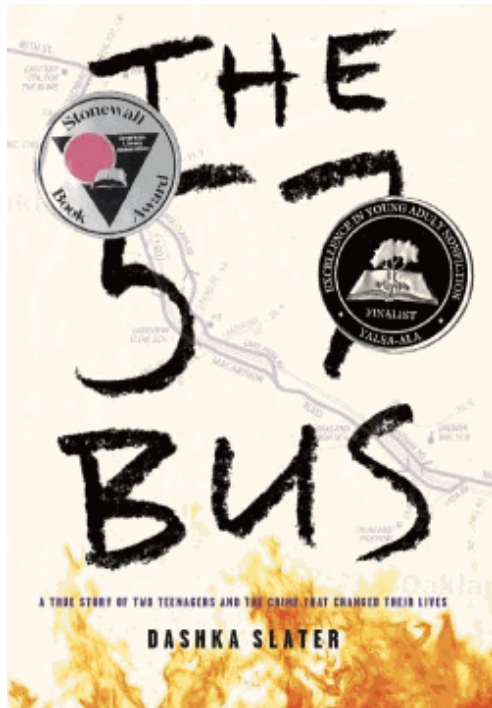


THE 57 BUS



Young Adult

By Dashka Slater

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Summary of Concerns:

The book contains references to sexuality, alternate gender ideologies, profanity and inflammatory political commentary.

2 / 5

Teen Guidance
BookLooks Review Rating

Page	Content
xiii	The pronouns and names used for gender-nonconforming people were approved by the in people in question.
4	A senior at a small private high school, the teenager identifies as agender- neither male nor female.
6	Oakland is considered one of the most diverse cities in the country. It's Asian and Latino, black and white, African, Arab, Indian, Iranian, Native American, and Pacific Islander. No one group is a majority. It has more lesbian couples per capita than any city in the nation, and one of the largest proportions of gay- and lesbian-headed households.
7	In 2013, the year Sasha was burned, Oakland ranked seventh among American cities in income and inequality- just below New York.
12	If the whole world was listening, I might just rant about a bunch of things like gender wealth inequality why school is important
15	English, on the other hand, poses a challenge for people like Sasha who don't see themselves as fitting into neat either/or categories like male or female. Sasha, like many gender-non-conforming people, wants to be referred to with the pronoun they. It might feel awkward at first, but you'll get used to it.
16	For their sixteenth birthday, Sasha asked for an accordion, a manual typewriter, a Soviet flag, and a new Rubik's Cube. They didn't know how to play the accordion, but they might have learned if they had received one, which they didn't. They didn't get the flag either, although Sasha and their friend Michael made a cardboard hammer and sickle not long afterward and hung it on Sasha's bedroom wall. At the time, they were obsessed with everything having to do with Russian and communism.
18	Citing the severity of the crime, the district attorney (the chief prosecutor of the area) will charge like male or female. Sasha, like many gender-nonconforming people, wants to be referred to with the pronoun they. It might feel awkward at first, but you'll get used to it.
20	Back then, Sasha was called Luke and they were referred to as he.
24	One day Samantha told the therapist about a video she'd seen on YouTube. Two young women stood back-to-back performing a slam poem called "Hir," rotating to face the mic as they gave voice to a girl named Melissa and the boy inside her named James. Sometimes she wishes she could rip the skin off her back, Every moment of every day she feels trapped in the flesh of a stranger. Watching it, Samantha felt something chime inside her- a bell vibrating in resonance. Before puberty, her physical body didn't seem to have that much to do with who she was. People used to mistake her for a boy, but she had felt proud to be a girl. But now being a girl was like being stuffed into a heavy, constricting costume. She could barely breathe in it. The rules of the universe were fixed: You look a certain way and so you have to act a certain way and people are going to treat you a certain way. There was no way to alter it. "I think I might be...transgender?" she whispered to her therapist the next week. "I don't think you know what transgender means," her therapist replied. The bell that had been chiming inside her fell silent. She's the expert, Samantha thought.
26	"I'm transgender."
27	Back in seventh grade, Andrew rarely spoke about gender with Sasha after that one conversation. He wouldn't tell his parents he was trans for another year. For a while he convinced himself that

