

# CHEER UP!: LOVE AND POMPOMS



*Young Adult Graphic Novel*

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## **Book Summary:**

A high school senior joins the cheerleading squad and befriends another cheerleader who is reportedly a transgender girl.

## **Summary of Concerns:**

This book contains inexplicit sexual activities; alternate gender ideologies; alternate sexualities; mild/infrequent profanity; mild violence; and bullying.

**2** /5

**Teen Guidance**  
BookLooks Review Rating

Page	Content
14	The illustration on the bottom middle of the page depicts a newspaper article hanging on a wall. The article reads: High School Cheer Team Inducts State's 1st Transgender Cheerleader The Crane High Lady Cranes broke a state precedent this week knot for their routines, but for inviting a transgender classmate to join their cheerleading team.
22	Two of the cheerleaders are talking to one another about the transgender cheerleader. One of the girls says to the other, "Someone's breaking out her man voice today."
24	"YOU CAN'T TELL ANYONE, BUT...THE TEAM IS GREAT THEY'RE THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO REALLY STUCK THEIR NECKS OUT FOR ME LAST YEAR WHEN I CAME OUT." ..."IT'S FINE. I GET SO MUCH IMPERSONAL HATE FOR BEING THE ONLY TRANS GIRL IN SCHOOL IT WAS KIND OF NICE GETTING YELLED AT FOR SOMETHING THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH MY GENDER."
29	The transgender girl is riding in a car with her parents. Her dad is saying, "THERE'RE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD HURT A KID LIKE YOU, DON'T GO ANYWHERE ELSE WITHOUT US." ..."YOU'RE NOT A NORMAL GIRL, HONEY."
37	"...OR MY FOLKS WILL MAKE ME GO BACK TO DRESSING LIKE A BOY." ..."THEY THINK ME TRANSITIONING IS A LUXURY. AND THEY'RE WORRIED IT'LL DISTRACT ME FROM GETTING GOOD GRADES AND GETTING INTO COLLEGE."
42	"BUT HE KIND OF STARTED GETTING CREEPY FAST, LIKE INTERRUPTING ME AND IGNORING WHAT I SAY AND GETTING ALL...TOUCHY." "YOU SHOULDA BOPPED HIM. I WAS ABOUT TO!" "UGH. THEN I'M THE VIOLENT WEIRD TRANS GIRL MAKING A SCENE. I'D RATHER JUST BE QUIETLY CREEPED ON."
49	A woman is yelling at a group of cheerleaders saying, "OH, THEY WARNED US ABOUT YOUR TEAM...AND ABOUT YOU! YOU LITTLE CROSS-DRESSER! AND YOU ARE NOT GOING ANYWHERE NEAR MY LOCKER ROOM."
50	"UM, EXCUSE YOU. WHERE WE GO, OUR TEAM CAPTAIN GOES!" "YEAH! BEBE'S JUST LIKE A REAL GIRL!"
52	"JUST LIKE A REAL GIRL?!" "ANNIE." "HOW IS THAT A NICE THING TO SAY? YOU ARE A REAL GIRL! THEY'RE TREATING YOU LIKE A...A MASCOTT, NOT A PERSON!"
57	"ME TRANSITIONING PUT SO MANY PEOPLE OUT...MY MOM, MY DAD, THE SCHOOL...AND EVEN THE PEOPLE WHO ARE NICE GET SO MUCH ANGRIER WHEN I GET UPSET THAN THEY DID BEFORE. LIKE THEY'RE ALL JUST WAITING FOR PROOF THAT I'M 'ONE OF THE BAD ONES.'" ..."I'M ALWAYS THE CENTER OF ATTENTION. AND THEY THINK IF I SCREW UP OR FREAK OU, IT'S BECAUSE I'M A TRANS GIRL...NEVER BECAUSE I'M JUST NOT PERFECT."
59	"SOMETIMES IT MAKES ME SO MADAT ALL THE OTHER GIRLS IN SCHOOL THAT THEY CAN JUST CHANGE IN THE LOCKER ROOMS...OR GO OUT WITHOUT MAKEUP." "SO, IF IT'S SO STRESSFUL, WHY DO IT?" "BECAUSE IT'S STILL BETTER THAN TRYING TO BE A BOY. SOMETIMES IT SUCKS BUT OTHER TIMES, IT MAKE ME FEEL GREAT. WHEN I TRIED BEING A BOY, I NEVER FELT ANYTHING. I WAS NUMB."

