

JULIET TAKES A BREATH: A GRAPHIC NOVEL



Young Adult Graphic Novel

By Gabby Rivera

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CONTENT WARNING

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Book Summary:

A young woman takes an internship and discovers more about herself.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains profanity; controversial and inflammatory racial and cultural commentary; controversial religious commentary; sexual activities; sexual nudity; alternate gender ideologies; alternate sexualities; and drug use.

4 /5

Not For Minors
BookLooks Review Rating

Page	Content
8	<p>Dear Harlow, Hi, my name is Juliet Palante. I've been reading your book Raging Flower: Empowering Your Pussy by Empowering Your Mind. ...I'm writing to you because this book of yours, this magical labia manifesto, has become my bible. It's definitely a reading from the book of white lady feminism and yet, there are moments where I see my round brown ass in your words. ...Can a white lady like you make room for me? ...I read Raging Flower, and now I dream of raised fists and solidarity marches led by matriarchs fueled by café con leche where I can march alongside cigar-smoking donas and Black Power dykes and all the world's weirdos and no one is left out. ...If there's room in your world for a nerdy asthmatic baby-dyke from the Bronx, you should write me back. ...PS: How do you take your coffee? This will help me decide if we're compatible social justice superheroes or not.</p>
10	<p>The illustration on the top-right side of the page depicts an open book. The cover of the book reads: RAGING FLOWER EMPOWERING YOUR PUSSY BY EMPOWERING YOUR MIND "You must walk in this world with the spirit of a ferocious cunt..."</p>
11	<p>The illustration on the bottom-right-side of the page depicts three young men talking to each other. One of the men is saying, "THOSE BITCHES WERE ALL OVER ME!" Another man says, "THREE OF THEM ALL ON MY..."</p>
12	<p>WHY ARE DUDES ALWAYS ON SOME GROSS SEXUAL SHIT?</p> <p>The illustration on the middle-left side of the page depicts a piece of paper which reads: FEROCIOUS CUNT</p> <p>...DYKE MAGAZINE CALLED HER THE PUSSY LADY.</p>
13	<p>FEMINISM. I'M NEW TO IT. THE WORD STILL SOUNDS WEIRD. TOO WHITE.</p>
17	<p>Three men are standing behind a woman. One of the men is saying, "DAMN, THAT'S A JUICY FAT ASS!" Another one of the men is saying, "BREAK US OFF SOME A LIL SOMETHIN', MA." ..."THAT'S A JUICY FAT ASS YOU GOT."</p>
18	<p>The illustration in the top-left-side of the page depicts a man standing beside a woman who is facing away from him as two other men stand around her. The man beside her slaps her buttocks. "YOU LIKE THAT GIRL?" The woman turns to the man and says, "NO, I'M GAY, YOU ASSHOLE. DON'T FREAKIN' TOUCH ME!" The man is standing in front of the woman saying, "HA, GAY. THAT'S NOTHING WHAT I GOT RIGHT HERE CAN'T FIX."</p>
19	<p>The illustration on the top-left side of the page depicts a zoomed in view of a man's groin with a hand gripping the front of the pants. The man is saying, "TEACH YOU WHAT TO DO WITH IT."</p>
20	<p>EVERY FREAKIN' DAY! SOME GUY HAS TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT MY BODY AND HIS DICK.</p>
23	<p>Juliet's younger brother says to her, "LIKE A FALCON OR SOMETHING, AND NO</p>

