



Beast

Brie Spangler

Download now

Read Online →

Beast

Brie Spangler

Beast Brie Spangler

Tall, meaty, muscle-bound, and hairier than most throw rugs, Dylan doesn't look like your average fifteen-year-old, so, naturally, high school has not been kind to him. To make matters worse, on the day his school bans hats (his preferred camouflage), Dylan goes up on his roof only to fall and wake up in the hospital with a broken leg—and a mandate to attend group therapy for self-harmers.

Dylan vows to say nothing and zones out at therapy—until he meets Jamie. She's funny, smart, and so stunning, even his womanizing best friend, JP, would be jealous. She's also the first person to ever call Dylan out on his self-pitying and superficiality. As Jamie's humanity and wisdom begin to rub off on Dylan, they become more than just friends. But there is something Dylan doesn't know about Jamie, something she shared with the group the day he wasn't listening. Something that shouldn't change a thing. She is who she's always been—an amazing photographer and devoted friend, who also happens to be transgender. But will Dylan see it that way?

Beast Details

Date : Published October 11th 2016 by Knopf Books for Young Readers

ISBN :

Author : Brie Spangler

Format : Kindle Edition 305 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Lgbt, Contemporary, Romance, Retellings

 [Download Beast ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Beast ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Beast Brie Spangler

From Reader Review Beast for online ebook

Gretchen says

I got a review copy/e-galley of this book and was so excited to read it! YA with trans characters is close to my heart, and we need more of it (and we need it to be good). Sadly, I had to drop this book about halfway through. The protagonist, a troubled teen boy with an anger problem, has spent half the book angry at the world, then in love with the first girl who was nice to him. He wasn't listening when she told him about herself when they met, so halfway through the book when someone points out that she's a trans girl, he flips out. He's cruel to her, smashes up his basement including the trains his father collected for him before he died of cancer when the protagonist was young. The anger and hurt at being 'lied to' by trans people is SUCH a toxic meme that centering the experience of a cis dude getting angry and violent about a trans person's identity, EVEN THOUGH the book is clearly intending on him learning a ~lesson~, is something I can't get behind. It's potentially damaging for trans kids to feel that they should expect this reaction and be patient/hope to ride it out if they experience it, and it validates a reaction that is dangerous to trans women. There are lots of YA books with trans protagonists out there that actually center their feelings and experience--try one of those instead of this one.

thebookbitch says

Rating changed on 13/05/17

Honestly there's both a lot of positive and negatives for this book. Beast tells the story of an ever growing 15 year old guy called Dylan who ends up falling for a girl who happens to be Transgender. Essentially I knew it was going to be just a little like every other YA contemporary book I've read; and I was right. Both Dylan and Jamie were naïve to the point where I felt like they were going two steps forward a hundred steps back the entire novel. Dylan was forever looking for a sign that was never going to come hurting Jamie in the process. The sad thing is that I don't think issues for Transgender people were represented in the best way possible. That's not me saying they were highlighted in a bad light, because I'm not. I just think the author could have spent a few more weeks researching into those specific deadly issues.

And while this has mainly been filled were negatives I did enjoy the book. The writing was nice, easy to follow and told the story greatly. I loved how Dylan's mother was so open into learning about different genders and sexual identities because I know hands on how many LGBT people don't get that. I also appreciated both characters on their own, aside their naivety. I really related to Jamie and her want to just be accepted as a girl, not a girl with a penis. I also loved how Dylan had a strong personality among his insecurities.

Really this was just a nice stepping stone for people who'd like to learn a little more about Transgender people.

Aimee ♥ | Aimee, Always says

First book of the year turns out to be a disappointment, eh? Well, the main main was kind of a douche, sorry to say.

Full review soon!

Anita Vela says

Reseña completa: <http://anitavelabooks.blogspot.com.es...>

Tengo muchos sentimientos encontrados con esta historia: me ha gustado, pero no he llegado a conectar con el protagonista. Además, no me esperaba que los personajes fueran tan jóvenes, 15 años, y es una edad que se me queda un poco lejos, pero bueno.

