

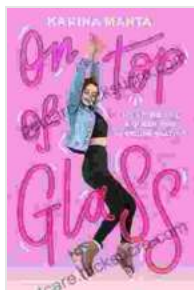
# My Stories As a Queer Girl in Figure Skating: Navigating Exclusion, Finding Acceptance, and Discovering a Passion



## : Embracing Identity on the Ice

Growing up as a queer girl in the world of figure skating, I often felt like an outsider. The sport, steeped in tradition and expectations, often seemed at

odds with my own evolving identity. Yet, amidst the challenges, I found resilience, acceptance, and a deep passion for the ice.



## On Top of Glass: My Stories as a Queer Girl in Figure Skating by Karina Manta

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 5861 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 335 pages



### Navigating Exclusion and Bias

From a young age, I sensed a subtle bias against queer skaters. Teammates whispered behind my back, and coaches avoided addressing my sexuality. At competitions, I sometimes felt like an unwelcome presence, subject to snide remarks and a lack of support.

One particular incident that stands out occurred during a regional competition. As I stepped onto the ice for my performance, I noticed a small group of spectators holding signs that read, "No Gays in Figure Skating." Their words cut deep, but they also fueled a determination within me to prove them wrong.

### Finding Acceptance and Community

Despite the challenges, I also found moments of acceptance and support. My parents and close friends offered unconditional love and

encouragement. And slowly but surely, I began to connect with other queer skaters who had faced similar experiences.

Through online forums and social media, I discovered a vibrant community of LGBTQ+ figure skaters. We shared stories, offered each other support, and created a safe space where we could express ourselves authentically.

## **Coming Out: A Journey of Liberation**

As I grew older, I realized that I could no longer hide who I was. Coming out was a difficult decision, but it was also incredibly liberating. I shared my story with my team, my coaches, and the skating world at large.

Initially, there was some resistance. But over time, my honesty and determination won over most of my detractors. I found allies in unexpected places, and the support I received from the skating community gave me the strength to continue pursuing my passion.

## **Finding Empowerment on the Ice**

Figure skating has always been my sanctuary, a place where I feel truly free. On the ice, I can express myself in a way that words cannot fully capture. My performances became a celebration of my queer identity, a way to challenge stereotypes and inspire others.

Through my skating, I aim to break down barriers and create a more inclusive environment within the sport. I want young queer skaters to know that they are not alone and that they deserve to be celebrated for who they are.

## **Representation and Visibility**

Representation is crucial in sports and in society as a whole. By being visible as a queer figure skater, I hope to inspire others to embrace their true selves and pursue their dreams without fear.

I am proud to be part of a growing movement of queer athletes who are using their platforms to advocate for equality and inclusion. Together, we are creating a future where all athletes, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, are celebrated and respected.

### **: A Legacy of Resilience and Acceptance**

My journey as a queer girl in figure skating has been one of challenges, triumphs, and unwavering determination. Through the ups and downs, I have learned the importance of resilience, the power of community, and the transformative nature of self-acceptance.

Today, I stand on the ice as a confident and proud queer skater. My story is a testament to the fact that we can overcome adversity, find our place in the world, and inspire others to do the same. I hope that my legacy will be one of acceptance, inclusion, and the celebration of diversity in all its forms.



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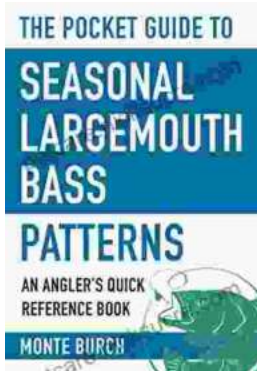
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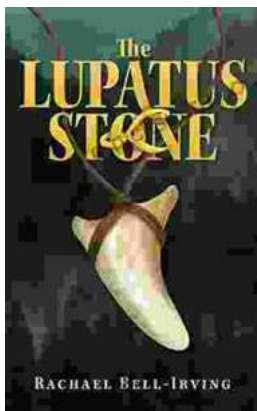
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