# Where are all the asexuals on TV?



The conversation around LGBTQ+ representation in media has made significant strides, with more queer characters appearing in beloved films and series. However, amidst this progressive landscape, asexual (ace) characters remain conspicuously absent, highlighting a gap in the spectrum of sexual diversity portrayed on screen.

Historically, fans have engaged in "headcanoning" to attribute LGBTQ+ identities to characters who are not explicitly defined as such. This practice has helped queer audiences see themselves in stories before media representation became more inclusive. Examples like Eloise Bridgerton imagined as a lesbian or Dean Winchester from Supernatural speculated to be bisexual have been popular within fan communities. Perhaps the most conspicuous asexual headcanon has been the character Sherlock Holmes from the BBC series.

Despite the increasing presence of diverse queer stories, representations of asexuality lag behind. A pervasive misconception is that asexuality is synonymous with celibacy—a choice rather than a sexual orientation. This misunderstanding can lead to the erasure of asexual identities, as such narratives are often not deemed relatable or marketable by mainstream standards, which predominantly focus on sexual relationships.

This focus is reflected in numerous popular series and films such as Bridgerton and Queer As Folk, which centre on sexual narratives. Traditionally, Hollywood has favoured such storylines under the assumption that "sex sells," whereas non-sexual narratives are seen as potentially less engaging for audiences.

Contrary to this belief, there is a growing demand for more diverse storylines. Shows like Heartstopper, which featured Isaac Henderson confirming his asexual identity, have resonated with audiences, rising to the top of Netflix charts. In a similar vein, the show Sex Education introduced Sarah 'O' Owen [pictured, Netflix], an asexual sex therapist, gaining appreciation for its depth of representation.

Furthermore, recent data supports the argument for broader representation. A study by UCLA indicates that almost 52% of Gen Z viewers are keen on seeing more platonic relationships on screen. With this demographic having access to vast amounts of online content from an early age, there is a shift towards seeking narratives that extend beyond sexual relationships, pointing to a broader cultural appetite for inclusion.

The limited understanding of asexuality could be remedied through more informed and accessible media representations. Current platforms like Wattpad and Archive Of Our Own abound with stories tagged "asexual," revealing a rich tapestry of narratives waiting for mainstream exploration. Such stories could help demystify asexuality for allosexual audiences, bringing a broader acceptance and visibility to the spectrum of human relationships outside of a sexual context.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.lgbtqandall.com/what-has-asexual-representation-been-like-in-the-media/> - This article discusses the lack of asexual representation in media, including examples of asexual characters in TV shows like 'BoJack Horseman' and 'Sex Education', and the impact of this lack on the asexual community.
* <https://fleetoffandoms.com/2023/10/31/asexual-representation-in-film-and-television/> - This article highlights specific examples of asexual characters in media, such as in 'Sex Education' and 'BoJack Horseman', and emphasizes the importance of accurate and positive asexual representation.
* <https://myumbrella.co/asexual-representation-in-media/> - This article provides examples of canonically asexual characters in media, including Todd Chavez from 'BoJack Horseman' and Jughead Jones from the comics, and discusses the need for more diverse and accurate asexual representation.
* <https://glaad.org/asexual-characters-media-draft/> - This article from GLAAD lists favorite asexual characters in modern media, such as Abbi Singh from 'The Imperfects' and Isaac from 'Heartstopper', and highlights the need for more asexual representation to match the actual percentage of asexual individuals in the queer community.
* <https://www.lgbtqandall.com/what-has-asexual-representation-been-like-in-the-media/> - This article addresses the misconception that asexuality is synonymous with celibacy and how this misunderstanding leads to the erasure of asexual identities in media.
* <https://fleetoffandoms.com/2023/10/31/asexual-representation-in-film-and-television/> - This article discusses how mainstream media often focuses on sexual relationships, assuming they are more engaging, and contrasts this with the growing demand for more diverse storylines that include asexual characters.
* <https://myumbrella.co/asexual-representation-in-media/> - This article mentions the importance of authentic and informed media representations to remedy the limited understanding of asexuality and to bring broader acceptance and visibility to asexual identities.
* <https://glaad.org/asexual-characters-media-draft/> - This article provides data from GLAAD's reports, indicating the significant underrepresentation of asexual characters in media compared to their actual presence within the queer community.
* <https://www.lgbtqandall.com/what-has-asexual-representation-been-like-in-the-media/> - This article highlights shows like 'Heartstopper' and 'Sex Education' that have successfully included asexual characters, resonating with audiences and demonstrating a growing demand for diverse storylines.
* <https://fleetoffandoms.com/2023/10/31/asexual-representation-in-film-and-television/> - This article mentions the role of platforms like Wattpad and Archive Of Our Own in providing a rich tapestry of asexual narratives that could be explored in mainstream media.