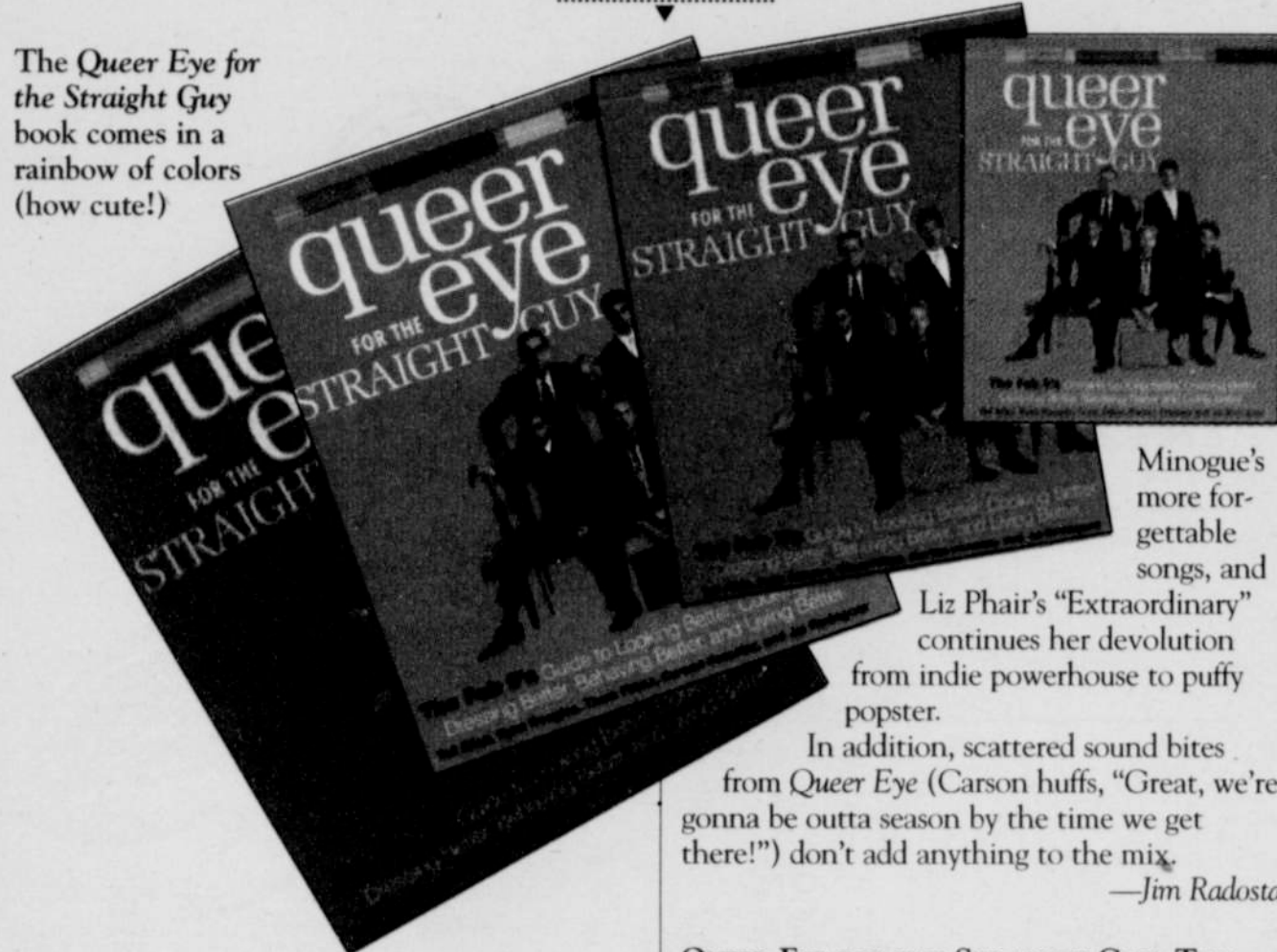


## CULTURE

The *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* book comes in a rainbow of colors (how cute!)



Minogue's more forgettable songs, and

Liz Phair's "Extraordinary" continues her devolution from indie powerhouse to puffy popster.

In addition, scattered sound bites from *Queer Eye* (Carson huffs, "Great, we're gonna be outta season by the time we get there!") don't add anything to the mix.