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	ONE CARES IF FALCONS ARE GAY. LET OUT YOUR LESBIONIC TRUTHS, SISTER."
24	MAYBE LIL MELVIN'S RIGHT. MAYBE MOM & DAD WOULDN'T CARE AT ALL THAT THERE'S A GAY FALCON IN THE FAMILY.
27	"IT'S JUST THAT SOME DUDES CORNERED ME AT THE SUPERMARKET TODAY TALKING ABOUT THEIR JUNK. EVEN SLAPPED MY BUTT."
28	"NO BOY IS GRABBING HIS CROTCH CUZ HE LIKES ME, JULIET, AS A PERSON! BESIDES, I TOLD HIM I WAS GAY AND HE BACKED OFF." ..."AHH! THE OLD DYKE & DODGE TRICK! CLASSIC. GOTTA BE CAREFUL THO. SOMETIMES IT REVS UP THEIR LITTLE PINGAS MORE."
29	"WHY LIE? I DON'T HAVE A BOYFRIEND. AND I THINK, I'M DEFINITELY A LESBIAN."
30	"STOP! THERE IS A LESBIAN AT THIS TABLE. IT'S ME. I'M GAY. GAY. GAY. GAY. AND I'VE BEEN DATING LAINIE FOR A YEAR."
33	"LISTEN UP, LESBIAN, IT'S AIRPORT TIME. GET YER SHIT AND VAMANOS."
35	AVA Cousin! Your mom called my mom and now you're a lesbian! So dope! Llamame. Que viva la revolucion!
42	THIS IS SO WILD. I PACKED, CAME OUT, AND FLEW TO OREGON. FOR A BOOK! WHAT IF HARLOWE SHOWS UP WITH A BUNCH OF MEGA-DYKES AND THEN I'M IN A CULT?!
43	OMFG IT'S HARLOWE BRISBANE. THE PUSSY LADY!
44	Harlowe Brisbane, 34, White Lady Feminist, Author of Raging Flower: Empowering Your Pussy by Empowering Your Mind! The illustrations on the bottom of the page depict a woman with a lit marijuana joint in her mouth as she is driving a car.
45	Several illustrations on the page depict the same woman mentioned above, smoking a marijuana joint while driving.
49	The illustration on the bottom of the page depicts Harlowe holding marijuana joint in her left hand. She is speaking to Juliet saying, "YOU WANT?"
50	Harlowe is saying, "UHHH, SURE, WAKE AND BAKE!" The illustration on the top-right side of the page depicts Juliet with the lit marijuana joint in her mouth. Harlowe is saying, "WAIT, DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU HAD ASTHMA IN YOUR LETTER?" Juliet replies, "YEAH BUT I'VE GOT ANXIETY TOO. SO IT ALL KINDA BALANCES OUT?"
51	The illustration on the middle-left side of the page depicts Juliet with a marijuana joint in her hand. She is saying, "YOU REALLY THINK ALL WOMEN COME FROM FAERIES?" Harlowe replies, "A'COURSE! WE SURE AS BUNS DIDN'T COME FROM A FRAIDY-CAT SNITCH NAMED ADAM."
52	The illustration on the bottom-right side of the page depicts a Harlowe with a marijuana joint in her hand.
53	The illustration on the top-right of the page depicts Harlowe with a marijuana