La historia en general me ha gustado. Trata muchos temas actuales como: el acoso escolar, los complejos, las autolesiones, la homofobia... Y sinceramente, me esperaba una historia con más drama, pero no, tiene un punto cómico e irónico que eclipsa el drama, y no sé si eso me ha llegado a gustar del todo. Me ha faltado un poco de drama sin ironías de por medio, puede que yo sea una "dramas". La verdad que es una historia muy amena y que se lee muy rápido. Y lo que más me ha gustado es la normalidad que la autora transmite en la historia de amor. Eso es lo que debería ser en realidad; una historia de dos personas viviendo su primer amor y felices, porque el género de ellos no tiene que ser un problema y mucho menos para la gente. Cuanto nos queda por aprender...

En cuanto a los personajes... Dylan, el protagonista, no he llegado a entenderle del todo. Entiendo sus dudas y su lucha por sus complejos, la muerte de su padre y que no sabe si está bien querer o no a una chica transexual... Pero me ha parecido muy infantil y paga todos sus problemas con todos. Supongo que tiene que ver la edad que tiene, 15 años, aunque eso tampoco le justifica. Además, creo que es muy injusto con Jamie y la hace sufrir sin venir a cuento. En cambio, Jamie es un personaje que me ha parecido adorable y valiente, porque va a su rollo y le importa bien poco lo que piensen de ella. Me hubiera gustado más que la historia la contara Jamie, hubiera sido totalmente diferente. Y voy a mencionar al amigo, JP, porque no hay personaje más odioso que ese... y con eso os digo todo.

Por si alguien se lo pregunta, supone que esta historia es un retelling de La Bella y la Bestia, pero yo no he encontrado muchos parecidos, aunque creo que es el primer retelling que leo en mi vida y tampoco sé muy bien cómo funciona este tipo de historias.

En resumen, El corazón de la Bestia es una historia juvenil de un amor libre y sin prejuicios. Muy recomendada para jóvenes.

Jano says

Reseña completa en: <http://elcaosliterario.blogspot.com.e...>

La novela muestra la perspectiva ácida e irónica de la lucha de dos jóvenes por romper con los estereotipos y vivir su amor de una manera libre.

Cuando leí la sinopsis del libro, esperaba una carga dramática importante debido a los temas que se iban a tratar: transfobia, rechazo, falta de autoestima... sin embargo me he encontrado con una novela bastante amena, con un ritmo acelerado, cargada de mucha ironía y con un lenguaje muy desenfadado y directo. Todo esto, consigue relativizar, en gran medida, todo lo que siente el protagonista al no sentirse a gusto consigo mismo.

El libro refleja la crueldad de muchos jóvenes (y no tan jóvenes) a la hora de etiquetar y juzgar a las personas basándose únicamente en su aspecto físico. No deja de ser un reflejo de lo que, desgraciadamente, podemos ver en nuestro día a día.

Jamie me ha gustado porque tenía sus ideas bastante claras y era bastante honesta y sincera con Dylan. Me hubiese gustado mucho que la historia estuviese contada por Jamie porque creo que sería mucho más especial y profunda ya que como personaje no podría ponerle ninguna pega. Jamie ha pasado muy malos momentos debido al rechazo que ha sufrido por ser transexual y, a pesar de todo ello, en todo momento se muestra mucho más madura y respetuosa que cualquiera de los demás personajes.

En cuanto a la prosa de la autora, he tenido la sensación de que quería expresar demasiadas cosas de una manera demasiado rápida y esto hace que algunos párrafos, además de largos, sean un poco confusos. Los diálogos, en ocasiones, carecen de alguna nota explicativa que podría ayudar a imaginarnos mejor la situación de los personajes y lo que estarían expresando al mantener esas conversaciones.

Emily May says

It took me a while to decide that I really liked *Beast*. It's funny, it's charming, but it's also a tough read. Transphobia isn't skimmed over, and some of the bullying and trans-shaming was nauseating to me as a cis reader, so I can only imagine how upsetting it might be for trans readers.