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	<p>being a girl would be okay, that being trans was just too hard a life. When Sasha was in ninth grade, Andrew was their date to the Maybeck prom. He wore a bottle-green dress and bloodred lipstick, and his hair was dyed coppery orange. But it was still just a costume- the dress, the lipstick, the hair, the body. By the time he started high school in the fall, Andrew had already begun his gender transition.</p>
28	<p>HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT GENDER YOU ARE? ...“Andrew?” Sasha said. “I don’t know if this is rude or not, but I was wondering how you realized you were a guy?” “I just knew I wasn’t a girl,” Andrew explained. “I just knew that was not who I was at all.” Andrew had recently been hospitalized after contemplating suicide. Even though he’d started high school as a boy, his trans status was a topic of constant rumor and gossip. People at school kept coming up and saying awkward and nonsensical things like “I heard you got a sex transplant?” And then his mother had a psychotic episode and his grandfather died and it was just too much all at once. Now, as Sasha explained that they also were questioning their gender, Andrew felt a rush of relief, similar to the one he’d felt when he came out to Sasha.</p>
29	<p>That seemed to be true for most people. They just knew. Whether or not the appearance of their body matched the gender in their mind, there was some core understanding: my identity is this. But Sasha didn’t feel that. Didn’t feel strongly This is what I am. Didn’t feel strongly This is what I’m not. Other people seemed to have a file in their brain marked Gender. Sasha ransacked their own brain looking for the file, but it didn’t seem to be there. So what did that mean? The idea of not having a gender wasn’t frightening to Sasha, but it wasn’t a relief either. Maybe this is just a phase, Sasha thought. Maybe I’m just overthinking things. ...“For me at least, genderqueer includes an aspect of questioning,” Sasha explains. “The fact that I was questioning my gender meant that I was genderqueer.” Still, Sasha kept probing. On Facebook, they posted a status update asking, What is your preferred pronoun?</p>
30	<p>What did genderqueer even mean?</p>
30	<p>Sasha explained that there were other choices besides he and she, choices like it, or they, or more recently invented gender-neutral pronouns like ne, ve, and ze or xe. Listening, it became clear to Karl that this was a topic Sasha had been thinking about a lot. Not long afterward, Sasha was talking with their parents about someone they’d met online who identified as genderqueer. “Are you genderqueer?” asked Debbie, Sasha’s mother. “Yeah,” Sasha said. That was the extent of the conversation. But that night, Sasha posted on Google +: Just came out as genderqueer to my parents. Basically, I don’t identify as masculine or feminine. Reading the post, and the congratulatory comments that followed it, Debbie and Karl were left scratching their heads. Apparently something big had just happened, but they weren’t entirely sure what it was. What did genderqueer even mean?</p>
31	<p>GENDERQUEER</p>
31	<p>I understand coming out as gay or even trans, but this is harder for me to understand.”</p>
32	<p>Debbie’s mind kept going to the sex part. Who did Sasha want to sleep with? After Sasha announced they were genderqueer, she asked for clarification. “Who are you attracted to? Do you have sexual feelings for men?”</p>

