

BOOK REVIEW: *Being Jazz: My Life as a (Transgender) Teen*
By Jazz Jennings

PARENTAL ADVISORY EXPLICIT CONTENT

SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONTENT AVAILABLE AT TEXAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS

PICTURE OF BOOK

2017

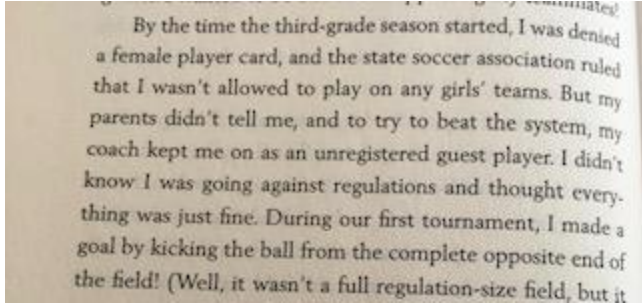
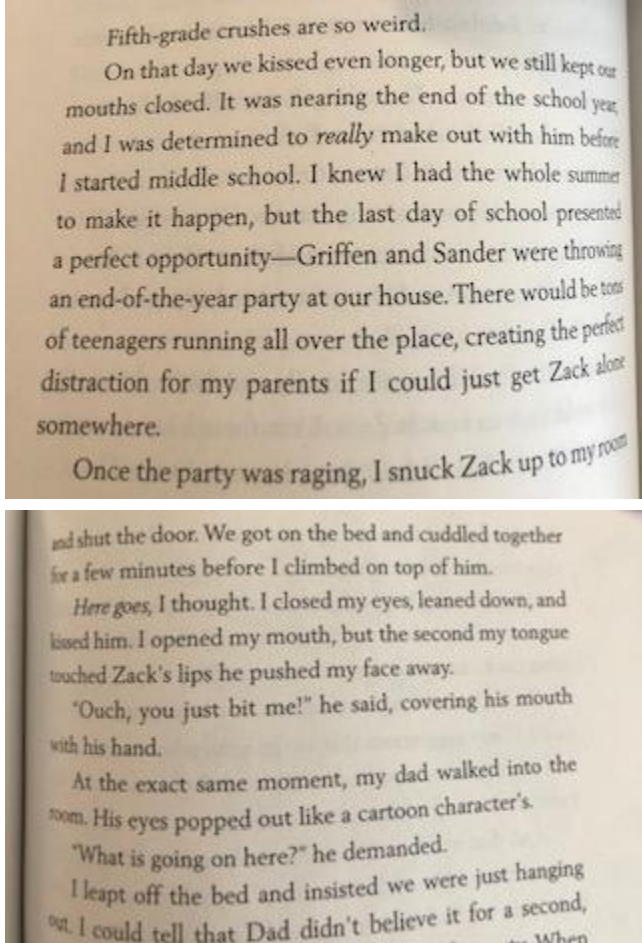


The 2017 cover states watch the new season on TLC.

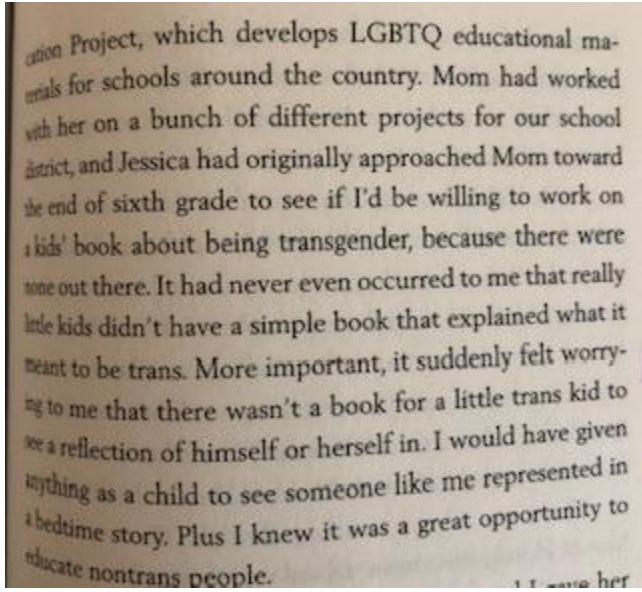
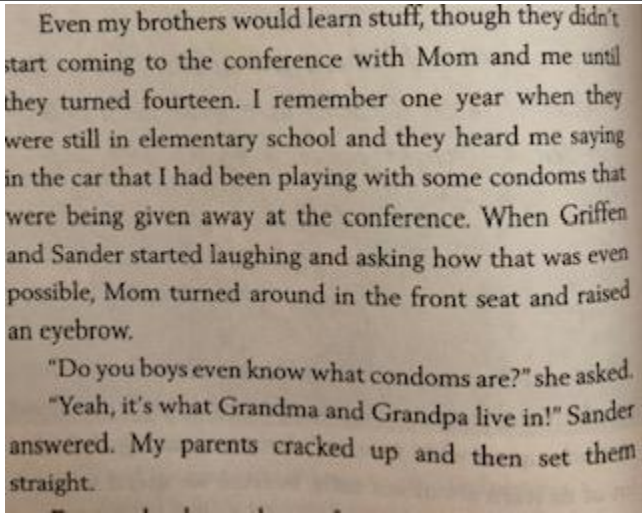
Quotes from the book