That being said, I personally think it's a very important book. The darker aspects of the story draw sympathy for Jamie, allow her to tell her side of the story, and - ultimately - normalize teen trans relationships. And though I'm making it sound like a really awful tale of horror and bullying, for the most part it's a **really sweet, heartwarming romance** between two people who have been born with an appearance that doesn't match what's on the inside.

However: absolutely definitely DO NOT expect a *Beauty & the Beast* retelling. You will be disappointed. There's really nothing to link this story to the old fairy tale beyond the fact that Dylan's nickname is "Beast" and it's all about discovering how appearances can be far from the full story. Other than that, though, it's hard to find parallels between them.

The story is narrated by Dylan (AKA "Beast"), a fifteen-year-old boy who looks like a thirty-year-old man. He's not just tall but huge, and his enormous frame is covered with hair. He's spent his life being judged for the way he looks - having people assume he's a footballer at best, and shrink away in fear at worst. Truth is, he's really smart and aspires to be a Rhodes scholar, but no one would ever think it by looking at him. Everyone just sees the Beast.

When a bad day ends with him falling off a roof and breaking his leg, he's sent to a therapy group for those who self-harm. There he meets the pretty, snarky Jamie, who, through text conversations and meet-ups, he begins to fall for. In a breakdown of communication, Jamie believes that Dylan knows she is trans, but as it turns out, he is clueless until the day he introduces Jamie to his popular, good-looking friend, JP.

Dylan is shocked and Jamie is hurt as they both realize they misunderstood each other. What follows is a brutal look at transphobia in a high school and the real threat to the safety of trans women, as well as Dylan's journey to understanding that Jamie is the same person he always thought she was; the same girl.

Dylan shines in this book because he's such a lovable doofus, creating comic moments with his horny teenage boy narrative:

She laughs.

I laugh.

We share a laugh! Time to buy prom tickets.

I get inside the library and listen. If I happen upon Fern "by accident," it'll be less weird than if I plow over to her table and am all, HI. IT IS I. I AM HERE.

I also really love what was done with the secondary characters, though I never came to like JP. Dylan's relationship with his overbearing but well-meaning mom made me smile. She was trying so hard to be there for him and understand him, even if she went about it in a terrible way. Her love and worry for him was obvious throughout the book.

Most of all, I liked the realism portrayed by the author. Dylan feels, to me, like a typical teenage boy who has issues with his appearance. Jamie is likable and easy to love through Dylan's eyes. Perhaps some readers will disagree, but I was thankful that the book allowed Dylan to address some of the questions a teen boy in today's world would probably have in this situation. He considers the "Am I gay?" aspect, and while this is frustrating to educated readers, it also allows him to conclude that he isn't - he is just a boy who fell for a girl. A good and needed message, in my opinion.

I honestly think *Beast* is a smart book, equal parts light, dark and educational to its teen readers. Trans books unfortunately tend to fall into two categories - either a horror story, or a utopian world we have yet to see in reality - but this one manages to be both realistic and positive. Transphobia is real; trans-shaming is real; but so is love, and it isn't defined by XX/XY chromosomes.

[Blog](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Youtube](#) | [Store](#)

Vitor Martins says

"I don't want us to be horrible anymore. I want us to be good."

Beast foi uma surpresa muito boa. Diferente de tudo que eu esperava (isso aqui não é uma releitura de *A Bela e a Fera mesmo*, viu?), esse livro me ensinou muita coisa nova, fez com que eu me apegasse e torcesse pelos personagens e é, ao mesmo tempo, romântico e triste.

A história é bem simples. Poderia ser apenas mais um "garoto encontra garota", só que o garoto é um gigante peludo e a garota é trans.

Isso já é o bastante pra apresentar ao leitor uma série de conflitos que reais que um jovem trans vive quando se relaciona afetivamente com outra pessoa. E a autora trabalhou isso de uma maneira muito inteligente, sendo didática sem ser wikipédia, e abordando os leitores jovens com uma escrita MUITO engraçada. É sério, eu dei muita risada lendo esse livro aqui.