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	<p>But that wasn't the issue for Sasha. They weren't all that interested in having sex with anyone, actually. And anyway, terms like homosexual or heterosexual made no sense if you didn't identify as one gender or another.</p> <p>Most of us see gender and sexuality and romance as one big interconnected tangle of feelings—this is who I am, this is who I'm attracted to, this is who I love. But as Sasha began exploring the topic online, they found that some people had developed language for combing the tangle into individual strands.</p> <p>In these online conversations, the word sex referred purely to biology—the chromosomes, organs, and anatomy that define male and female from the outside. Gender was the word for what people felt about themselves, how they felt inside. Sexuality was the category for who you were physically attracted to. Romantic was the category for who you felt romantic attraction to. And there was a whole array of distinctions within each category as well. It was like a gigantic menu, with columns and columns of choices.</p>
33	<p>GENDER, SEX, SEXUALITY, ROMANCE: SOME TERMS</p> <p>Because language is evolving rapidly, and because different people have different preferences, always adopt the language individuals use about themselves, even if it differs from what's here.</p> <p>TERMS FOR GENDER AND SEX</p> <p>agender/ neutrois—Doesn't identify as any gender.</p> <p>androgynous—Identifies as a third gender that blends male and female characteristics.</p> <p>bigender/ gender fluid—Sometimes identifies as male and sometimes as female.</p> <p>cis/ cisgender—The opposite of transgender; gender matches their birth sex.</p> <p>gender questioning—Is unsure about where they belong on the gender spectrum.</p> <p>genderqueer/ nonbinary—Gender identity doesn't fit neatly into male/ female categories.</p> <p>intersex—Born with sexual anatomy, organs, or chromosomes that don't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male. Replaces the outdated and offensive term hermaphrodite.</p> <p>trans/ transgender—Feels their gender is different from their birth sex, whether or not they have physically changed their body or outward presentation. A transgender man is someone who currently identifies as male. A transgender woman is someone who currently identifies as female.</p> <p>TERMS FOR SEXUALITY</p> <p>asexual—Not physically attracted to anyone.</p> <p>bisexual—Physically attracted to both men and women.</p> <p>cupiosexual—Doesn't feel sexual attraction, but is still interested in sex.</p> <p>graysexual—Mostly doesn't feel sexual attraction but does occasionally.</p> <p>heterosexual—Physically attracted to people of the opposite gender.</p> <p>homosexual—Physically attracted to people of the same gender.</p> <p>pansexual—Physically attracted to people across the gender spectrum.</p> <p>TERMS FOR ROMANTIC INCLINATION</p> <p>aromantic—Not romantically attracted to anyone.</p> <p>biromantic—Romantically attracted to both men and women.</p> <p>cupioromantic—Doesn't feel romantic attraction, but is still interested in romance.</p> <p>heteroromantic—Romantically attracted to people of the opposite gender.</p> <p>homoromantic—Romantically attracted to people of the same gender.</p> <p>panromantic—Romantically attracted to people across the gender spectrum.</p> <p>quioromantic—Doesn't understand the difference between romantic and platonic love.</p> <p>SASHA'S TERMS</p> <p>In the end, these were the terms Sasha felt described them best:</p> <p>Agender.</p>

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	<p>Gray-cupiosexual. Quoiromantic.</p>
37	<p>Discovering the existence of genderqueer identity felt like discovering a secret room. All this time there had been just two rooms: male and female. Now it turned out there was another room— one that could be furnished however you wanted. The more time Sasha spent in this room, the more comfortable it felt. But the person who lived in this new room still had a boy’s name—Luke. By the second half of sophomore year, that name clearly no longer fit.</p> <p>One afternoon, when Andrew was hanging out at Sasha’s house, the two of them began looking at unisex names on Wikipedia.</p> <p>Jamie. Shannon. Taylor. Fran. Jackie. Kris. Bobby. Kai. Parker. Quinn. Sasha.</p> <p>Sasha was the Russian nickname for both Alexandra and Alexander, which was Sasha’s middle name. And Sasha was crazy about all things Russian. The name was perfect.</p>
38	<p>He remembers his thought process going like this: Okay, not male. Okay, not female. So, neither? Okay. “That was the process and it took ten seconds,” he says. “Then it was over.” “I just rolled with the fact that Sasha was agender,” Teah says.</p>
38	<p>That spring, Sasha wrote a piece for the Maybeck school zine, The Pineapple, about their exploration of gender. They used their new name as the byline.</p> <p>...Ian has two moms, so he was pretty comfortable with LGBTQ stuff. He remembers his thought process going like this: Okay, not male. Okay, not female. So, neither? Okay.</p> <p>...At another school, a student who stepped outside the usual gender categories might have been the topic of gossip or debate or at least a few raised eyebrows. But Maybeck’s small student body already included one student who was agender and two who were transgender.</p> <p>“Multiple people would come out and you’d be like, okay, they’re this and they use this name and this pronoun now,” says Sasha’s friend Carrie. “I mean, like, not everyone was good at it, but the people who were friends with trans people were.”</p> <p>...And more and more, the pronoun he felt wrong.</p> <p>“I don’t want for people to think of me as a he, and when they say he, not only does it reinforce in their brains that I am a he, it also reinforces it in the brains of the people who are listening,” Sasha explains. “It doesn’t really directly affect me, at least to hear it—it’s more like, Huh, that’s not right. And when people use the right pronouns, when they use they or another gender-neutral pronoun, it feels validating.”</p>
40	<p>Sometimes, Debbie felt as she stood at the gas station, the whole nonbinary thing was a pain in the ass.</p> <p>...But Sasha had surveyed the options- Men and Women- and walked back to the car.</p> <p>“There’s no bathroom for me,” they said, climbing into the backseat.</p>
43	<p>This was before they started thinking about gender, when dressing up as a girl was just a gag that the whole school was taking part in, everyone, regardless of orientation, clothed in exaggerated masculine or feminine costumes.</p> <p>...“I don’t have any feminine clothes,” they complained. Sasha had been identifying as agender for almost a year by now, but they still dressed the same as they always had—like a boy.</p>
44	<p>Transgender people are the victims of an astonishing amount of violence. One out of every four trans people has experienced a bias-driven assault, and the numbers are higher for trans women, trans people of color, and people who identify as neither male nor female. Of the 860 nonbinary</p>