Page	Content
60	"GOD, YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW COOL YOU ARE." "BECAUSE I'M TRANS?" "NO! SORT OF! I MEAN, WE'RE STILL KIDS, AND YOU'RE DOING THIS INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT THING THAT EVERYONE AROUND YOU JUST MAKES HARDER. AND YOU'RE DOING IT FOR YOURSELF BECAUSE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU NEED."
61	"I CAN'T START HORMONE THERAPY UNTIL I GRADUATE. I'M JUST ON PUBERTY BLOCKERS. BUT I HAVE TO LOOK PERFECT SO PEOPLE DON'T GET GROSSED OUT."
65	"DO YOU LIKE GIRLS?" "I DON'T KNOW. I'M SO BUSY AND EVERYTHING IS CHANGING. I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT." <i>See Figure 1.</i>
66	"WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF I...KISSED YOU?"  The illustration on the bottom of the page depicts a young woman and the transgender girl kissing.
69	"DID YOU WANT TO KISS ME LAST NIGHT BECAUSE I'M NOT REALLY A GIRL?" ..."BEBE, I LIKE GIRLS. I LIKE YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE A GIRL."
70	"I DON'T KNOW IF I LIKE BOYS OR GIRLS."
71	The illustrations on the top-right side and middle of the page depict the young woman and the transgender girl kissing while standing on a sidewalk. <i>See Figure 2.</i>
110	A young woman is speaking to the transgender girl saying, "I WAS WORRIED ABOUT JOINING THE SQUAD 'CUZ I'M...I MEAN, I'M NOT A GIRL, AND YOU ALL ARE. BUT I DON'T THINK I'M A BOY EITHER. AND YOU HAVE BEEN SO NICE! BUT SEEING HOW WELL THEY TREATED YOU LAST YEAR, I THOUGHT MAYBE THEY'D BE NICE TO ME, TOO! SEEING YOU GO FIRST LET ME KNOW I COULD DO IT TOO!"
120	The illustration on this page depicts a young woman kissing a transgender girl. They are standing on the dance floor surrounded by other students. <i>See Figure 3.</i>