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	<p>joint in her mouth. The illustration on the middle-left side of the page depicts Harlowe with a marijuana joint in her mouth.</p>
55	HOLD UP. AM I REALLY PUNKING OUT AT THE FIRST SIGN OF WEIRD WHITE LADY SHIT?
56	<p>The illustration on the right side of the page depicts a nude male in a profile view. His buttocks is exposed. Words next to him read: PHEN: 22, They/Them, Queer, Harlowe's step-kid (Sorta, it's complicated. It's very Portland.) Juliet is saying to Phen, "OMG. I'M NAKED!" "I MEAN! YOU'RE NAKED!" Phen says, "YOU COULD BE NAKED TOO. NOT IN A WEIRD WAY. IN A BODY LOVE WAY. HI, I'M PHEN."</p>
57	Phen is saying, "NOT ME. I CUT UNSEASONED CULTURAL APPROPRIATION OUT OF MY DIET."
59	<p>The illustration on the middle of the page depicts Phen sitting next to Juliet and other people on a bus. Phen has a lit marijuana joint in his hand. Phen is telling Juliet, "LOTSA FOLKS CAN'T AFFORD DEODORANT, YOU KNOW?" Juliet replies, "THAT'S REAL. HAAA! BUT WHITE PEOPLE WITH DREADLOCKS DEFINITELY HAVE A CERTAIN MUST TO THEM."</p>
60	Phen says, "I NEVER ASKED YOUR PRONOUNS, BTW. MINE ARE THEY/THEM."
62	Phen is saying, "HARLOWE IS THE WHITE LADY AUTHORITY ON ALL THINGS PUSSY, FEMINISM, AND KILL-THE-PATRIARCHY IN PORTLAND."
64	Phen is handing Juliet a book titled, Edward Zinn A People's... Phen says, "HEAVY. HERE. THE REAL REAL HISTORY OF AMERICA IS ALL IN THIS BOOK. PLENTY TO GET PISSED ABOUT."
70	Phen is talking to Juliet and he says, "SHE MEANS WELL...I CAN HANDLE HER HIPPIE WHITE LADY STUFF."
81	<p>Juliet is lying the bathtub full of water. Her hands are folded over her chest. "Build a sacred ritual around your body during this time. Masturbate. Meditate. Sooth and honor the spirit."</p>
82	<p>The illustration on the bottom-left side of the page depicts Juliet laying on a bed. She is gripping her shirt. The words above her head read: You control the energy in your body. Orgasm as offering. Your body deserves pleasure.</p> <p>The illustration on the middle-right side of the page depicts a zoomed in view of nude hip with a hand sliding underneath pants and panties. There are hearts flowing along the background.</p> <p>The illustration on the bottom-right side of the page depicts Juliet with her head up and to the side biting her bottom lip. Her right arm is angled down toward her pelvis. She is saying, "MMMM. YES." <i>See Figure 1.</i></p>
83	STILL CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT LOLITA LEBRON. JUST GOTTA ADD THAT TO ALL THE OTHER SNEAKY SHIT THE U.S. HAS DONE. HOW HAVE WE NOT BURNED THIS SHIT DOWN YET?

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84	"BABE, YOUR FAVORITE STORE IS A COLONIAL NIGHTMARE."
85	"INSTEAD OF WORRYING ABOUT MY TONE, MAYBE YOU SHOULD CARE THAT YOUR ANCESTORS MADE A CLOTHING STORE SO THEY COULD BE CUTE COLONIZING OTHER COUNTRIES!"
87	<p>Juliet is talking to Harlowe and says, "SHE KNEW THE NAME MEANT SOMETHING AWFUL. AND SHE STILL SUPPORTED IT (banana republic)."</p> <p>Harlowe replies, "WE'RE ALL COMPLICIT IN THIS FUCKED-UP SYSTEM. DOESN'T MAKE IT RIGHT, BUT IT'S TRUE."</p> <p>...Harlowe says, "NO, FUCK THAT OLD WHITE COLONIZER SUIT SHOP. BOYCOTT THEM FOREVER."</p>
88	Juliet is saying, "AND THE RESEARCH HAS BEEN INTENSE. LEARNING ABOUT LOLITA LEBRON, U.S. IMPERIALISM, COLONIZATION. PRONOUNS, SOY MILK. IT'S A LOT."
89	The illustration on the middle-left side of the page depicts a zoomed in view of Harlowe's waist as she carries a notebook and a smoking marijuana joint in her hand.
91	The illustration on the top-left side of the page depicts a young man with a bow tie and make up. The words on the bottom of the picture read: Maxine, 37, She/They, Womanist Theologian, All Around Dream Human.
92	The illustrations on the middle of the page and the bottom-right side of the page depict Harlowe with a marijuana joint in her mouth.
93	<p>The illustrations on the top-left side, top-right side, and middle of the page depicts Harlowe with a marijuana joint in her mouth.</p> <p>Juliet is talking to Harlowe and Maxine saying, "Y'ALL WERE POLYGAMISTS?!"</p> <p>Maxine replies, "THAT WAS US, JUST TWO TEENAGE POLYGAMISTS IN A BIKINI KILL MOSH PIT."</p>
94	The illustration on the middle-left side of the page depicts Harlowe with a marijuana joint in her mouth.
96	<p>The illustration on the top-right side of the page depicts Harlowe with a lit marijuana joint between two fingers.</p> <p>Maxine is talking to Juliet saying, "THE ONLY THING THAT'S BLASPHEMOUS IS HOW THEY SEPARATE US FROM THE DIVINE. MY GOD IS BLACK. QUEER. A SYMPHONY OF MASCULINE AND FEMININE. AND YOU GET TO DECIDE WHAT YOU BELIEVE AND HOW YOU WORSHIP YOURSELF."</p>
97	Maxine is speaking to Juliet saying, "YOU GOTTA BELIEVE IN MARRIAGE TO BE A POLYGAMIST."
99	"ASHE. I'M ZAIRA: HEALER, WRITER, WOMANIST, AND PROUD QUEER BLACK FEMME. I AM THE FOUNDER OF BLACK WOMANISTS UNITED, AND I'M SO EXCITED TO DIVE INTO OCTAVIA BUTLER'S LEGACY AND MANIFEST NEW FUTURES! WE'LL WRITE IN GROUPS AND SHARE OUT. REMEMBER, THIS SPACE CENTERS BLACK WOMEN & FEMMES AND WOMEN OF COLOR. SO PLEASE, WHITE ALLIES, LISTEN MORE THAN YOU SPEAK."
99	MOM RAISED ME TO BEHAVE, DO WHAT I WAS TOLD. DON'T TALK BACK TO YOUR