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	people who responded to the 2008 National Transgender Discrimination Survey, 32 percent had been physically assaulted.
45	One day at a bus stop, an older woman approached Sasha. “Why are you wearing a skirt?” she demanded. “You’re not a girl!” “I’m wearing a skirt because I like wearing skirts,” Sasha replied.
46	“Hey, I like your legs!” A truck slowed down to roll behind him. Heartbeat louder now, his chest a megaphone. A side-eye peep: three young guys in a pickup. One leaned out the window. “Let me suck your prick.”
47	He didn’t bother ruminating on why he’d been singled out, why the men had assumed he was gay.
48	One day in March of junior year, Sasha mounted the semicircular stage and announced three things: 1. I’m Sasha and I identify as agender. 2. It’s important to respect people’s preferred pronouns and if you’re not sure what those are, you should ask. 3. I’m petitioning the White House to recognize nonbinary gender. Anyone can start a petition on the We the People website at Whitehouse.gov , requesting that the federal government address a problem or change a policy. If a petition gets enough signatures within a thirty-day window, the White House will issue an official response. Sasha’s petition read as follows: Legal documents in the United States only recognize “male” and “female” as genders, leaving anyone who does not identify as one of these two genders with no option. Australia and New Zealand both allow an X in place of an M or an F on passports for this purpose, and the UK recognizes ‘Mx’ (pronounced “Mix”) as a gender-neutral title. This petition asks the Obama administration to legally recognize genders outside of the male-female binary, and provide an option for these genders on all legal documents and records.
50	As they boxed up books and folders and unpinned words from the word wall, Sasha noticed the pair of clipboards parents used to sign out their kids at the end of the day. One clipboard was marked Girls. The other was marked Boys. “What about the kids who aren’t either one?” Sasha asked. “Which clipboard do they go on?”
51	Three years later, Karl’s classroom included a boy who sometimes liked to dress as a princess and a girl who talked about maybe being a boy someday. “Turned out, Sasha was right,” Karl said. “Kindergartners don’t want to be pigeonholed.”
55	The two of them were talking to filmmaker Lonny Shavelson, who was making a documentary film about nonbinary gender called Three to Infinity. Nemo identifies as gender fluid. “To me gender fluid means I have the potential to be anything, any gender at any time,” Nemo explained. “I can be male, female, masculine, feminine, neither, both.” Like Sasha, Nemo uses they/ them pronouns.
56	“Cuddling and kissing and stuff,” Nemo added. “But it’s not romantic. It’s also nonsexual. It’s like, take a regular relationship and instead of kissing, put cuddling and stuff like that. And instead of ‘I love you’s’ it’s like, ‘You’re the greatest.’” ...“And I’m asexual, so I don’t do sexual relationships,” Nemo said.
61	The smell that is the lemon-pine-disinfectant of just-mopped floors, that is new jeans still chemical-scented, pencil shavings, sweat, fryer grease, body spray, reeking bathrooms, weed smoke, morning breath—