P 19	<p>Another time, a woman sent Mom a study that said 80 percent of little kids who transitioned were just gay and would transition back once they were older because they grew out of it. The study was disproven as BS, though, since none of the participants had actually ever been diagnosed with GID. (The clinic that funded that study also practiced conversion therapy to try to forcefully change a kid's natural inclinations to play with the toys they wanted to, but thankfully they recently ended the practice. Several city, state, and federal governments are now making these kinds of "therapy" illegal.)</p> <p>Mom wasn't buying it anyway, even before the study</p>	<p>BS</p> <p>Does not acknowledge the other side that conversion therapy can be an alternative and work.</p>
P 44	<p>The other rules my parents put in place were that the show would only be aired once, to better ensure our privacy, and that where we lived would not be mentioned. Most important in my eyes now, they also insisted that the show not offer any kind of counterpoint, like talking to some whacked-out doctor who might say that being transgender was all in my head. There was no way they were going to introduce my story to the world if it had to go up against that kind of ignorance.</p>	<p>When making appearances, required no counterpoint which is labeled as "ignorance".</p>
P 51	<p>but just in case, Mom conveniently placed an "accidental" coffee ring over the little box with an "M" in it, obscuring the letter. When Dad slid the document across the counter for the clerk to check my name and age, he also placed his thumb over it for good measure, and it worked! I was registered as a girl.</p>	<p>Mom and Dad are both deceitful and applauded.</p>

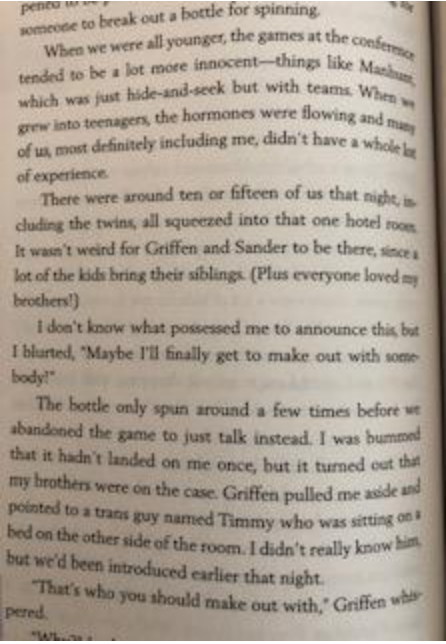
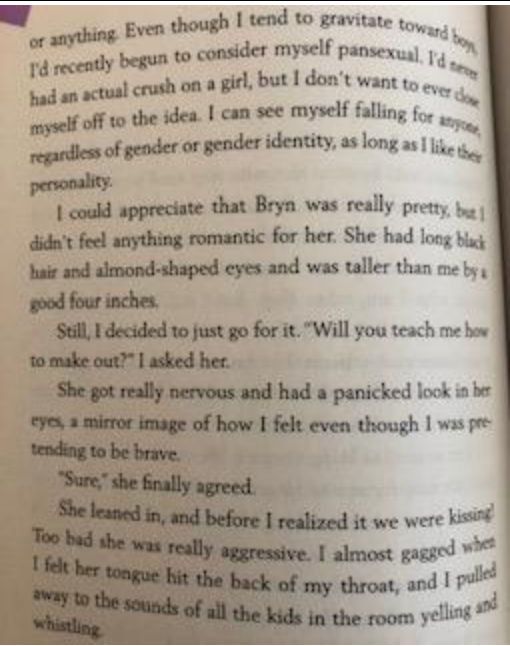
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P 52		<i>How to sidestep the soccer association rules.</i>
P 82	<i>"Alicia is telling everyone you are a chick with a dick."</i>	
P 104-105		<i>5th grade Sneaking up to bedroom She jumped on top of him</i>
P 121	<i>I got to ride in a car...and my heart just about burst seeing millions of people cheering and showing their support. I knew I was on the right path.</i>	<i>Misplaced affirmation</i>
P 137	<i>"He called you a chick with a dick."</i>	

