

MESSY ROOTS: A GRAPHIC MEMOIR OF A WUHANES AMERICAN



Young Adult Graphic Novel

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Book Summary:

A young woman from Wuhan, China discovers her sexual orientation and experiences racial discrimination during her teens and twenties.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains inexplicit sexual activities; alternate sexualities; references to racism; controversial racial commentary; mild/infrequent profanity; and derogatory term.

2/5

Teen Guidance
BookLooks Review Rating

Page	Content
60	The illustration on this page depicts a young woman shaving her left eyebrow. A filmstrip is wrapping around her. One of the images on the filmstrip depicts a young man and woman kissing.
119	"Fobby" kids did Asian things and hung out with other Asians. I didn't know back then how harmful the label was. All I knew was "fobby" meant you were too Asian to be cool.
122	FIRST SEX ED "Uhh...what's birth control?" JESUS CHRIST
125	The illustration on the bottom of the page depicts a young man and woman looking at each other. A filmstrip is wrapping around them. One of the images on the filmstrip depicts a young man and woman kissing.
130	The illustration on the top-right side of the page depicts a man a man lying on top of a woman while kissing. The man does not have a shirt on. The illustration on the bottom-left-side of the page depicts the same individuals described above. <i>See Figure 1.</i>
131	"I swear I was drunk-" ..."You don't want to have sex."
156	I started off going to my parents' church before switching to Jessie's American one. I thought I'd connect better with the sermons if they were in English. ..."...all homosexuals will go to hell!" Maybe I'm better off not understanding...
169	"LAURA?! WHAT THE-" "Sorry, Yeji I was at some guy's place." A young woman is sitting on a bed looking toward a pair of hairy legs thinking to herself, "So THAT'S what it looks like?? Overrated."
170	A young woman is looking at her phone screen. The app name at the top of the screen is titled, TINBER. She is selecting "Women" for the prompt reading "Interested in:".
175	"Do you even know what 'Fobby' means? Did you have Asian friends?" "I said it was a pretty whitetown-" That's not an excuse to punch down. So white-washed. What a twinkie.
176	WHITE-WASHED "TWINKIE" ASIAN SPECIAL POWER: FITS IN WITH THE MAJORITY. WEAKNESS: HAS MAJOR IDENTITY ISSUES.
178	"Look, I was afraid to go when you first asked me. People in high school would joke I was 'white-washed,' and I always laughed along. It sounded dumb, but I was kinda proud of it."
179	"In Shanghai I didn't feel pressure to be white, but I was afraid I wouldn't fit in as a Korean."
181	"Uh, I think I just got sexiled."

Page	Content
187	<p>The illustration at the top of the page depicts a tab which reads: You got: GAY AF. The buttons under the wording read: SHARE, RETAKE QUIZ</p> <p>The illustration on the second row depicts a young woman sitting with her laptop. A voice bubble is coming out from the laptop which reads: BUZZBEED Choose a breakfast food and we'll tell you if you're gay or not</p> <p>The illustration on the bottom-left side of the page depicts a rectangle with the words: Goggle how to ask girls out</p> <p>The illustration on the bottom-right side of the page depicts a rectangle with two search bars. The words typed into the search bars are how to_; how to come out_</p>
188	<p>The illustration on the top-left side of the page depicts two pairs of legs intertwined in front of a laptop screen which has an image of a man and woman kissing.</p>
190	<p>"Did it hurt like this when you first came out, Ivan?"</p>
191	<p>The illustration on the middle of the page depicts a room with two individuals talking about how to talk to their families and others about their homosexuality. In the foreground, a Pride flag rests inside a container and a card with a rainbow on the front and the words reading: PENN PRIDE, is standing up on the table. A wristband is sitting on the table next to the card, reading: OUT N' PROUD.</p>
192	<p>"You're the first openly queer friend I know, sadly. I'd be writing a death wish if I came out in Coppell."</p> <p>"My folks back home are super Catholic. My mom tried to pray my gay away- ha!"</p> <p>"Oh man, my grandma might actually drop dead if she knew. She won't stop pestering me about great-grandkids."</p> <p>"I got two brothers I'm pretty sure are straight. They can take that job."</p>
193	<p>"Ugh...I gotta come out to him first."</p>
194	<p>The illustration on the top of this page depicts a window with words reading: You got: QUEER. There is a rainbow image beside the words. Below that are two buttons reading: SHARE, and RETAKE QUIZ.</p> <p>The image on the middle-right side of the page depicts two young women kissing.</p> <p>The illustration on the bottom of the page depicts two young women shown with their nude upper body outside of a sheet. Their faces are rosy as they are hugging.</p> <p><i>See Figure 2.</i></p>
195	<p>"Hey, Jerry. I think I like girls."</p> <p>"Oh."</p> <p>"So we can talk about hot girls together now?"</p>
198	<p>I'm- QUEER</p> <p>"Oh, huh, I kinda already figured. 'Cause, you know, you play basketball."</p>
199	<p>The illustration on the top of the page depicts several individuals in a room. A rainbow-colored banner is hanging up in the background which reads: PENN QUEER & ASIAN MIXER</p> <p>"Hey! This is kinda awkward, but didn't we match up on Tinder?"</p>
203	<p>"Pretty sure half the audience is already buzzed."</p>