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64	There was a security guard posted at the front gate to keep the craziness out, but there was plenty of craziness to be found inside. Some of it you had to look for, but some of it was hard to ignore—a girl trying to slit her wrists in the bathroom, a fight in the hallway, students shouting, running, sobbing, rumors about who got shot and who hooked up, who was looking for whom and what they'd say when they found them.
65	And then you were part of the other one-third, hanging in the hallways instead of going to class, or just drifting away altogether, away from school, away from that march across the stage, into a future that was as hazy as weed smoke.
69	Kaprice Wilson came of age in East Oakland in the 1980s, when crack cocaine was just hitting the streets. For users, crack meant poverty—whole lives stripped down like a stolen car, the parts sold off to pay for their next hit. But for dope dealers, crack meant power and respect, fat wads of paper money, gold chains and gaudy jewelry, fancy cars.
71	69vill was led by Felix Mitchell, who controlled much of the West Coast heroin market. ...Violence skyrocketed after Mitchell's death as other gangsters battled for a piece of his turf as well as the increasingly lucrative crack trade. Year by year, the number of murders climbed steadily—from 114 in 1987 to 165 in 1992. The corpses weren't evenly distributed throughout the city, though. They were clustered on the east and west sides of town. East Oakland in particular was awash in crack, blood, and bullets.
72	He drank too much, smoked too much weed. He began dressing like he was a blue-collar worker—jackets from UPS and Home Depot, a back brace like he had a job in a warehouse.
73	Put a little gate around them so they wouldn't get trampled by the customers going to the house next door to buy drugs. ...Which is why he had to say something when he saw one of those drug customers take a shortcut across the garden. ..."I don't give a fuck about them flowers," the guy said. He didn't know who Lil' Jerry was. Just some guy in a puffy jacket. "Why you got to be like that? Just respect her flowers." Now it was a challenge. "Fuck them flowers," the guy said. "I'ma come back and shoot this shit up."
77	Richard's mother, Jasmine was already four and a half months pregnant when her grandmother took her to the doctor to get checked. She was fourteen years old and had been dating a boy two years older. He was the one who figured out she was pregnant- she hadn't known enough to make sense of the changes happening to her body. It was too late for an abortion, but Jasmine figured she was prepared to raise a child.
90	What is that, someone queried. Tre eight, Skeet wrote, meaning that it was a .38-caliber revolver, but this old b4 I wen tto jail. U out foe good? To myself yeah but to the polce they wantt a nigga. He'd run away from the group home and was back in Oakland. The day before he posted the gun photo, he'd posted a photo of himself with a bottle of cognac and a bottle of cough syrup. Got my syrup and my Remy now its a good day. Now he posted a picture of himself drinking straight from the bottle. Big Boi Drinking. That was his last Facebook post.
121	"Don't you have anything to keep him warm?" Debbie asked the cops, forgetting all about Sasha's pronouns.