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	TEACHERS. SOMEHOW THAT ALSO INCLUDED WHITE PEOPLE.
102	Two light-skinned young women are talking to each other. One of the women is saying, "SO LIKE, I LOVED THE WORKSHOP BUT LIKE I DON'T GET WHY IT HAS TO BE 'BLACK AND BROWN' WRITERS WORKSHOP, LIKE WE'RE ALL WRITERS." The other young woman replies, "YA, SAME. IT'S KINDA LIKE REVERSE RACISM." ...Harlowe says to one of the young women, "LISTEN UP, FELLOW WHITES! THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS REVERSE RACISM. WOMEN OF COLOR GET TO CENTER THEMSELVES HERE AND FOR ONCE BE IMPORTANT, YA KNOW!"
105	Maxine is talking to Juliet and saying, "HEARING HARLOWE SAY 'AND FOR ONCE BE IMPORTANT' REMINDED ME OF WHY WE BROKE UP. SHE JUST CAN'T SHAKE HER COLONIZER MINDSET."
106	Maxine is saying, "YOU LOOK AT HER THE WAY I USED TO, AND IT WORRIES ME. AND WHETHER IT'S HARLOWE, YOUR GIRLFRIEND LAINIE, OR THOSE WHITE GIRLS AT THE READING, YOU GOTTA HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE." ...MOM RAISED ME TO BEHAVE, DO WHAT I WAS TOLD. DON'T TALK BACK TO YOUR TEACHERS. SOMEHOW THAT ALSO INCLUDED WHITE PEOPLE.
107	LESBIAN. BLITIS. DYKE. WHY DIDN'T WORDS FOR GAY WOMEN EVER SOUND BEAUTIFU? AND WERE THESE DAUGHTERS ALL WHITE? WOULD I HAVE BEEN ALLOWED IN? ARE THERE EVEN ANY GAY LATINAS IN HISTORY ANYWHERE?
117	The illustration on the top-right side of the page depicts a nude Juliet from the backside. Her nude buttocks is exposed.
125	Maxine is talking to Juliet saying, "LOOK, IT COULD GO FINE, OR SHE COULD GO PEAK-WHITE-LADY MELTDOWN ON YOU, ON ALL OF US."
129	"FEMINISM BRINGS ALL OUR VOICES TOGETHER. BLACK, TRANS, QUEER, WHITE, POOR. WE ARE ALL ONE."
130	"THANKS HARLOWE! I'LL MAKE SURE TO SPREAD THE FOLDS OF MY LABIA!" ..."SO RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW, LAY OUT A CLEAR LIST OF WAYS YOU ARE STEPPING BACK AND DOING WORK FOR BLACK AND BROWN QUEER WOMEN, FEMMES, AND NONBINARY PEOPLE. I'VE GOT ALL THE TIME TONIGHT." ..."TO AN IMPOVERISHED, INNER-CITY, QUEER LATINA! SAVING HER FROM BULLETS AND VIOLENCE. IT'S ALL DUE TO RAGING FLOWER!"
135	"YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG. LIKE, I'M HALF-WHITE, HALF-KOREAN AND MY WHITE MOM...DOESN'T EVEN THINK RACISM EXISTS."
136	The illustration on the bottom-right side of the page depicts Juliet, nude from behind with her buttocks exposed as she is stepping into a bathtub.
137	The illustration on the top-right side of the page depicts a nude woman's torso. Her hair is covering her nipples. Text on the top of the image reads: I ASKED HER TO JOIN ME SO WE COULD BE NAKED AND FREE. CUZ I WANTED HER CLOSE. The illustration on the middle-left side of the page depicts Juliet and another woman, nude in a shower. They are depicted in a profile view. The other woman is talking to Juliet saying, "CAN I TOUCH YOU HERE? KISS YOU LIKE THIS?" The illustration in the middle of the page depicts a zommed in view of a female's