—Jim Radosta

## Queer eye on the prizes

You've seen the show, now get the swag

QUEER EYE FOR THE STRAIGHT GUY  
Various Artists • Capitol Records

How do you capture the fabulous, multi-lateral style of *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* on a single soundtrack? Is it possible to find music that's simultaneously tasty (Ted), functional (Thom), fashionable (Carson), refined (Jai) and groomed (Kyan)?

A tough task—compiling tracks that, true to the Bravo show's wide appeal, will satisfy both homos and heteros alike. Although skeptical at first, I was pleasantly surprised to hear a veritable Gay Straight Alliance of sounds.

Of course, no metrosexual CD would be complete without a contribution from the original Fab Five, Duran Duran. "Sunrise (Jason Nevins Remix)" picks up right where the freshly reunited original lineup left off 20 years ago, with a cheesy yet earnest anthem that will have you singing along by the second chorus.

Then there's "Everybody Wants You to Emerge (Barry Harris Revamp)," a clever mash-up of ultra-straight rocker dude Billy Squier's 1982 hit and ultra-weird conceptual artist Fischerspooner's "Emerge." In keeping with the *Queer Eye* mission, it's a successful collision of mundane mainstream and edgy avant-garde.

Junior Senior's "Move Your Feet" is another appropriate selection, considering the Danish band consists of a straight twink and a gay bear. Meanwhile, Sting does penance for his bland adult contemporary phase with the unexpectedly hip "Never Coming Home (Gonna Live My Life Remix)."

The soundtrack has plenty just for the gay boys, too, including "Superstar" by J-Lo clone Jamelia and "Are You Ready for Love," a smooth Elton John recording from 1979 that recently topped the charts in Britain.

The disc also features audio and video for the addictive *Queer Eye* theme song, "All Things (Just Keep Getting Better)," which brought back good memories of the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court's celebratory performance at the final Peacock in the Park.

Like some of Carson's questionable clothing choices, the album is hardly perfect. "Slow (Chemical Brothers Mix)" is one of Kylie

QUEER EYE FOR THE STRAIGHT GUY: THE FAB 5'S GUIDE TO LOOKING BETTER, COOKING BETTER, DRESSING BETTER, BEHAVING BETTER AND LIVING BETTER  
Clarkson Potter, 2004; \$27.50 hardcover

I fully admit it—I'm sold. I'm all over *Queer Eye*. I watch every episode, I rewind to hear the Hip Tips over again, I fantasize with my partner about which of the Fab Five we'd sleep with (if we had to).

I freaked about the merchandise. Oversaturation of the market! I screamed. Don't get too big for your britches!

But I was wrong. The book and audio CD of the Fab Five will eventually make you, like the straight guys on TV, become a little misty. It's weird.

First of all, the book comes in several colors, so you can choose which hue of the rainbow you'd like on your coffee table. You can match your curtains! It sounds cheesy, but I think it's adorable, so shut up.

Second of all, this book is F-U-N to look at. Each page is coated with colors as vibrant as one of Thom's newly painted walls and crammed with the guys' trademark sass. Chapters are divided by each guy's specialty and include an overview of the issue as well as specifics on how to move beyond your comfort level.

The audio CD of the book is a nice idea, but I have to recommend you bypass the CD and plunk down \$25 for the book. The CD's biggest hindrance is that you can't open it up when you're getting dressed and consult Carson's excellent section on which buttons to button, when to tuck and how to choose a tie.

You will also have a much harder time following Ted's recipes and finding the products Kyan recommends. What, you want to write all that down yourself? And what good is having Thom show you how to create fabulous new spaces when you can't see what he's doing?

