

***Kiss Number 8* by Colleen AF Venable (2019)**

Discussion Questions

When Amanda comes out, she is widely seen as being a lesbian, despite the fact that she appears to be bisexual. Bisexual Lesbians were and continue to be a subject of much debate within the queer community as a consequence of disagreement over what exactly it meant to be a lesbian. Within the context of the book, how, if at all, do you think labels help the characters? Cite a specific example to defend your claim.

When and where does *Kiss Number 8* take place? How does this affect the way the characters interact?

Throughout history queer people have been forced to hide from society and isolate from their community. As a result, much of queer history has been lost without anyone to document it. Write a story from the perspective of Sam Orham based on one of the historical periods listed on this site as well as at least one additional source.

A recurrent motif of *Kiss Number 8* is generations and how they respond differently to the social issues of the day. Talk to a member of an older generation about the first time they met or interacted with a queer person. How do their stories compare with your own experiences?

Grandma Orham talks about her experiences with Sam that she believes led him down the path to queerness. How does this mesh with how queerness would have been understood at the time?

Kiss number 8 presents a look into a less accepting America in 2004 with rampant homophobia. What changed between now and then, what made that change happen? Given the current landscape of queer rights, do you think characters like Laura would be queer today? Would cat be more accepting? Defend your point with one primary and one secondary source.

What are some major takeaways you had from reading this book?

How did this book benefit from existing as a graphic novel as opposed to a work of prose?