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	<p>torso and waist from a frontal view. The nipples are obscured from view. There are hands rubbing the woman's abdomen.</p> <p>The illustration on the middle-right side of the page depicts Juliet and another woman. The other woman is standing behind Juliet with her arm wrapped around Juliet's chest.</p> <p>The illustration on the bottom of the page depicts the same two women described above. They are kissing in the shower. The words on the image read: TELL ME WHAT YOU LIKE. IF YOU WANT ME TO STOP. I GAVE KIRA ALL THE CONSENT. ALL OF ME. <i>See Figure 2.</i></p>
138	<p>The illustration on the bottom-left side of the page depicts a zoomed in view of a woman with her mouth over another woman's pelvis. There are hearts in the background.</p> <p>The illustration on the bottom-right side of the page depicts Juliet and the other woman lying on a bed, nude with their bodies pressed together in an embrace. <i>See Figure 3.</i></p>
144	<p>"SO GLAD YOU'RE GETTING LAID, BTW. AND FUCKKKKK HARLOWE." ..."EHH NO ME JODA, JULIET. HOW COULD YOU READ THAT HOLIER-THAN-THOU, WHITE-PUSSY-FEMINISM BULLSHIT BOOK AND LOOK UP TO HER?"</p>
147	<p>"FIRST, IF I'M ANYTHING, IT'S BI. AND MAYBE LET'S REVIEW SOME TERMS AND PHRASES CUZ I NEED TO BE ABLE TO TAKE YOU PLACES..." Dyke. Ace. Poly. Bottom. Top. Femme. Gender. Trans.</p>
148	<p>"OK, SO GENDER IS IN YOUR HEART, AND SEX IS WHAT PARTS YOU'VE GOT?" ..."GENDER IS A TRIP. LIMITLESS LIKE THE UNIVERS."</p>
156	<p>"WASSUP, ME GENTE? IT'S ME, YOUR FRIKITONA LUZ ANGEL. I'M QUEER. CUBAN. AND TRANS AF. MY FELLOW TRANS SISTERS, WE ARE HERE! AND WE DON'T EVER FORGET THE ONES WE'VE LOST. ME AND THE CLIPPER QUEERZ WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO THIS PARTY, THIS QTPOC KIKI. WE WILL NEVER ASSIMILATE. MAY WE RIOT IN THE NAME OF MARSHA AND SYLVIA PAR SEIMPRE!"</p>
158	<p>"GO GET YOUR NO-JUSTICE-NO-PEACE LOVE, PRIMA."</p>
166	<p>The illustration on the bottom-left side of the page depicts a top-side view of a woman in a bra and panties. Another person's hand is inside the woman's panties. <i>See Figure 4.</i></p>
168	<p>EVEN THAT NIGHT AT POWELL'S, WHERE HARLOWE SHOWED HER WHOLE RACIST ASS.</p>
170	<p>Harlowe is talking to Juliet saying, "THAT'S JUST IT. I DON'T HAVE ANY EXCUSE. I PANICKED AND TRIED TO GET YOU TO DO MY WORK. CUZ THAT'S HOW RACISM AND WHITE LEZZIE APOLOGIST BULLSHIT WORKS."</p>

