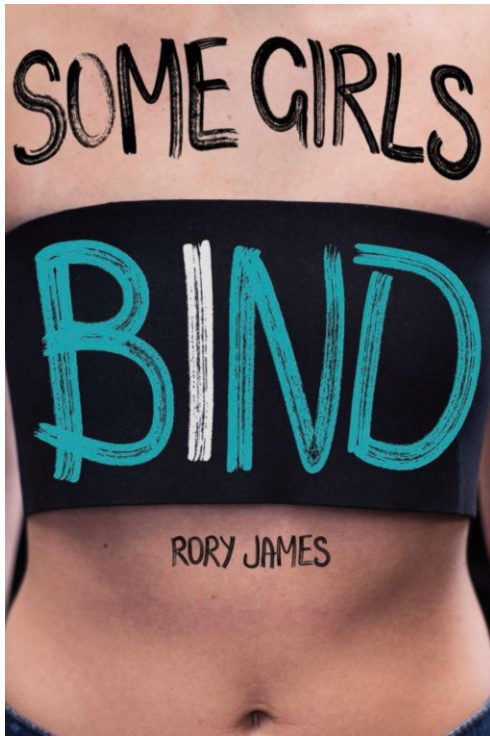


SOME GIRLS BIND



Young Adult

By Rory James

ISBN: 978538383278

Book Summary:

A teenage girl believes she is neither a girl nor a boy and decides to take measures to appear more masculine.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains explicit alternate gender ideologies; alternate sexualities; references to alcohol abuse; and mild/infrequent derogatory term use.

2 /5

Teen Guidance
BookLooks Review Rating

Page	Content
3	Levi's gay.
8	But, of course, what other teenage girl binds her chest because she's not sure she's a girl?
9	I started when I was 14. Found a once too-big (now too-tight) vest. The buttons strained over a white undershirt. I wrapped tape around the shoulders of the vest, forming thin straps not exactly hidden. No one could get too close. Couldn't run their fingers over my back. Notice the braless broad shoulders covered in the silk of a stretched vest.
12	That day, I'd curled next to my dog, toyed with the idea of binding, of my body looking more like what I expected to see in the mirror.
13	The binder, a binding family secret. So I say nothing, hide everything.
14	That it's like a corset designed to make me look boyish. That seems to suit to me.
15	Or my parents will wonder, "Why do shows now have so many queers?" Like it's a bad thing with a word they shouldn't use.
16	But binding feels so good, so right.
17	I'm not sure I'm either. When I look in the mirror, I don't see a girl and I don't see a boy. ...This is new, the idea of being neither. Of being "genderqueer."
23	"God," Nora says, but it's not a prayer. (She also says she's given up on the divine Him/Her/Them/They.)
36	What would it be to be a boy, ordering a pastry, smiling, talking, working? I feel like this should fit, but it doesn't. And the reality of being a girl doesn't either. What if this is a test and the answer is all of the above?
37	That I was right: I'm genderqueer.
43	My genderqueerness is not the same as his gayness. ...And I was told there are only men and women and I defy it.
53	"I don't think, I know that I'm not, I'm not a girl." ..."I'm also not a boy." So... "I'm genderqueer."
63	Evan and Levi walk up East Avenue, get ice cream, kiss in front of pride flags.
65	Toward two doors that are the same. No little man. No little woman. I get to choose.
66	"Why doesn't genderqueer have a letter in 'LGBT+?'" ..."Does this mean I'm gay? A lesbian?"
71	I pretend there are more like me who blend girl and boy, pink an blue, to make purple.
83	We all her them though, as they speak on gender, on genderqueerness, on being looked at twice. ...Could talk about binding like it's normal, like it's okay. Because it is.
136	"I have a friend who is transgender. He binds his chest to look more like a guy."
137	"I mean, binding's totally okay."
138	"I'm genderqueer."
141	"I'm gonna be here for about a week. Why don't I order a real binder for you? They won't see the charge. Won't open the packages for me..."

Page	Content
144	"...He said he has a trans friend that uses different pronouns that I could talk to about gender stuff!"
154	"Trans?" Mom asks. "Transgender," I manage to say, much more carefully. Steve says, "Charlie was born as a female biologically, but he identifies as male."
164	I get to know genderqueer Jamie. The binder Steve buys me is great.
165	My parents are watching the news, and there's a kid who is trans. "I don't understand," Mom says. "How could that little girl know?"
166	Here goes: "I'm genderqueer."
174	I say, "Hey, I use they/them pronouns now."
179	I wouldn't say it's easy knowing that some people would demand a gender. And that my driver's license will still say "F" where other states allow an "X." Or that so many places make me choose a restroom based on signs. Gender is still everywhere, the most popular pair since black and white.
182	Selfishly, I find another queer poet, and they too speak so casually about binding. ..."Yeah, it's really common in the community. I do it, too."
186	Some girls ask: "Hey Mom, Dad, can I have a friend over to watch Disney movies?" But that girl-space-friend isn't just a "friend." But their parents would never say "okay" if they knew that.

Derogatory Term	Count
Queer	4