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122	“They did it because he was wearing a skirt!” Debbie sobbed.
139	<p>Then he described getting on the bus and how there was a man on the bus wearing a skirt. He’d just gotten off the 57 bus to get the express bus, he said, when he heard screams and ran back. When they opened the door to the bus, he saw that the man’s skirt was on fire.</p> <p>“What do you think about dudes who dress up in skirts?” Jones asked.</p> <p>“I’m not with that,” Richard said. “I wouldn’t say that I hate gay people, but I’m very homophobic.”</p> <p>Jones nodded. “Okay. Why would you call yourself homophobic?”</p> <p>“I don’t have no problem with somebody if they like men. But like if you do too much? Nobody cares, really.”</p> <p>“Do too much?”</p> <p>“Taking it to the next level,” Richard explained.</p> <p>Jones asked for an example of the next level.</p> <p>“Cross-dressing and like—some people, like they try to make everybody know that they are that and they try to do too much and—it’s just a lot.”</p>
143	<p>“I’m homophobic,” Richard said at last. “I don’t like gay people.”</p> <p>...“I know you said you didn’t know what was going through your mind,” Officer Jones said. “But did you get angry because he’s a gay dude in a skirt, not just being gay but ‘doing too much?’”</p> <p>...But it was too late to backpedal. On the charging documents, Officer Jones wrote in block capitals, DURING SUSP INTERVIEW, THE SUSP STATED HE DID IT BECAUSE HE WAS HOMOPHOBIC.</p>
145	<p>“My son considers himself agender,” she said. “He likes to wear a skirt. It’s his statement. That’s how he feels comfortable dressing.”</p> <p>It wasn’t until later that she realized she’d gotten the pronouns wrong.</p>
156	He actually said he’s homophobic. He giggled.
164	<p>A 2012 analysis by California’s Department of Justice found that cases against black youths were more than twice as likely to be directly filed in adult court than cases against white youths, and cases against Latino youths were more than six times as likely. And the disparity didn’t end there. Once they landed in adult court, young black and brown offenders were also much more likely to serve time. Just one-third of white youths were sentenced to adult or juvenile state correctional facilities in 2012, while two-thirds were given probation or sentenced to serve time in county jails. For kids of color, the ratios were reversed—two-thirds served time in state facilities, while one-third received probation or jail. Nationally, 58 percent of all incarcerated African American youths are serving their time in adult prisons.</p>
170	<p>Even someone who isn’t sure what they think about hiring people who are black, gay, or transgender can feel the essential wrongness of hurting someone because they are black, gay, or transgender. By revealing the raw ugliness at the heart of prejudice, high-profile hate-crime prosecutions have helped build empathy for people on the margins. Perhaps the most high-profile hate-crime prosecutions in Alameda County history were against four men who murdered a transgender teenager named Gwen Araujo in 2002, after discovering her biological sex. In the wake of that case, California’s state legislature passed the Gwen Araujo Justice for Victims Act, which allows juries to be instructed before they begin deliberations that they should not allow themselves to be influenced by bias against the gender identity of the victim, defendant, or witnesses.</p>
188	<p>He also offered language for explaining Sasha’s gender identity:</p> <p>Being agender simply means that the person doesn’t feel they are “either a boy or a girl.” I realize</p>

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	<p>this is a concept that even adults have difficulty wrapping their heads around. (My wife and I frequently slip up in our pronoun usage, much to Sasha’s chagrin!) So I can’t pretend that it’s an issue that all young children will grasp.</p>
189	<p>Richard’s extended family showed up for his second court appearance, on November 15, including Jasmine’s cousin Regis, who is gay. Tall, attractive, and androgynous, Regis didn’t talk to the press. But his presence was a statement in itself—I’m here, I’m queer, and I support my cousin. Inside the courtroom, reporters discussed the best terms to use when describing Sasha. Gender fluid? Genderqueer? Gender nonconforming? Agender? “I just say he was wearing a skirt,” one reporter offered. He gave a weary shrug. “The terms change all the time.”</p>
190	<p>Bois said when he asked Richard for a definition, Richard had said that it meant he wasn’t gay, that he liked girls. ...He argued that the views Richard expressed in the police interview were nothing more sinister than a kid being weirded out by the sight of a boy in a skirt. “They’re putting him in the category of skinhead because he admitted to being homophobic. To being ‘very homophobic.’ And they’re saying, ‘We take that as true.’” He bugged out his eyes and dropped his jaw to indicate how absurd this was. “Lynchings—they’re hate crimes,” he said. “But the kid who thinks that [wearing a skirt] is anomalous and decides to play a prank is not committing a hate crime.”</p>
197	<p>Like, ‘Oh yeah, he gay, he hecka gay, let’s burn him.’</p>
202	<p>Conversation turned to a case that was in the news—Donald Williams Jr., an African American freshman at San Jose State University, had been relentlessly bullied by the white students he lived with in a four-bedroom dormitory suite. The white kids, also freshmen, had insisted on calling Williams “three-fifths,” a reference to the clause in the original US Constitution that counted slaves as three-fifths of a person when determining population for representation in Congress. They clamped a bike lock around his neck and claimed to have lost the key. They wrote Nigger on a whiteboard and draped a Confederate flag over a cardboard cutout of Elvis Presley in the suite’s living room. They locked him in his room. And they claimed it was all just a series of good-natured pranks.</p>
204	<p>“I got the idea that it wasn’t really about me being agender,” they said. “A lot of the news coverage was, ‘A boy was wearing a skirt.’ Rather than, ‘An agender person was wearing a skirt.’ And that kind of bugged me, that I was being misrepresented in that way.”</p>
215	<p>There are two kinds of people in the world. Male and Female. Gay and Straight. Black and White. Normal and Weird. Cis and Trans. There are two kinds of people in the world. Saints and Sinners. Victims and Villains. Cruel and Kind. Guilty and Innocent. There are two kinds of people in the world. Just two.</p>