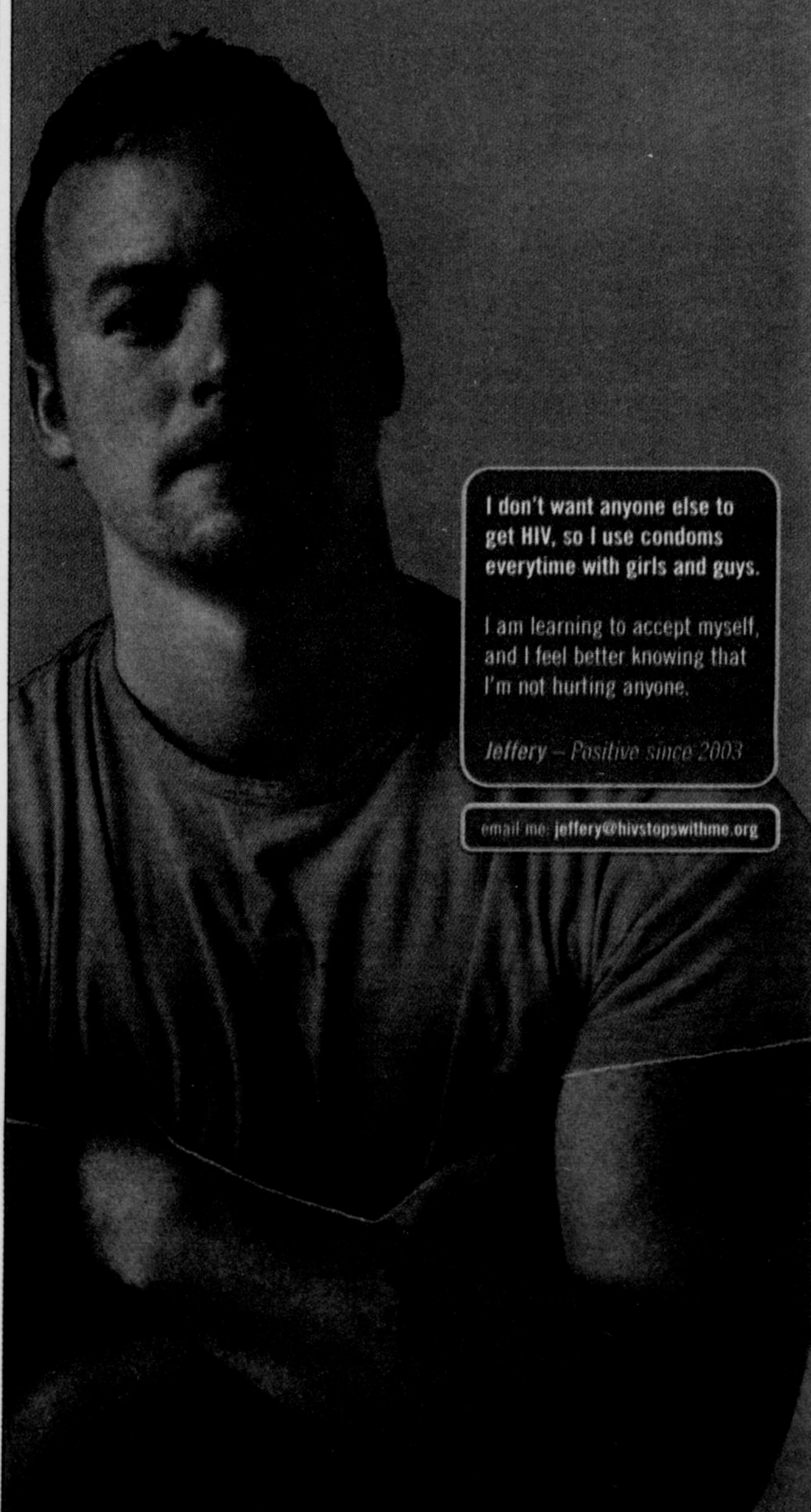
And you won't be missing anything. The book contains exactly the same information as the CD, almost word for word. What the CD does have that the book lacks is a final wrap-up and interviews with the Fab Five that are actually quite interesting. But buy the book and borrow the CD from the library.

What ultimately makes *Queer Eye* the book, CD and show such a success are the five carefully chosen and marketed men who whip into a stranger's life and, as they say, do a "make better." The Fab Five, regardless of being at the forefront of modern pop culture, are also pretty traditional, all-American guys. They're comfortable, and they're comforting.

Carson notes in the introduction, "You needed us, and we were there." Amen, brother.

—Lisa Bradshaw

# I believe in using condoms



I don't want anyone else to get HIV, so I use condoms everytime with girls and guys.

I am learning to accept myself, and I feel better knowing that I'm not hurting anyone.

Jeffery — Positive since 2003

email me: [jeffery@hivstopswithme.org](mailto:jeffery@hivstopswithme.org)

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