Profanity/Derogatory Term	Count
Ass	7
Bitch	7
Cunt	3
Dyke	9
Fuck	11
Piss	3
Pussy	9
Queer	16
Shit	12



Figure 1



Figure 2

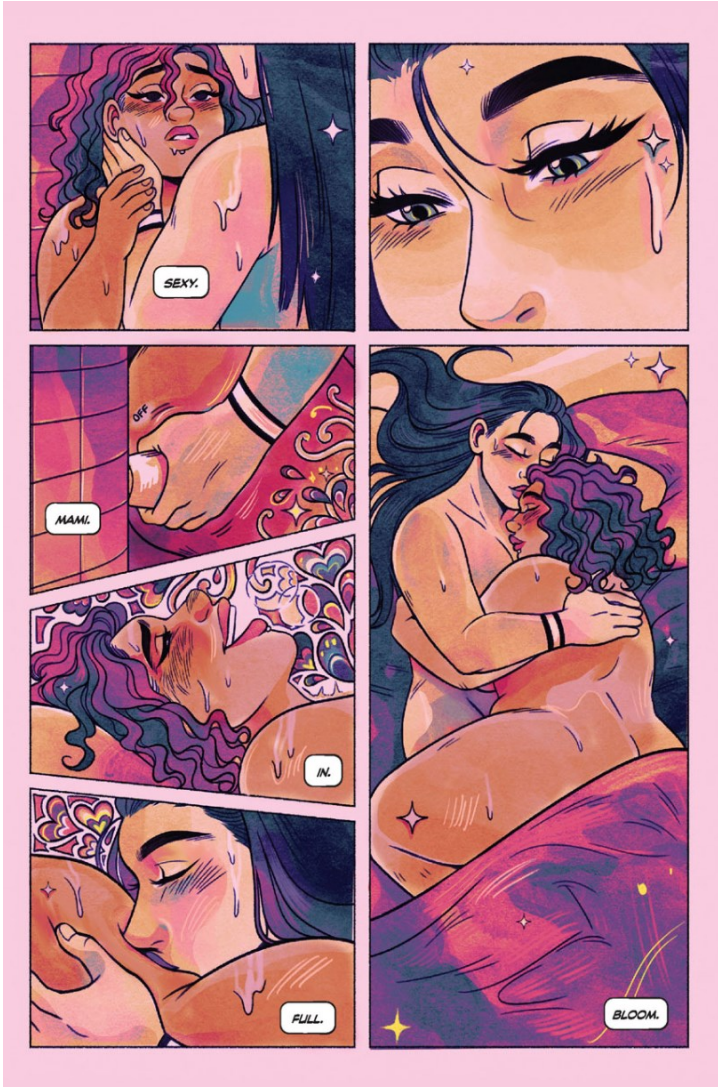


Figure 3



Figure 4