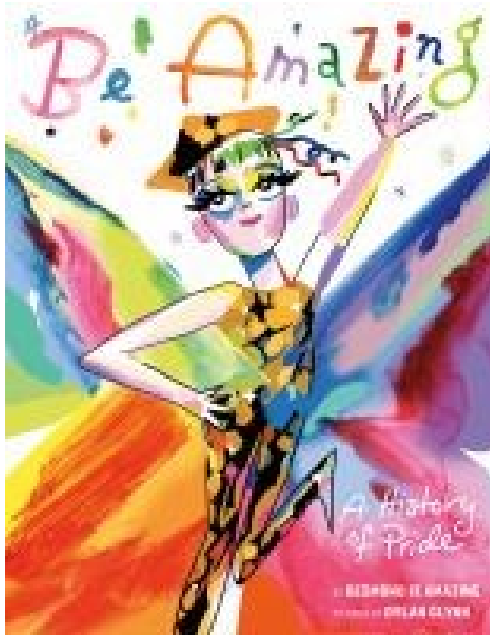


BE AMAZING: A HISTORY OF PRIDE



Juvenile

By Desmond is Amazing

ISBN: 978-0374312589

Book Summary:

This book teaches very young children about LGBTQ culture and dressing in drag, via Desmond is Amazing's lived celebrity experiences.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains inexplicit references to sexuality and alternate gender ideologies.

2 / 5

Teen Guidance
BookLooks Review Rating

Page	Content
2	<p>Hi! My name is Desmond. I'm a drag kid and LGBTQ advocate. LGBTQ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer.</p> <p>I live in New York City, where I like to play video games, read, sing, collect toy trains, dance, and model. I enjoy going to school and have many friends.</p> <p>When I'm not being just Desmond, I like to dress up as characters of a different gender. This is called drag. My drag persona is 'Desmond is Amazing'. My motto is: Be yourself always. I can be myself thanks to my parents, who let me be me...</p>
3	<p>...and thanks to the very brave people who fought to make it okay for me, or anyone like me, to be whoever we want to be.</p>
5	<p>I'm lucky because most people accept me for who I am. In fact, lots of people think I'm pretty amazing.</p>
7	<p>The Stonewall Inn was one of the few safe spaces for LGBTQ people in New York City. However, the Stonewall Inn and other places like it were often raided and shut down by the police as a way to bully the LGBTQ community.</p>
9	<p>We look back on those who took a stand at the Stonewall Riots as heroes who should be celebrated for giving LGBTQ people, like me, the freedoms we enjoy today.</p>
12	<p>One of these heroes was Marsha P. Johnson. She was an African American drag artist, model, and LGBTQ activist. Marsha was born Malcolm Michaels, Jr., on August 24, 1945, in New Jersey. She enjoyed wearing dresses starting at age five, but her family had difficulty accepting her for who she was. Marsha moved to New York City on her own after high school. Although Marsha was often homeless and struggling, she was known for being bold, outspoken, and optimistic. When asked what the 'P' in her name stood for, she would always reply, 'Pay it no mind.' Marsha's goal was 'to see gay people liberated and free and to have equal rights that other people have in America.</p>
14	<p>The illustration on this page depicts a banner in front of two people. The banner reads: POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS</p>
15	<p>On June 28, 1970, the Christopher Street Liberation Day March was held in New York City to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. It was the first LGBTQ Pride event in the United States. Thousands of people gathered together and marched uptown on Sixth Avenue, ending with a 'Gay-In' in Central Park's Sheep Meadow. The official slogan for the event became 'Pride.' L. Craig Schoonmaker, a member of the march's planning committee, said, 'A lot of people were very repressed, they were conflicted internally, and didn't know how to come out and be proud. That's how the movement was most useful, because they thought, 'Maybe I should be proud.</p>
17	<p>In June 2015, I attended New York City's Pride March for the first time. I took my time choosing the perfect outfit to wear that would express my personality. I was overjoyed and enthusiastic when I arrived at the march. My parents were sure I would only walk a few blocks and want to quit. But I proved them wrong and danced the entire march route! I loved hearing people cheer. There were many smiles and even some happy tears. The next day, I awoke to find out that I had become a viral drag sensation.</p>

Page	Content
19	<p>I have been dressing up in skirts, dresses, and tutus ever since I first discovered drag by watching the television show RuPaul's Drag Race. I thought RuPaul and the contestants were so beautiful and amazing, just like princesses. I said, 'I want to do that!' My parents allowed me to explore dressing up and creating colorful characters, just like RuPaul.</p>
21	<p>RuPaul Andre Charles was born on November 17, 1960, in California. He was a drag artist, actor, singer, songwriter, model, and host of several drag-themed shows. In 2009, RuPaul began producing the television show RuPaul's Drag Race, where drag artists compete in wacky challenges to be crowned the 'Next Drag Superstar.' Unlike Sylvia Rivera, a transgender woman, RuPaul is a man who enjoys dressing up as a character in drag. It doesn't necessarily mean that he is transgender, although transgender people can also enjoy doing drag. Anyone can do drag! RuPaul has brought the art of drag and LGBTQ culture into the mainstream. He has broken boundaries of what drag looks like and what drag artists can with their performances.</p>
23	<p>I can freely be the character of Desmond is Amazing because of the hard work of generation of people in the LGBTQ community. But there is still work to be done. The next generation of LGBTQ advocates, like me, are ready to continue to fight for our rights, strive for equality, and promote acceptance.</p>
25	<p>Whether you love drag, like I do, or sports or science or art or computers or reading or math or something else no one's even heard of, everyone should be free to feel amazing, always. What makes you amazing?</p> <p>The illustration on this page contains a cartoon depiction of Desmond the Amazing dressed in drag with rainbow colored platform shoes, reading a book to a group of children sitting in front of him. A rainbow is coming out from the pages of the book he is reading to them.</p>