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	<p>Just two. Only two.</p>
219	<p>He liked studying the Bible, particularly the story of Job. In the story, God tests Job’s faith by killing his wife and his children and his servants, destroying his house, his animals, and all his possessions. He makes Job’s skin erupt in boils. Eventually Job is reduced to nothing but raw suffering. “How is this fair?” Job asks. “What kind of God does this to people?” At the end of the story, God comes to Job in a whirlwind to answer his questions with questions of his own. “Would you discredit my justice? Would you condemn me to justify yourself?” he asks. He asks Job if he was there when the earth was made, if he knows where light and darkness dwell, if he can bind a unicorn and make him plow the field. “Do you have an arm like God’s, and can your voice thunder like his?” “Okay,” Job says. “I see your point. God’s knowledge and power are so vast, there’s no point in questioning his choices.” For Richard, the story was a comfort.</p>
227	<p>A year after Sasha first posted their nonbinary gender petition, another petition went up on the We the People website. ...This time, the petition went viral, attracting attention from Reddit, Bustle, the Advocate, and Huffington Post. It earned 103,202 signatures and an official White House response, which said, in part, “We know how important this issue is, and we understand the profound impact, both symbolic and otherwise, of having official documents that accurately reflect an individual’s identity ... We cannot overstate the care and seriousness that should be brought to bear on the issue.” ...The government had acknowledged the existence of nonbinary gender. Who would have thought it possible?</p>
228	<p>The government had acknowledged the existence of nonbinary gender.</p>
229	<p>She had made Sasha a ball gown as a gift, using fabric donated by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, a San Francisco charity and street performance group that calls itself “a leading-edge Order of queer nuns.”</p>
233	<p>“What I want is for people to be confused about what gender I am,” Sasha explained later. That didn’t happen too often—people tended to see Sasha as male. So it was a nice change to be seen as female.</p>
236	<p>ASS SMACKING ...The kind of kid who, when the girl at the desk next to him doesn’t want to show him her binder, slaps her hard on the behind.</p>
238	<p>And of course, asking for permission had become a running joke. “Can I touch your nuts?” Pancha asked, helping herself to the bag of cashews. The others snorted.</p>
239	<p>“He’s the one who smacked my ass!” Jeff finished. ...“You’re the one who smacked my ass!” “I’m the one who smacked your ass!”</p>
248	<p>“Here, finding a bunch of queer people to be my friends isn’t very hard,” Sasha explained. “Whereas, at MIT, I’m going to have to work a little harder to seek out my people.”</p>
266	<p>Sasha was the only nonbinary person in the house, but in response to their request, the house changed the names of the gendered bathrooms—known as “heads” in a linguistic carryover from ET’s Navy days—to “men’s plus” and “women’s plus.” “Anyone who doesn’t exclusively identify as male can use the women’s head and anyone who doesn’t exclusively identify as female can use the men’s head,” Sasha explained. By this definition, Sasha could use both.</p>

