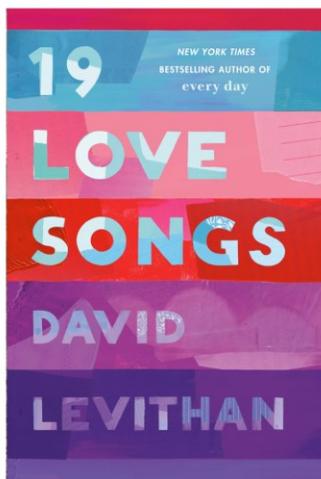


19 LOVE SONGS



Summary of Concerns:

This book contains sexual activities; alternate sexualities; and alternate gender ideologies.

Young Adult

By David Levithan

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2 /5

Teen Guidance
BookLooks Review Rating

Page	Content
22	<p>I walked forward, down the small hallway, turning toward the beds. And that's when I realized- there was someone in the room. And it was Sung. And he was on his bed. And he wasn't wearing his jacket. Or a shirt. And he was moaning a little.</p> <p>I thought we'd caught him jerking off. I couldn't help it- I burst out laughing. And that's what made him notice we were in the room. He jumped and turned around, and I realized Frances was in the bed with him, shirt also off, but bra still on.</p>
43	<p>So many gay boys- whether they know they're gay yet or not- go through high school feeling like they're the only ones.</p>
46	<p>I see how late I bloomed into being gay. I see how being a good girl means missing out on some things, closing yourself off to certain experimentations and risks.</p>
47	<p>While Infinite Darlene has many, many friends, she hasn't had many, many dates. She doesn't entirely know why this is. Maybe it's because she's so busy being both the homecoming queen and the star quarterback at her school. Maybe it's because guys are intimidated by a six-foot-four transgender superstar.</p>
52	<p>"On the field," Cory quickly adds. "If Joseph hailed Mary like you hail Mary, there wouldn't have been any need for an immaculate conception."</p>
53	<p>People look. They look when Infinite Darlene walks in. They look when she and Cory are seated. Infinite Darlene is used to this. The question of her body's original gender aside, there's the simple fact of her being a very, very tall woman. She is at least six inches taller than Cory.</p>
99	<p>We didn't sleep together until the fifth date.</p> <p>...Even during the first date, there was a giddy physicality to our movements, that telegraphic dance of words and touches.</p> <p>...We drank and we talked and then, word-drunk and wine-happy, we fell into kissing, fell into horizontality, fell into bed.</p>
112	<p>The men were sexy in that corny 1980s way- hair a-pooof, muscles worked out, abs not yet an indicator of beauty.</p> <p>...And then, right when you think it's going to erupt into a fight, they start making out.</p> <p>...But suddenly the clothes are coming off. The need if overpowering. Belts are undone, pants are shed. And the kisses are real. These are two men who are in love with each other, and their kisses are real.</p> <p>...I had copies of Jackie Collins and Nancy Friday and Ken Follett that opened up on their own to the sex scenes because I had consulted them so often.</p>
113	<p>I had never known that reading words on a page could give you the same sensation as someone breathing on your neck, running his hand over your arm, undoing the top button of your pants. I had never known that a story could convey the feeling of a hard kiss, a warm body, fingers under the elastic. I had known words could capture the mechanics, but not the intensity. But here were these characters- grasping, longing, battling, letting go.</p>
141	<p>"A half hour." Ryan came over and whispered in Avery's ear. "What can we do with a half hour?"</p> <p>The answer?</p> <p>His hands were on Avery's hips.</p> <p>The answer?</p> <p>Kisses. Variations of kisses. Repetitions of kisses. Learning each other through kisses.</p>

Page	Content
	<p>The answer? Clothes staying on, because there were parents walking in the hall, because this wasn't that, not yet. But just because clothes stayed on, it didn't mean there weren't bodies to be felt through fabric, skin to feel the pressure, feel the touch.</p>
144	<p>"...I promised to take care of you, so please, no knife juggling or putting your head in any plastic bags." (She did not mean this is a sexual reference. Ryan and Avery totally heard it as a sexual reference.)</p>
152	<p>"Let's get those pants off of you," Avery purred, and they both laughed, because neither of them has aspirations to turn this moment into porn. Eventually, yes. But not right now. It's not that Avery wasn't curious. It's not that he hadn't scrutinized every bare moment of skin that Ryan had ever shown. It's not that Ryan wasn't tempted. He was so far away from his parents, so far away from any restriction. But he was also wearing an embarrassingly shoddy pair of briefs. And it was so quiet that he felt if he undid his fly, the sound of the zipper would fly throughout the house and cause Avery's parents to come running.</p>
160	<p>But not before a last round of kissing in Avery's bedroom.</p>
161	<p>An obvious one, harkening back to the times I've slammed my own laptop shut, is porn. But we're far enough along in our own sex life that it seems ridiculous for him to fear me catching him in an ogle or a wank. I think I've made it perfectly clear that I believe all kinds of sex acts are fine, as long as they're consensual. And I've also made it clear that there are certain things I will never consent to. Which means, as I play this out in my head, that whatever porn he's been watching has to involve something so despicable that he's afraid it will pervert our relationship to an irreparable degree.</p>
254	<p>The minute we got inside, Moshe kissed me like a soldier who'd just come home from the war. He gave me everything in that kiss, and I tried to give him everything in return. Somewhere in the back of our minds, we knew our parents would be waiting for us at two different train stations, but that part of our minds no longer mattered to us. What mattered was the inextricable velocity drawing us toward each other. What mattered was that we were free to touch each other the way we wanted to touch, free to be touched the way we wanted to be touched. I took his sweater off, took his pants off, and only hesitated at the tallis that had been under his sweater the whole time, he folded it neatly and put it on a chair. ...We were more naked than we'd ever been, and our nakedness had a consciousness it had never had before. We didn't have sex or even come close to having sex, but what we did was still further than either of us had ever gone before.</p>