



*Eight takeaways
from Kelly Baker's
"Out Back Home"*



*One: The usual story
leaves people out.*

So much Queer history gets told
as a story of escape: leaving the
small town, finding the city,
becoming yourself.

But what about the people who
stayed?

The people who came back?

The people who built Queer lives
right here?



Two: Sometimes survival begins after high school.

"It just finally goes away and you're like ... I can just breathe now."

Randy, describing the relief of finally getting through teenage years and reaching the other side.



Three: The city isn't automatically where everyone feels free.

"It just overwhelmed me, that kind of lifestyle, culture, and cuisine. I felt like a little country bumpkin."

Charlotte, talking about feeling intimidated in Queer urban social settings.



*Four: Queer people
have always found
ways to connect with
each other*

*"The internet was probably
my saviour."*

Dot, a sixty-two year old trans woman in rural Nova Scotia, talking about how she found information and community.



Five: Visibility can look different in a small place.

"I don't shy away from being who I am but I am also not overt about my being Queer."

Bonnie, describing Queerness within the context of friendships neighbourliness, and everyday life.



Six: Being known can be a form of protection.

“People just kept treating me like me. I think that was the ticket.”

Donna, on the quiet power of being recognized as herself by the people around her.



*Seven: Small towns
are not one thing.*

*"It's important not to paint all
small town places as
homophobic, as the history
books do. If you presuppose
that all Queer people come out
in the city, you leave out so
many."*

Kelly Baker, who went looking for
the stories a lot of people missed.



*Eight: Rural Queer
community has always
existed.*

Baker's conclusion is hopeful:

The more visible rural Queer life becomes, the more people can find it. The more people can find it, the more it grows.

We are part of that. You can be too.