

Surviving the Future

Abolitionist Queer Strategies

Edited by **Scott Branson, Raven Hudson, and Bry Reed**

Foreword by **Mimi Thi Nguyen**

Surviving the Future is a collection of the most current ideas in radical queer movement work and revolutionary queer theory. Beset by a new pandemic, fanning the flames of global uprising, these queers cast off progressive narratives of liberal hope while building mutual networks of rebellion and care. These essays propose a militant strategy of queer survival in an ever precarious future. Starting from a position of abolition—of prisons, police, the State, identity, and racist cisheteronormative society—this collection refuses the bribes of inclusion in a system built on our expendability. Though the mainstream media saturates us with the boring norms of queer representation (with a recent focus on trans visibility), the writers in this book ditch false hope to imagine collective visions of liberation that tell different stories, build alternate worlds, and refuse the legacies of racial capitalism, anti-Blackness, and settler colonialism. The work curated in this book spans Black queer life in the time of COVID-19 and uprising, assimilation and pinkwashing settler colonial projects, subversive and deviant forms of representation, building anarchist trans/queer infrastructures, and more. Contributors include Che Gossett, Yasmin Nair, Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore, Adrian Shanker, Kitty Stryker, Toshio Meronek, and more.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Scott Branson is a queer/trans anarchist, writer, translator, community organizer, and teacher, based in western North Carolina. They were one of the organizers of the two UNC Asheville/Davidson College queer conferences that inspired this book. They have translated Jacques Lesage de la Haye's *The Abolition of Prison* (AK Press, 2021) and Guy Hocquenghem's second book of essays after *May 68, Dispatches from French Gay Liberation After the Revolution* (Duke University Press, 2021), for which they also wrote a critical introduction. Scott is currently working on a book on daily anarchism for Pluto Press and a book on the institutionalization of queerness for Duke University Press.

Raven Hudson is an activist, writer, and researcher with a BA in English and Gender & Sexuality Studies from Davidson College where they co-founded the Asian American Initiative (AAI), co-edited the student literary magazine *Libertas*, and helped create and host AAI's *Coalasian: A Southern Podcast*. Their recent work centers on wounds and the melancholic subject within contemporary queer, Asian American poetry.

Bry Reed is a queer black feminist from Baltimore, MD currently pursuing doctoral study in American Studies at Purdue University. She is committed to prison abolition, pleasure, and care work as tools for black liberation. Beyond her doctoral study, she is a writer, educator, and radical troublemaker.

Mimi Thi Nguyen is Associate Professor of Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Her first book, called *The Gift of Freedom: War, Debt, and Other Refugee Passages* (Duke University Press, 2012), focuses on the promise of "giving" freedom concurrent and contingent with waging war. Her following project is called *The Promise of Beauty*. She has published widely, including in *Signs*, *Camera Obscura*, *Women & Performance*, *positions*, *Radical History Review*, and *ArtForum*. Her papers have been solicited for the Feminist Theory Archive at Brown University.

ACCOLADES

"*Surviving the Future* is a testament that otherwise worlds are not only possible, our people are making them right now—and they are queering how we get there through organizing and intellectual work. Now is the perfect time to interrogate how we are with each other and the land we inhabit. This collection gives us ample room to do just that in a moment of mass uprisings led by everyday people demanding safety without policing, prisons and other forms of punishment.

—Charlene A. Carruthers, author of *Unapologetic: A Black, Queer, and Feminist Mandate for Radical Movements*

Abolish the Police
Abolish Prisons
Abolish the State
Abolish Identity
Abolish the Family
Abolish Racial Capitalism
Abolish Settler Colonialism
Abolish Society

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