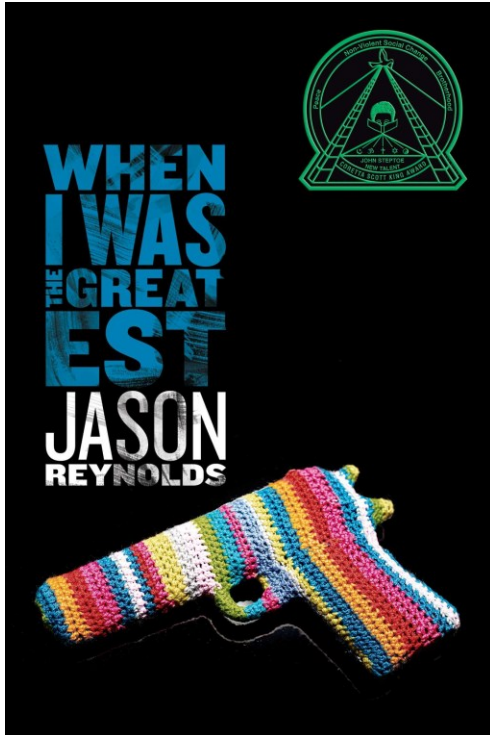


# WHEN I WAS THE GREATEST



*Young Adult*

**By Jason Reynolds**

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## Summary of Concerns:

This book contains inexplicit sexual activities; mild profanity; and violence.

**2**/**5**

**Teen Guidance**  
BookLooks Review Rating

Page	Content
4	...and she's always complaining about the reason they keep raising the rent so much around this part of Brooklyn, is because white people are moving in. ...Makes no sense, but that's what she says. I don't really see the big deal, but that might be because no white people live on my block yet.
6	All kinds of wild stuff started happening up in there, from crackheads and hookers.
17	A man walking down the street dressed like Cinderella? That's nothing. A woman with a tattoo of a pistol on her face? Who cares. So what's the big deal about syndrome? Whatever. It's in our blood to get over it, especially when you're one of our own, and by that I mean, when you live on our block.
46	...he felt like the government was substituting all the poor black kids for the rich white kids when it came to serving in the war and that getting that letter in the mail, the one that said he had been drafted, felt like he was in the game, and sucker punch the other team's star player.
67	"Because it's a party, Nood. Everybody will be partying and dancing and drinking," I cut in.
75	People on pay phones and the smell of burnt halal meat and dog mess. No white people.
119	Them bad boys were clean enough for a cop to harass me just for having them on.
124	I figured it must've been the part of the neighborhood where Doris was always talking about all the white people were moving into. Gotta be.
132	Sidenote: There was no bartender, and I didn't see no strippers, neither. I mean, pretty girls, yeah, but not strippers.
133	She was sipping something pink. I think it was the punch they had on the table. I heard someone call it "loose juice," so I guessed it was spiked.
136	<p>I moved my hands up around her waist and rested my chin on her neck like a professional. I mean, I've grinded before at other parties, but never with no grown woman at a MoMo party.</p> <p>I could not believe this was happening. I didn't even have to sneak a feel. She took my hands and put them on her thighs and everywhere, and the whole time I'm trying to keep cool and not be fifteen. I kissed her neck. Just a nibble. I don't know where it came from, but it seemed like the right thing to do. She didn't say anything, so I kept doing it.</p> <p>...She didn't close the door. She just threw herself on me, wrapping her arms around my neck and kissing me.</p> <p>...I mean, I had made out with girls, but something told me we were going to be doing more than kissing and touching and stuff. I wasn't really ready to go all the way. I had never done it before.</p> <p>...It seemed like Candace was kissing me forever. I laid back on the bed, and she got right on top of me. She kissed me hard...</p> <p>...Then she leaned up again and tried to undo my belt, and I know I should've been crazy amped, and let me tell you, part of me was, but another part of me was thinking this girl didn't even really know me.</p> <p>...When she pulled her hand out, she was holding a condom.</p> <p>...Candace stared right at me while pulling her tank top over her head.</p>

Page	Content
	...She reached for my belt again, and as soon as she got it undone, someone came running down the hall screaming.
158	We had to move to this crappy apartment, with crackheads running around upstairs.
167	"Man, I can't snitch," I said, tough.
170	"...Some guys were trying to chump him. So then Needles comes over to see what's going on and ends up stabbing one of the dudes with one of his knitting needles."
214	...and John was going to shoot somebody and wind up in jail. Again.
226	I could tell he was uncomfortable, and it instantly reminded me of the first day I met him on that stoop, and how embarrassed he was that he lived in a slum house, a place everybody knew junkies and hookers hung out at.

Profanity	Count
Ass	3
Piss	3
Shit	2