Profanity	Count
Ass	1
Bitch	1

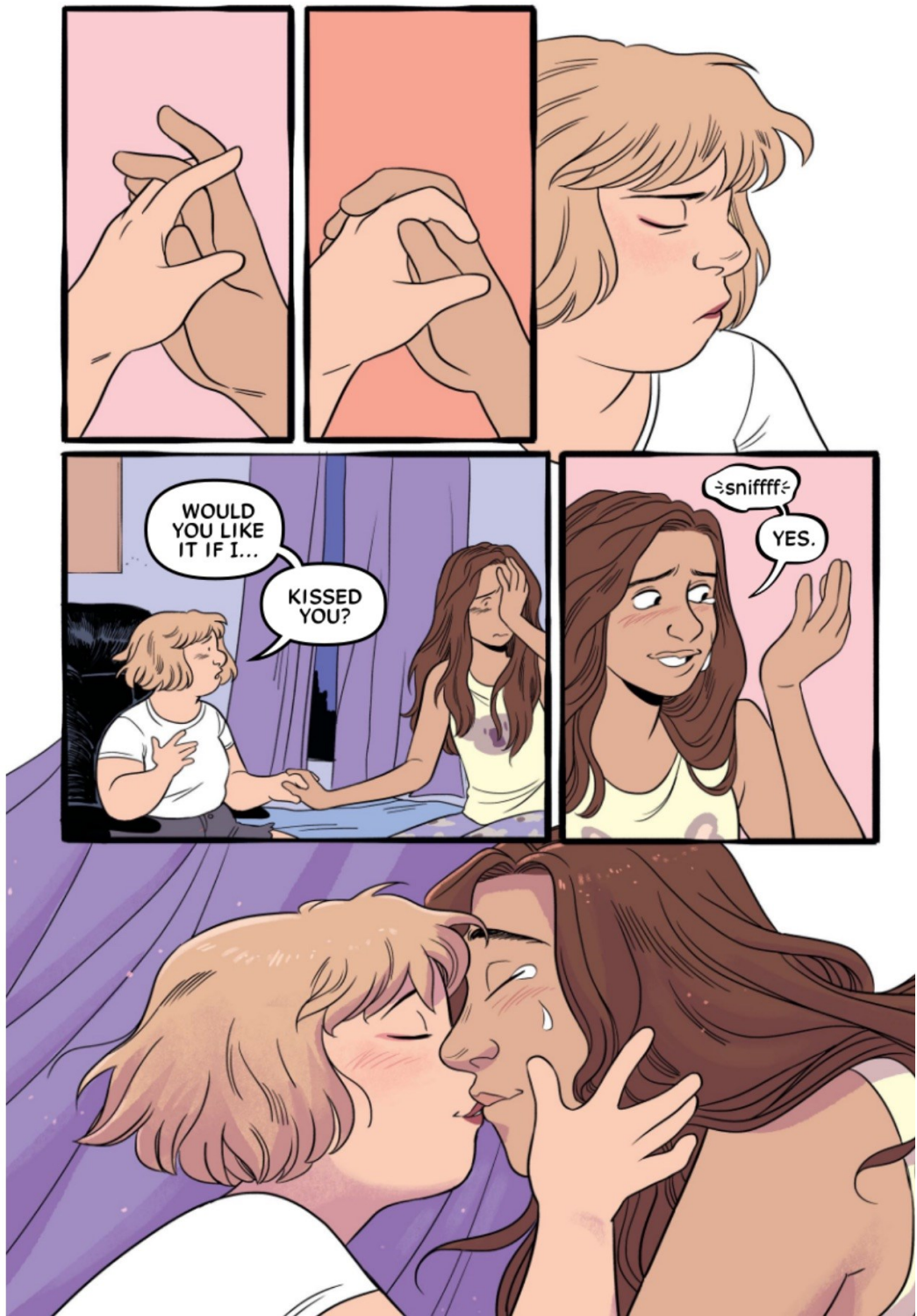


Figure 1



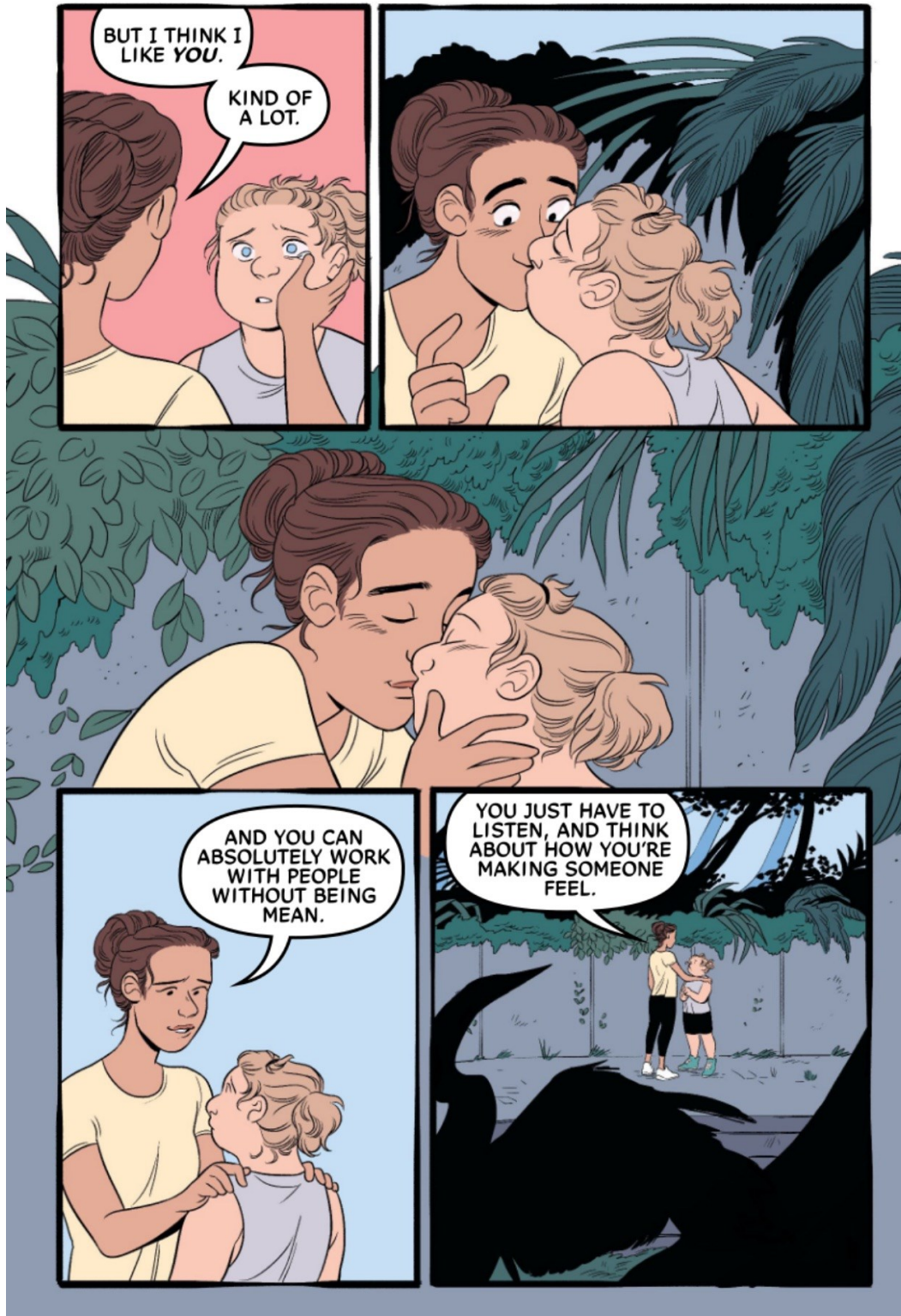


Figure 2



Figure 3