O protagonista Dylan é um personagem bem complexo, que fazia tudo pra merecer meu ódio mas, ainda assim, não consegui odiá-lo. Na maior parte do tempo eu entendi suas crises e torci para que ele ficasse bem.

Acho que, acima do romance com a Jamie, e da amizade com o JP, o relacionamento do Dylan com sua mãe foi minha coisa favorita nesse livro. Todas as cenas de diálogo entre os dois faziam meu coração apertar.

Diferente de *The Art of Being Normal*, que é um YA com protagonista trans que é quase um conto de fadas, *Beast* tem um tom bem mais realista (apesar de ser otimista). Aqui a gente encontra as consequências da transfobia de uma maneira um pouco mais crua. Às vezes a leitura pode ser um pouquinho desconfortável, mas acho que é exatamente isso o que torna esse livro importante.

Sue (Hollywood News Source) says

I told myself I need something cute, a chaser per se in between of my *The Young Elites* readathon. In which I had hopes for *Beast*, the cover amazed me *and* I was intrigued by the blurb. Another bonus, Meredith Russo, who wrote one of my favorite reads this year titled *If I Was Your Girl* like it too.

However, *Beast* turned out to be a sordidly disappointing book. Maybe, I came in with the wrong expectations. No matter what reasons I can come up with I don't see recommending this book to anyone.

As I am a cis woman, I can't comment with the trans representation of the love interest Jamie. I like her character, she's the silver lining of this novel. If it would've been written in her POV, maybe I would like it *more*. But, it's told from the pov of Dylan; a fifteen years old boy who is going through a difficult time, because of what he looks. I think anyone could sympathize with what the protagonist is going through. All of us has been at a point where our society expects us to be something we are not, no matter how difficult it is we can't fit into that box.

My problem with the novel mainly attributes with the protagonist. Dylan is that shady guy hell bent on thinking he's one of the decent guys. Throughout the novel, readers could see him lamenting how "this is what nice guys do" instead of doing it out of the sincerity within him. That fucking turns me off. Honestly, I'm sick of white guys and their unwanted narrative. This one just screamed bad news to me. He has his moments where he learns a thing or two, but overall I couldn't let this slide nor do I want to. It turns out, I don't want to empathize with him.

There's the tiring back and forth loss of communication between the two main characters, bland writing. I'm only giving it one star purely because I managed to swallow the novel without dnf-ing it.

This is not a cute LGBT book, if you're planning to read it, trigger warning for transphobia.

Dahlia says

I feel like I just wanna sit and think about this book forever. It really is such a smart concept, and I think Spangler executed it really well and really sensitively. One thing that really stuck out to me in contrast to my last review of a trans YA is that it consciously refuses to fall into the Thing of a person *having* to be queer in order to be attracted to a trans person. I don't think it would read true if it wasn't something he considered, and I'm glad that he does for that reason, and but I'm equally glad he comes away with "Nope, I'm straight - I'm a guy attracted to a girl."

I also really like how both Dylan and Jamie are super fleshed-out, flawed, real characters - they both screw up, they both say and do things they regret, they both make some poor choices in people - and that the book gives little views into other ways to experience dysphoria/general discomfort in your skin and how much other people's gazes contribute to it.

I had kind of a hard time getting a handle on the major secondary characters, specifically JP and Dylan's mom, but not in a bad way, I don't think. They too felt very human, very realistically flawed, and I'd be curious to know where both of them landed emotionally a few weeks after the book ended. Curiosity about what comes after The End? Rarely a bad thing.

Definitely recommend, especially for a book club - this is the kind of book you wanna DISCUSS.

Meredith Russo says

My name's Meredith Russo. I'm a transsexual. I got to read Beast early.

And I LOVED IT.

