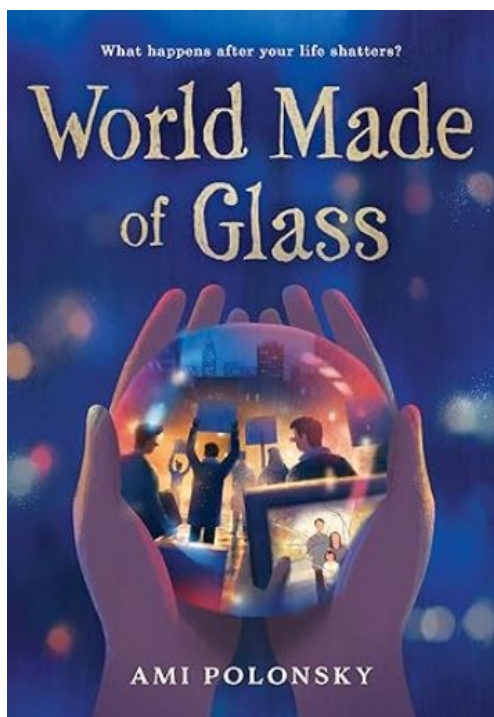


WORLD MADE OF GLASS



Juvenile

By Ami Polonsky

ISBN: 9780316462259

Book Summary:

Set in the 1980's, a young girl's father dies from AIDS complications which propels her into becoming an AIDS activist.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains alternate sexualities; inexplicit sexual activities; references to divorce; references to illegal drug use; controversial cultural commentary; and mild/infrequent profanity.

2 / 5

Teen Guidance
BookLooks Review Rating

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3	Must be because her dad is, you know... gay. In my mind, she'd whisper the last word, gay, because it was so unthinkable.
5	He caressed, and then kissed, his package of pink Hostess SnoBalls. "Significantly gullible," Will replied. "And can I point out that you're making out with your after-school snack?" he continued, grinning, as he leaned back in his chair and rested his shoes on the table next to his Charleston Chew.
6	Will was the only African American kid in our grade. Since becoming friends with him, Toby, and Mallory the year before, I'd wondered how he felt being one of the only kids at our private school who wasn't white, but that wasn't the kind of thing anyone ever talked about.
12	It had been this past September, which was near the end of Mom's angry phase and a full year after she and Dad had separated. ...As far as I knew, nobody outside of Mom, Dad, my grandparents, J.R., and their new friend Bob knew that Dad had AIDS; nobody else knew that he was dying. Sure, people knew Dad was gay and that he and Mom had gotten divorced because of it at the beginning of sixth grade, and plenty of them cared way too much about that, but that was their problem, not mine.
19	I remembered sitting at the dining room table, stunned, as Dad had explained that he'd always known he was gay, but that he'd met J.R. at work, and J.R. had helped him to finally feel okay about it.
33	"So here's the thing: For quite a while, medicines that might help treat HIV and AIDS have been circulating on the black market." He interrupted himself. "You know what I mean by the 'black market'?" "Yes," I lied defensively, imagining a dark underground cave lined with pharmacies, all painted black. In my mind, black curtains hung in their darkened windows. "Good. Yeah, so lots of people with HIV and AIDS have been trying out these drugs, experimenting with them, and talking to one another about which seem to help and which don't. Things are moving too slowly in the medical world in terms of coming up with treatments, so we—the people who are sick—have had to take matters into our own hands. Several months ago, when his symptoms started getting bad, your dad tried AZT. Before it was approved."
34	"And he tried it even though it was illegal?" I asked, looking back to Bob, who had a really important job at the hospital and didn't seem like the kind of person who would be in favor of giving anyone illegal drugs. Mom nodded.
52	"Do you know that people call AIDS the 'gay plague'?" I went on. "Is your dad gay?" he asked, tilting his head to the side. "Yes," I responded, immediately defensive. "Do you care?" "No. I mean, I care, but not in a bad way. One of my mom's best friends is gay. We haven't seen him in forever, because he lives in Colorado."
74	He swept his arm in an arc, indicating the group of people next to him. "Because we are gay." Then he said it again. "We are dying because we are gay." ...I couldn't turn off the man's voice: We are dying because we are gay. Was that true?
81	The last time I'd seen Will and Toby at school, the only thing they'd known was that Mom and Dad were divorced because Dad was gay.

