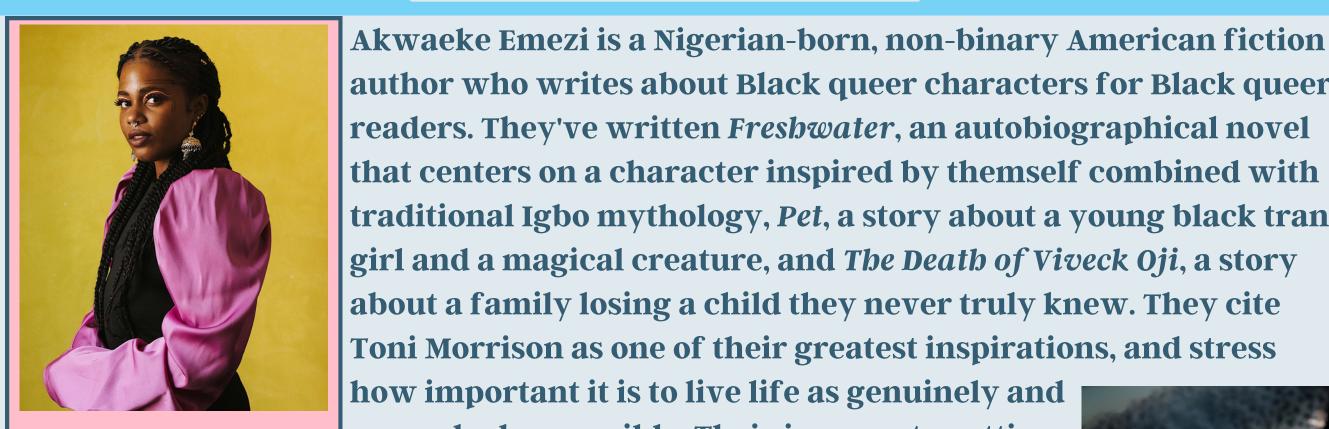
## Transgender Awareness Week Spotlight: Akwaeke Emezi



Akwaeke Emezi they/them/theirs author who writes about Black queer characters for Black queer readers. They've written Freshwater, an autobiographical novel that centers on a character inspired by themself combined with traditional Igbo mythology, Pet, a story about a young black trans girl and a magical creature, and The Death of Viveck Oji, a story about a family losing a child they never truly knew. They cite Toni Morrison as one of their greatest inspirations, and stress

how important it is to live life as genuinely and unmasked as possible. Their journey to getting to that point is detailed in their newest book Dear Sentburan. Akwaeke is a quiet advocate for Black queer people through their stories, Equity, and Empowerment and they stress the importance of writing for audiences outside of the typical white gaze.