Page	Content
208	"Always trying to fit in with your too white friends and your too Chinese family? We have just the thing for you!"
217	The illustration on the middle-left side of the page depicts a young woman kissing another young woman on the cheek. Both of the women are blushing. The illustration on the bottom of the page depicts a table with a cup. A Pride flag rests inside the cup.
221	"There's a LGBTQ employee group here!"
228	"SF's perfect! Why do I need any place else? Everytime I go back, I just get judged by everyone." The second illustration on the page depicts a young woman looking out of a window at a group of individuals. Two of them are holding signs reading: "STOP STEALING OUR JOBS" and "GO BACK! KEEP AMERICA GREAT!"
232	"You people, you brought it." "You're sick!" "This is reality for many Asian Americans today, with over 1,000 reports of COVID discrimination against Asians."
235	The image on the top-left side of the page depicts a phone with a Twitter "TRENDING" page up. The phone reads: Wuhan 606.1k Tweets, #TrumChineseVirus 34k Tweets, TRUMP TWEETS "CHINESE VISUS" STOKING ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT, and Kung Flu 57k Tweets "Take your virus back with you!" Tweeter Trump calls COVID the "Chinese Virus," stoking anti-Asian racism.

Profanity/Derogatory Term	Count
Dick	1
Fag	1
Fuck	5
Queer	1
Shit	1



It went downhill after that.

Figure 1

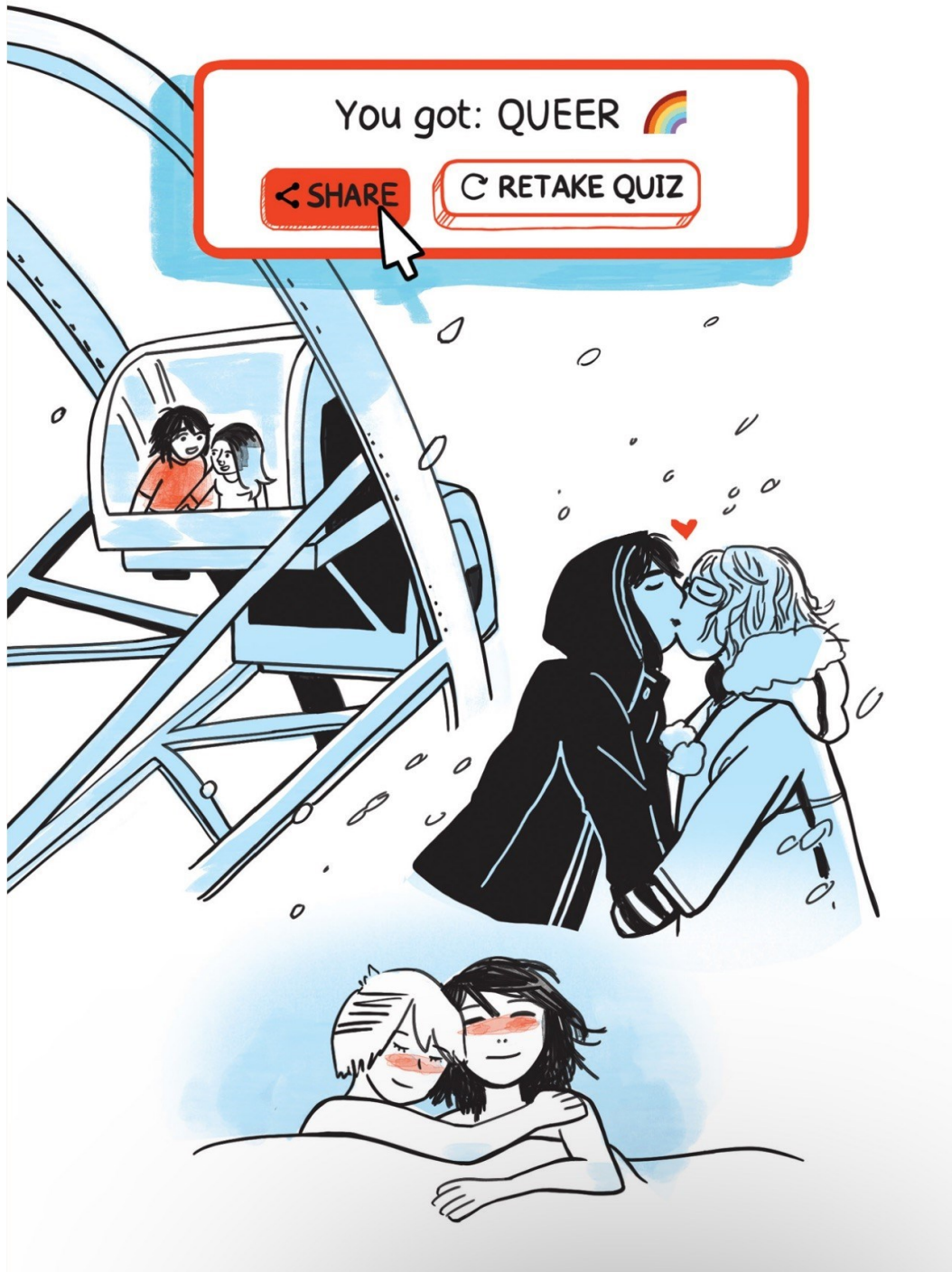


Figure 2