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274	<p>SKIN SEARCHES</p> <p>Skin searches require you to remove your clothing. This will be conducted with maximum concern for your privacy and only peace officer or licensed medical staff of the same sex as you shall be present or participate in the search. Should you be suspected of concealing contraband in your rectal or vaginal area, a rectal or vaginal search may be conducted. This type of search will be performed by a licensed medical staff.</p>
283	<p>Sasha stood in the hallway outside Department 11, wearing a vest, button-up shirt, and bow tie paired with a long skirt and ballet flats. Over their shoulder they had slung a canvas purse decorated with pins. LGBTQ class of 2018, read one. Another said simply: they/ them/ their. They'd cut their hair short and shaved it on one side. The ends were dyed fluorescent pink.</p>
285	<p>"...We hope that there are programs in juvenile detention that can at least help Richard with this, and that he can become an ally who will stand up against the bullying and hatred of gay and trans people."</p>
289	<p>Andrew was eighteen now. His glasses were rimless at the bottom; his nose pierced at the septum. He identified as a gay man. Few people knew his trans status—he kept it on the down low.</p>
290	<p>If being a man meant always having to act confident and never being able to admit feeling sadness or self-doubt, it was just as much of a trap as being a woman was. He was happier now than he'd been before he transitioned, but he still yearned for something else, some place outside of gender.</p> <p>"Actually," he said, "I'm starting to identify a little bit as—I don't even know the word I want to use yet. I like androgynous. I like genderqueer."</p> <p>..."Because I fall neatly within the binary, I feel comfortable right now," he explained. "But if I were to radically shift my appearance in a way that was more androgynous, I don't know how comfortable that would be for me. I mean, I've already been asked enough questions about my genitals. I'm just done with that."</p>
294	<p>"Have you ever heard of a little word called they?" Sasha remarked after pulling Lunesta Sleeping Pills, a card that used he/ she pronouns (Player must play with his/ her forehead on the table). It was an old line, one that dated from when Sasha was first trying to get people to remember gender-neutral pronouns.</p>
297	<p>SOME GENDER-NEUTRALITY MILESTONES</p> <p>2007</p> <p>Nepal's Supreme Court orders the government to issue citizenship ID cards that allow people to describe themselves as "third-gender" or "other."</p> <p>2013</p> <p>Australia gives citizens a choice of three official genders: male, female, and X. Germany gives parents a choice of three gender options when filling out a newborn's birth certificate: male, female, and indeterminate.</p> <p>2014</p> <p>Facebook begins allowing users to self-identify as something other than male or female. Denmark gives its citizens the choice of three official genders: male, female, and X.</p> <p>2015</p> <p>The White House designates a gender-neutral bathroom for visitors and staff. Target announces they're removing gender-based signs from their toy and furnishings aisles. Malta and Nepal join the list of countries offering their citizens the choice of an official third gender.</p>

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	<p>The Oxford English Dictionary adds the gender-neutral prefix Mx. to its lexicon as an alternative to Mr., Ms., Mrs., and Miss. It also adds the word cisgender.</p> <p>Disney removes the gender categories from its Halloween costumes.</p> <p>The Washington Post updates its style manual to allow writers to use the pronoun they to refer to an individual, calling it “the only sensible solution to English’s lack of a gender-neutral third-person singular personal pronoun.”</p> <p>...Amiko-Gabriel Blue, a resident of Ashland, Oregon, goes to court to legally change their gender to “neutral.” The request is denied but afterward the judge tells a reporter, “I would have been happy to do it if I thought it was legal.”</p> <p>2016</p> <p>North Carolina passes the Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act, requiring people to use public bathrooms according to the biological sex on their birth certificate.</p> <p>Merriam-Webster adds the words cisgender and genderqueer to the dictionary.</p> <p>The Obama administration directs the nation’s schools to provide students with access to bathrooms and locker rooms that match their chosen gender identity.</p> <p>A retired US Army sergeant named Jamie Shupe receives permission from an Oregon court to legally change their gender to nonbinary, becoming the first US person to do so.</p> <p>2017</p> <p>After losing, according to Politifact, an estimated \$ 500 million dollars in revenue and the chance to host the 2017 NBA All-Star game, North Carolina lawmakers vote to repeal the state’s Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act, known as “the bathroom bill.” But while the replacement legislation eliminates the requirement that people use the bathroom for the gender they were assigned at birth, it keeps state legislators in charge of future bathroom policies.</p> <p>The Trump administration eliminates the Obama administration guidelines that directed schools to provide transgender students with access to bathrooms and locker rooms matching their gender identity.</p> <p>The Showtime drama Billions introduces Taylor, television’s first nonbinary character.</p> <p>The MTV Movie and TV Awards become the first major acting awards to eliminate gendered categories for performance. Emma Watson won the all-inclusive category Best Actor award, which was presented by nonbinary actor Asia Kate Dillon.</p>

Profanity	Count
Ass	8
Bitch	1
Fuck	12
Nigga	5
Prick	1
Pussy	1
Shit	8