Party at 10 PM*

**Bourbon**

*Naked Pool Party at Noon*

*Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM*

*Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

**La Te Da**

*3Sum at 8:30 PM*

*Randy Roberts Live at 9 PM*

**SUNDAY**

**801**

*Karaoke starting at 4 PM*

*Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM*

**Aqua**

*Drag Shows at 7 PM and 9 PM*

**Back Bar**

*Hot Dog Church at 3 PM*

*Sunday Night Football at 8 PM*

**Birdcage Cabaret**

*Kingdom at 7 PM*

*BirdDrop Open Mic Night at 8:30 PM*

**Bourbon**

*After Tea 7 PM - 10 PM*

*Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM*

*Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

**Island House**

*Hot Naked Pool Party starting at Noon*

**La Te Da**

*Tea Dance at 4 PM*

*3Sum at 8:30 PM*

**LOCATIONS**

**801** - 801 Duval Street

**Aqua** - 711 Duval Street

**Back Bar** - 711 Duval Street

**Birdcage** - 504 Angela St

**Bourbon** - 724 Duval Street

**Island House** - 1129 Fleming St

**La Te Da** - 1125 Duval St

**Saloon 1** - 504 Petronia St



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# ASK NANA

*E-mail your questions to*  
[nana@keywestgayrag.com](mailto:nana@keywestgayrag.com)



*Dear Nana,*

*How much do you think is too much when it comes to tipping? My boyfriend only ever tips 15-18%. But I've always been an 18-25% tipper, in general. Every time I tip, he makes a whole production out of me being "Mister Moneybags." Am I really going overboard or is he just a Scrooge?*

Did you know that, in many countries, tipping is minimal to not-customary? And that is because, in many countries, they make sure to pay a living wage. Funny how that works, right?! Well, my dear, we're not in "many countries" ... We are in 'Merica. And in 'Merica, you tip or your service staff go hungry and homeless. So, I think your boy toy die on. Granted he's not the worst tipper. At least he gets up to 18% some of the time. But you're certainly not being excessive by tipping in your range either. Regardless, he's your boyfriend and not your husband or your accountant. (Oh, God, please tell me you're not ham-slammimg your accountant?!). I don't really see why he's making a "whole production" about your tipping rate. Maybe the next time he makes a whole production over it, you don't invite him into your "hole production", if you get my drift. Maybe if he went without sex 18-20% of the time, he'd realize how silly he's being. That penny pinching little Scrooge McFuck.



*Dear Nana,*

*How young is too young? I'm 43 and there's this 25-year-old who keeps hitting on me. I've never really dated younger before. I've always looked within my own age range or older. The kid is cute and nice and if he were 35 it would be a no brainer. Do you think I'm being silly or robbing the cradle?*

First off, sugar bear, congrats on working a humble brag into a dilemma: "Oh, woe is me! Young, hot men look at me as cat nip! I tease because I love. As my best friend and I always say, "If I don't read you, I don't need you!" But I understand how, if you've never looked behind you on the road of life, you might be surprised the first time you see some cute little thing staring back at you in the rear-view mirror. Lets also clear up a few things for you first. One, lets not refer to him as "the kid." He's old enough to have \$100,000 in student loan debt and, in 'Merica, that pretty much makes you an adult. A rather fresh-out-of-the-packaging adult, but an adult none the less. I always say that anything past 20 years in difference, or under 25 in age, is where things might be considered dicey. So, your young beau just made it in time. Listen, there's no harm in fucking around and finding out. Will you be the love of each other's lives? Probably not. Does that mean there isn't a lot of fun to be had, and lessons to learn, from each other? Definitely not. Why don't you see if old(er) dogs can learn new tricks? If nothing else, he'll at least be able to explain to you who Chappell Roan is. And when you find out... please let me know!

**DO YOU HAVE PROBLEMS? OF COURSE YOU DO! WHY NOT LET NANA HELP YOU?!**

*Send your questions to:* [nana@keywestgayrag.com](mailto:nana@keywestgayrag.com)





# IsLAND HouSe

## HOT NAKED POOL PARTIES



HOT NAKED  
**WEDNESDAYS**

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HOT NAKED  
**SUNDAYS**

**12 - 4PM**



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# WHORE--SCOPES

## **AQUARIUS** JAN 20 - FEB 18

Your boyfriend thinks you're a stalker. Does he know he's your boyfriend?

## **PISCES** FEB 19 - MAR 20

There's hope for you yet. Nobody's ugly after 2 a.m.

## **ARIES** MAR 21 - APR 19

Sex burns up to 350 calories. No wonder you're fat!

## **TAURUS** APR 20 - MAY 20

If you're trying to get rid of unwanted pubic hair, just spit.

## **GEMINI** MAY 21 - JUN 20

You could save a lot of time if the supermarket just had an aisle marked unhealthy crap.

## **CANCER** JUN 21 - JUL 22

You don't need to avoid temptation. It avoids you!

## **LEO** JUL 23 - AUG 22

You can have the body of a 21 year old, you just need to be willing to pay for the hourly fee.

## **VIRGO** AUG 23 - SEP 22

You finally cleaned your house. When did your phone break?

## **LIBRA** SEP 23 - OCT 22

Stop following your dreams. Ryan Reynolds filed a restraining order!

## **SCORPIO** OCT 23 - NOV 21

You need to find a man. You get excited when you squeeze into a tight parking spot.

## **SAGITTARIUS** NOV 22 - DEC 21

Having sex is like riding a bike. You just ride a unicycle.

## **CAPRICORN** DEC 22 - JAN 19

You're not getting more head, you're just going bald.



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