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84	<p>“Fifteen percent of Americans still believe that people with HIV and AIDS should be tattooed as a means of identifying them, and many Americans are still talking about the benefits of quarantining those who are afflicted. NPR’s medical correspondent is here to weigh in on whether these measures are necessary, or if we should trust people’s self-reporting on the subject,” a woman’s voice said.</p>
109	<p>Two men in suits passed, one pointing at the protesters. “Look at those homos,” he said, laughing, and for just one second, I squeezed my eyes shut.</p>
125	<p>I’d known that it was stupid of me to not just tell the people I’d grown up with that my parents had gotten divorced. That my dad was gay.</p> <p>...</p> <p>After the field-trip incident, it had taken several days for me to tell Dad that people from school had been making fun of him because they’d found out he was gay. I think that, until then, he and Mom had just assumed that people from school had known everything about their divorce for months.</p> <p>JERKS by Iris Cohen January 10, 1986 Just as a sea lion was about to Emerge from the pool, Randy and Tara were like, “We heard your dad Kisses MEN! Hahahaha.” And I Stood there, a statue in the snow, watching them laugh.</p>
140	<p>“You’re just like your dad,” he told me, grinning, and I got the sense that, in that moment, J.R. was experiencing a few seconds of Dad not being dead; he was just existing.</p> <p>“How so?” I asked as the doors opened to the lobby. J.R. and I waved at Mason, the doorman.</p> <p>“He found peace in being an activist, too,” he told me.</p> <p>I thought about that. Was that what I was doing? Finding peace in becoming an activist?</p>
143	<p>“Well, her name was Pearl. She was very independent, very smart. She worked as a secretary at a bank, but everyone knew that she basically ran the place. Of course, despite that, she was still paid a secretary’s salary because she was ‘just a woman.’ She was very open-minded and forward-thinking. I’ll never forget the conversation I had with her when I told her I was gay.”</p> <p>“What did she say?” I asked, thinking back to how Grandma Bea and Grandpa Fred had basically stopped talking to Dad when he’d come out and he and Mom had gotten divorced.</p> <p>“Well, one night after dinner, I just blurted it out. It was eating me up from the inside out, because everything I saw and heard told me that it was a sin. I couldn’t keep it in any longer. I said, ‘Mom, I’m a homosexual,’ and she put down the glass that she was washing and said, ‘Jason Randolph Holmes, the world is going to try very hard to convince you that there’s something wrong with you, and it’s your job to prove to yourself that the world is wrong.’”</p>
144	<p>“Did Dad think he was wrong?” I asked, feeling nauseous at the thought of it. “You know, for being gay?”</p> <p>“Oh yeah,” J.R. said. “It takes a long, long time to rewire what society works so hard to teach you. You need people to help. You can’t do it alone.”</p>

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151	One guy congratulated me on becoming ACT UP's youngest activist.
154	Sometimes she answered them, sometimes others did, and I loved everything about what was going on. I loved the way that, just like at the Wall Street demo, my rage monster seemed to calm when I was with ACT UP. I pictured the anger rising out of me and everyone else in the room like fiery, magnetic dust. I could almost see it hovering above us in the air before falling back to Earth, sprinkling all of us equally. The people who had come in with less anger would leave having taken some of mine. The feeling brought me such relief that suddenly, I felt tired.
156	<p>"Bob?" I whispered to J.R., shocked, as Bob went through some hopeful statistics regarding one of the medications that wasn't available in the United States but that could be purchased through the black market.</p> <p>..."Is Bob gay?" I whispered to J.R.</p> <p>"Bob?" he asked, surprised. Then his face softened. "No, kid. Bob's in love with your mama."</p>
162	<p>"Of course, but that sounds like a movie or a romance novel. Not like real life. It would let you off the hook too easily if you didn't have to put words to your feelings. But yeah, I remember feeling that way when I was younger. Like with my first boyfriend."</p> <p>"Oh, tell me about him!" I said, giggling.</p> <p>"His name was Sam," he said.</p> <p>"And?"</p> <p>"We were fifteen."</p> <p>"And?"</p> <p>"Gosh, I loved him. It was so different back then. We had to sneak around. If anyone had caught us together, I don't know what would have happened to us. We'd meet in my barn and kiss in the hayloft."</p>
170	When I returned to school a week later, I tried my hardest to operate like I had in sixth grade. Back then, I'd had no trouble shutting out anyone who had anything negative to say about Dad being gay.
187	<p>Police officers, billy clubs in hand, stood in a row, looking on sternly. The chants were growing louder. "Act up! Fight back! Fight AIDS! Act up! Fight back! Fight AIDS!"</p> <p>"So," Will said to us, "are we protesting or what?"</p> <p>"Yeah," I told my friends. "We're protesting. But we have to stay in the back. I can't be on the news. My mom would kill me. I'm not supposed to be here."</p>
190	I listened to my friends chant, "We are angry! We want action! Act up! Act out! Fight AIDS!"
191	<p>I took out one of the square packets with condom written on the wrapper and almost dropped it, too, but instead I laughed.</p> <p>"So you want us to just throw these?" Julian confirmed quietly, his face bright red.</p>
211	Despite having had two years to get over the fact that Dad was gay, according to Mom, Grandma Bea and Grandpa Fred had barely made any progress.
267	Most people diagnosed with HIV or AIDS were marginalized by society because they were gay men or intravenous drug users and, because of extreme bias against these marginalized groups, the government and pharmaceutical companies didn't feel an appropriate sense of urgency to prevent the spread of the virus or to help those who were sick. In fact, many people judged those who became ill with HIV and AIDS harshly,

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	thinking that they were at fault for their sickness. ACT UP was started by primarily white, financially stable gay men who were terrified of dying and furious about the ways in which HIV and AIDS were being ignored.
271	Additionally, some of the chants were plucked from elsewhere on ACT UP's timeline and inserted into the Tax Day demo. It's important to note that the Tax Day demo was not one of ACT UP's more memorable or successful demonstrations. Unfortunately, it is remembered primarily for the police brutality that occurred there.

Profanity Count	
Ass	2