



boyfriends



**I had
before I knew
I was gay**



**a zine by
Lo Riddell**

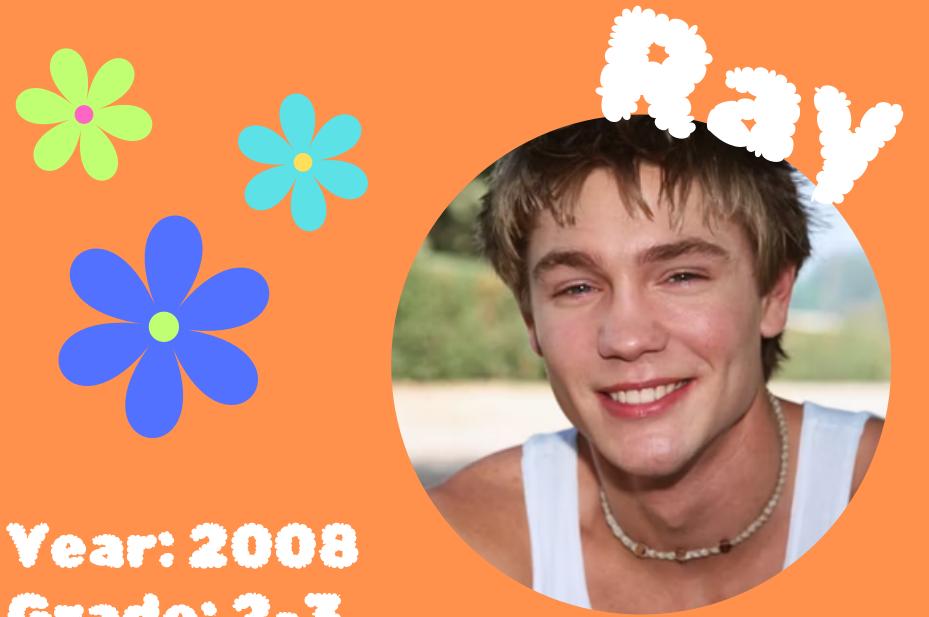
I had a substantial amount of grade school "boyfriends" before I came out in eighth grade.

Here are profiles on all of the ones I remember.*



*For the purposes of this zine, I would like to have some visuals. But, as I do not want to use photos of real people that I have known in real life (especially as children), I'm going to use photos of celebrities that remind me of them.

thank you

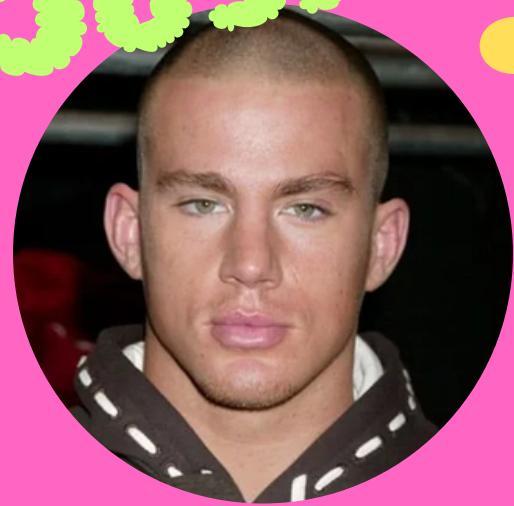


Year: 2008
Grade: 2-3

Fun facts:

- He was my day camp boyfriend
- He was a grade older than me
- We went to different schools so we were doomed from the start
- He defended me from the mean boys in his grade, including some of his own buddies
- He saved me from drowning at our water park field trip

Josh



Year: 2009
Grade: 3

Fun facts:

- He was my tablemate when I arrived at my new school
- He had a reputation for being a “player”
- Kids started a rumor that he had cancer but I don’t think this was true?
- He “cheated on me” by kissing his ex-girlfriend Ashley so I stomped on his foot and broke up with him

Michael

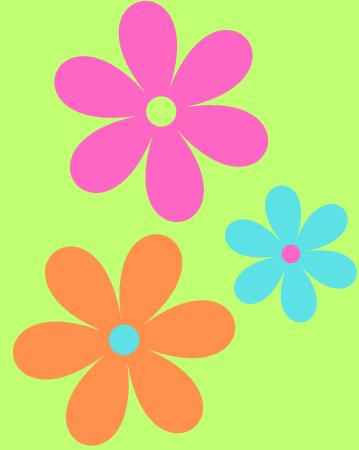


Year: 2009
Grade: 4

Fun facts:

- We rode the same bus
- He had a mullet
- His uncle had gone to grade school with my mom and bullied her relentlessly (we were unaware of this at the time)
- I gave him a kiss on the cheek and thought it was the most scandalous thing in the world

Tim



Year: 2010
Grade: 4

Fun facts:

- He was my 4th grade tablemate
- We both really liked Harry Potter, which was obviously a sign that we were soulmates
- We admitted we "liked" each other via a game of hangman in the school library
- He constantly threw up in class

Zac



Year: 2010
Grade: 4

Fun facts:

- He also rode the same bus as me
- He had a #BadBoy reputation
- He was a redhead with a 2010 Justin Bieber haircut
- He swore a lot to be cool
- We went to see How To Train Your Dragon in theaters as part of a field trip and we held hands
- He thought China was a US state so I called him dumb and he called me a bitch

Hunter

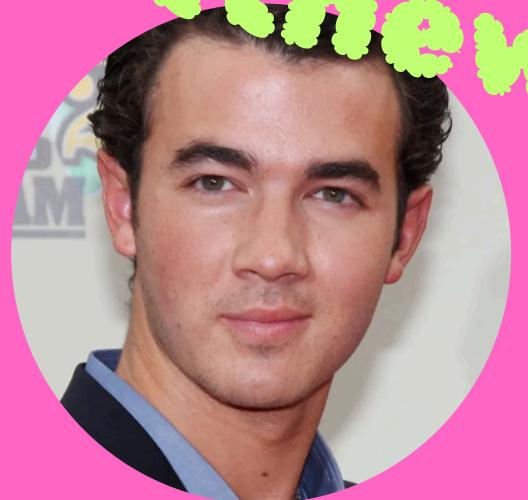


Year: 2011
Grade: 5

Fun facts:

- He left his long-term girlfriend (had been together since kindergarten) for me
- We never really played together or did anything except stare at each other in class
- He dumped me by drawing a picture of me (as a stick figure) getting sucked into a tornado.
- He went back to his ex and they stayed together until 7th grade

Matthew



Year: 2012
Grade: 6

Fun facts:

- My lab partner in science class
- The only boy I ever went to a school dance with
- At said school dance he tried to "breakdance" in front of me and I felt so embarrassed I just walked away
- Looked a lot like a genderbent version of my girl BFF at the time... suspicious...

Nick



Year: 2012
Grade: 7

Fun facts:

- He was part of my group project for a creative writing class
- He invited me to sit with him at lunch
- Very soft spoken
- We talked about wanting to go on a date at a local ice cream shop but it never happened
- In hindsight he could very well also be gay now

Chase



Year: 2013
Grade: 7-8

Fun facts:

- He went to the same church as a family friend
- He asked me to be his girlfriend because I liked Minecraft
- He convinced me to ride a Ferris wheel for the first time which was pretty cool of him honestly
- I broke his heart because I didn't want to do long distance
- Tried to get back with me a year later but I had just come out

the visuals of this zine were inspired by
the 1999 board game "Mystery Date"
and colorful early 2000s aesthetics
like on Lizzie McGuire :)



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