

Transgender Awareness Week Spotlight:

Akwaeke Emezi



Akwaeke Emezi
they/them/theirs

Akwaeke Emezi is a Nigerian-born, non-binary American fiction 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 themselves 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, and they stress the importance of writing for audiences outside of the typical white gaze.

