

A Discovery in a Closet Uncovers a Beautiful Love Story in a Secret LGBTQIA+ Community in Rural Wisconsin 100+ Years Ago

Don't You Dare by Gayla Turner is a compelling Book/Audiobook/Song/Music Video project bringing together several talented queer creators at a time when such stories are being suppressed.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 28, 2023 – Pasadena, California

There is currently a fierce battle over the narrative surrounding queer people in America and many parts of the world. Books that tell queer stories are being banned. Schools are restricting mere discussion of queer individuals and families. Laws are being passed allowing open discrimination by businesses serving the general public. In Uganda, a death penalty is now in place that criminalizes assistance by queer allies. It is more important than ever that stories are told which verify the presence of LGBTQIA+ individuals throughout history. **Gayla Turner's** is one such story.

Gayla was helping her mother clean her closet and came across boxes of photos and letters that revealed a love story between her grandmother, Ruby, and another woman in a secret queer community in rural Wisconsin more than a century ago. The realization that she was not the only queer person in her family started Gayla on a journey that took her to Wisconsin to research the people in the photos and resulted in a beautiful book, ***Don't You Dare: Uncovering Lost Love***. In the book Turner tells her personal story while drawing the reader into the world of the brave community who risked their lives for love. Singer-Songwriter **Johnny Schaefer** was moved by the story and wrote a song, ***Don't You Dare***, which has been recorded by singer/guitarist **Jill Knight** and included in the new audiobook. Videographer **Paco Silva** painstakingly restored many of the photos for a gorgeous music video. Knight's hauntingly beautiful acoustic guitar/vocal performance and Schaefer's music and lyrics provide a beautiful introduction to Ruby and her world, which Gayla's book brings to life.

This entire project is self-funded. The creative "Indie-viduals" who came together in love to bring the story of Ruby and her brave community to the world could use your help. Whether you are a part of Queer Media, an ally, a blogger, a playlister, a reviewer, or are in any other way able to help share this project with the world, we will be truly grateful.

The Music Video on YouTube is here. Will you share it?: <https://youtu.be/ldSHXLUne3k>

A Video introduction to the project featuring Gayla Turner is here: <https://youtu.be/6GsQrs4grDs>

EPK with photos, links, bios, etc., at: <https://hearjohnny.com/music-from-don-t-you-dare-audiobook>

For more information about Gayla Turner, go to www.gaylaturner.com

For more information about Jill Knight, go to www.jillknight.com

For more information about Johnny Schaefer, go to www.hearjohnny.com

Bio for Gayla Turner, Author of *Don't You Dare*

By day, **Gayla Turner** is a bank examiner, utilizing her intuition and curiosity to uncover facts and analyze complex figures. A debut author, she has honed her writing skills with private instructors, editors, and critique groups of established writers in the Los Angeles area. She is a member of the **Wisconsin**

Historical Society, Romance Writers of America, and the Historical Novel Society. In her free time, Gayla enjoys cooking, hiking, looking at old photos, and researching LGBTQ+ history. Born and raised in Southern California, she and her partner live in San Marino, California, and share their home with their adorable dog, Bailey.

For press inquiries, please reach out to **Olivia McCoy** (olivia.mccoy@smithpublicity.com) at **Smith Publicity**.

Bio for Jill Knight, Singer and Guitarist on “Don’t You Dare”

Jill Knight's soulful sound is unmistakable. A native of Savannah Ga, her music delivers a southern texture blending Americana, blues, and weaving in a little R & B that will take the listener on an unforgettable journey. Nominated for the **LA Music Awards** “Best Female Vocalist”, finalist at the **Telluride Troubadour Competition**, a finalist at the **National Academy of Songwriters** "Songwriter of the year" competition, finalist in **Billboard Magazines**, "Best Unsigned Band" contest, a regional best seller in **Album Network** magazine for her cd *Future Perfect*, best DIY albums in **Performing Songwriter Magazine**, Honorable mention **NSAI Songwriting Competition**, Finalist in the **Acoustic Live Songwriter Competition**. Jill has toured and shared stages with... **India Arie, Shawn Colvin, David Wilcox, John Prine, The Tubes, The Doobie Brothers, Roger McGuinn, Laura Nyro, Chris Isaak, Delbert McLinton, Michael Hedges, Phoebe Snow, Richard Thompson, Little Feat, David Lindley, Los Lobos, Peter Rowan** and many others.

Bio for Johnny Schaefer, Songwriter on “Don’t You Dare”

Johnny Schaefer is an eclectic, Award-Winning Los Angeles-based singer/songwriter. He has a BA in Music (Composition and Voice) from **California State University, Fullerton**. He is a member of the **NARAS (Recording Academy)**. He won the 2021 **UK Songwriting Contest/Music Aid International Award** for "Best Original Song" for his release, “You Can't Hide the Light,” which was recorded with Grammy® Award-Winner **Melissa Manchester**, fulfilling a lifelong dream. The music video won "Best Music in a Short Film" in the **Paris International Short Film Festival** and won “Best Music Video” in the 2023 **Pasadena International Film Festival**. He has sung backup for **Josh Groban, Sarah Vaughan, Sarah Brightman, Pete Townsend, Billy Idol, Diahann Carroll**, and others. He has collaborated with Producer **Stephan Oberhoff (Heartbeat Brazil)**, **Kimaya Seward**, Bram Stoker Award-winning author and lyricist **Elizabeth Massie**, Grammy®-nominated jazz **harpist Carol Robbins, Christoph Bull, Paul the Trombonist, Geoffery Levin**, best-selling author **Marianne Williamson**, composer **Michael J Lewis, Gary Stockdale**, children's author **Sam Renick**, and composer **Lynn Kowal**. He has sung on projects as diverse as children’s records, musical theater, and opera. He was a cantor and soloist at Blessed Sacrament Church in Hollywood, CA for decades. He is married to Videographer Paco Silva, and has been active in the LGBTQ arts community.

Bio for Paco Silva, Videographer on “Don’t You Dare”

Paco Silva was born and raised in Mexico City, where he first fell in love with the art of storytelling. He has honed his skill as a partner in **Sirernarts Productions** in the San Gabriel Valley in California. He is skilled in camera work, video editing, and post-production. He has created promotional videos and educational for hundreds of small companies and non-profits. Sirenarts Productions has won numerous awards from community and media organizations. He is the videographer for the **Society of Composers and Lyricists**. Paco has created music videos for Grammy® Award-Winner **Melissa Manchester, Roslyn Kind, Kimaya Seward, Kevin Kelly, Johnny Schaefer, Lineage Performing Arts Center, and Eduard**

Romero. Companies he has told video stories for include **Write Brain Books, the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce, Home Instead Pasadena, Shepherd's Pantry,** and many others. He is married to singer-songwriter Johnny Schaefer and his work on the Johnny Schaefer/Melissa Manchester music video "You Can't Hide the Light" won "**Best Music Video**" in the **Pasadena International Film Festival**. Paco's videos have been viewed more than four million times on YouTube.

Don't You Dare is available in paperback, eBook, and Audiobook formats. At your favorite retailers. The song and music video are available for streaming, download, and viewing on YouTube, Spotify, Amazon, Apple Music/iTunes, Deezer, and other music platforms.

NOTE: We found your contact info after painstakingly combing the internet for influential individuals who might help us spread the word about our project. We don't want to bother anybody, so *please* let us know if you want us to remove you from our list simply by replying "REMOVE". Thanks very much!