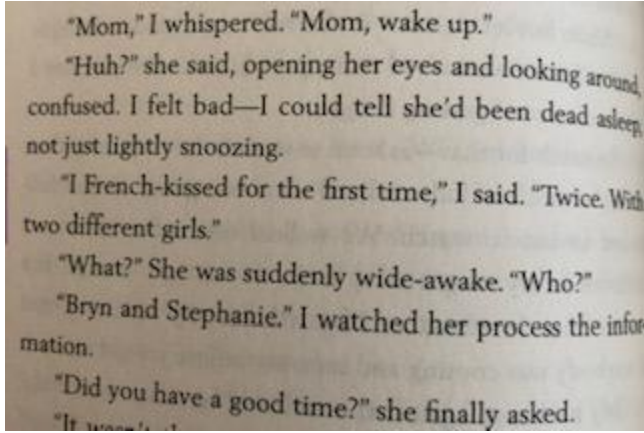
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P 159	 <p>...tion Project, which develops LGBTQ educational materials for schools around the country. Mom had worked with her on a bunch of different projects for our school district, and Jessica had originally approached Mom toward the end of sixth grade to see if I'd be willing to work on a kids' book about being transgender, because there were none out there. It had never even occurred to me that really little kids didn't have a simple book that explained what it meant to be trans. More important, it suddenly felt worrying to me that there wasn't a book for a little trans kid to see a reflection of himself or herself in. I would have given anything as a child to see someone like me represented in a bedtime story. Plus I knew it was a great opportunity to educate nontrans people.</p>	<i>"Educate" nontrans people is subjective since only one side is presented</i>
P 169	<i>...the Philadelphia Trans-Health Conference is a breeding ground for sex talk.</i>	6 th grade
P 170	 <p>Even my brothers would learn stuff, though they didn't start coming to the conference with Mom and me until they turned fourteen. I remember one year when they were still in elementary school and they heard me saying in the car that I had been playing with some condoms that were being given away at the conference. When Griffen and Sander started laughing and asking how that was even possible, Mom turned around in the front seat and raised an eyebrow.</p> <p>"Do you boys even know what condoms are?" she asked.</p> <p>"Yeah, it's what Grandma and Grandpa live in!" Sander answered. My parents cracked up and then set them straight.</p>	<i>Her brothers were 2 years older and still in elementary school, yet learning from their little sister about condoms.</i>

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<p>P 172</p>		<p><i>Hanging out at the Conference while parent-free.</i></p>
<p>P 174</p>		<p><i>Wanting to experiment with both sexes</i></p>

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P 176	 <p>"Mom," I whispered. "Mom, wake up." "Huh?" she said, opening her eyes and looking around, confused. I felt bad—I could tell she'd been dead asleep, not just lightly snoozing. "I French-kissed for the first time," I said. "Twice. With two different girls." "What?" She was suddenly wide-awake. "Who?" "Bryn and Stephanie." I watched her process the information. "Did you have a good time?" she finally asked.</p>	Mom not concerned about her French kissing
P 180	But who am I kidding—I was also pretty desperate for something romantic to happen. Since I finally had a little bit of experience, I felt like I was ready for anything.	8 th grade?-another camp
P 201	...asked to record a short video talking about the importance of marriage equality, since it was looking more and more likely the Supreme Court was about to make same-sex marriage legal in all states.	She is 14-15 years old
P 210	Sam, the guy who once called me a chick with a dick, started hanging around me a lot...	
P 267	[For my sixteenth birthday] I went to a drag show with my family. I LOVE drag queens!	Affirming drag shows
P 267	The Tonner Doll Company has created a Jazz doll. She's eighteen inches tall and the first transgender doll to hit mainstream shelves. I'm excited to watch my little doll break down barriers in a new and fun way.	

PROFANITY COUNT approximate (and other sensitive words)

D*ck – 3

Condoms - 1

RED FLAGS

Language

Mild Sexuality

Websites, books and movies are suggested for additional resources.

NORMALIZATION

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Over the course of the last several years, subjects not consistent with most of the citizens of the United States are being normalized and pushed into our society via social media, TV, music, and our public school system.

The above mentioned book from the student library works to normalize “wanted” behaviors by **one side** of a discussion.

Normalizing a person refers to social processes through which ideas and actions come to be seen as “normal” and become taken-for-granted or “natural” in everyday life. It is a process whereby behaviors and ideas are made to seem “normal” through repetition or through ideology and propaganda. To alter, modify, convert, change, adapt.

The book is by a transgender person who is looking for understanding and acceptance. While no one should be bullied or made fun of for being different, no one should be required to accept, encourage and endorse this behavior. Alternative Conversion Therapy was not considered and was considered ignorant. There is no legitimate discussion, documented studies cited, etc. for balancing pros or cons. And of course, any reference to God and the Bible were missing no doubt as this is not a “normal” or acceptable lifestyle. The book also endorsed additional aberrant behaviors.

CONCLUSION

Not appropriate literary content for K-12 schools