Funny story though, I actually kind of pulled a Dylan where this book is concerned. A mutual friend reached out asking if I wanted to read the book, and I agreed because, hey, free book, but I didn't pay attention when they told me I was doing a trans sensitivity read so I was completely confused; after all I was (am) just some nobody, right? So for the first half of the book I wasn't actually aware that Jamie was trans. I suspected, of course, because I suspect every character of being trans (they all should be), and also because Jamie is cuter, smarter, and better than everyone else (kidding, of course (but not really), Jamie is fully realized and has all her own tics and flaws). I wasn't completely surprised when the revelation came, but I also wasn't rolling my eyes or anything. Which, I think, is a testament to the strength of Spangler's writing. Jamie is the perfect balance: not SO trans that it overtakes her characterization, but not so detached from the realities and consequences of being trans (just in the first act, without saying it outright, the ways she spoke, the ways she acted, the ways she navigated, spoke to me) that her life is unrecognizable to a real trans person without having to get banged on the head with it.

So this book is good, obviously. I've got great taste, and I like it, so if YOU don't like it you should probably reconsider your life. Anyway, lots of people are gonna talk about how great the writing and plotting and etc etc are (and they ARE) but I want to talk about a SPECIFIC THING in this review and, surprise, it has to do with trans stuff, because the situation as it stands now is that, as I'm intimately aware, a book with a trans character can't JUST be a book with a trans character, right? And I mean it's one thing for me to write about a trans person, but because Brie isn't trans there are going to be HELLA people breathing down her neck, waiting for that one misstep to condemn the book as problematic. And I GET it, guys! I really do! I'm ambivalent about most trans guy representation because I'm not exactly clued into the nuances of what offends them, but I have DESPISED almost everything a cis writer has ever written about a trans lady. And I think Brie did an amazing job.

I've seen people describing Jamie as a "magical trans girl" (like the magical n*groe kind not the Sailor Moon kind) because she's Jamie's love interest and occasionally helper in the story, and I don't think that's fair, really. The magical... you know (hate saying it) trope and its cousins all rely on a character who is a member of a minority having a, well, "magical" level of insight into the moral and mystical workings of the world and the protagonist simply because they are Other. This doesn't describe Jamie at ALL: she is her own creature, with her own agenda, her own hang-ups, her own strengths, and her own desires. Her purpose in the story isn't served because being the Other makes her magically insightful or whatever, it's because I don't think anyone but a trans girl could actually have helped Dylan.

Dylan is suffering from gender dysphoria, you see. He isn't transgender (dysphoria doesn't necessarily mean you're trans and a lack of it doesn't mean you're not, dig?), but still, he's a boy in a body whose growth and secondary sex characteristics have been causing him misery since puberty because he finds they don't reflect

his idea of himself and because they cause an unwelcome social role to be imposed on him. He finds the way in which his body is gendered/sexed so disagreeable that he obsesses over the idea of medical intervention. I have felt this! This is dysphoria! And maybe one cis person/character in a million would actually know how to address it that way, with care and comfort (unless they're a therapist I guess). Jamie's transness is important not because being the Other imparts an offensive insight or mysticism into her, but because in a very believable, lovely way, she is the only kind of person who, especially at that age, could be equipped to see, understand, and empathize with his pain - and even then, like I said, it's not like her life revolves around helping him, and (spoiler alert) she's absolutely willing to bail on him when he drops the ball (go girl).

I'm rambling. I've talked to Brie about all this, but I just remembered tonight I've never really told anybody else. So here I am, telling you now! Go read this book when you can!

Wendy Darling says

A lot of positives here, but I just couldn't get over the fact that Jamie deserves so much better than Dylan.

Also, FYI that the gorgeous cover is totally misleading as to the tone and content of the story--and the retelling aspect is very slight.

Eilonwy says

Dylan Ingvarsson doesn't fit in -- quite literally, because at 15 years old, he's well over 6 feet tall and covered in muscles that no one can see because he's also covered in hair, from his feet to his neck. Not surprisingly, he's known as "Beast." The only thing that makes school tolerable is his friendship with good-looking, popular rich-boy JP, but that friendship has strings attached. When Dylan falls off a roof and breaks a leg, he's sentenced to group therapy, where he meets Jamie, a girl who's funny and insightful, and who demands authenticity from Dylan instead of his usual defensive BS. But Dylan has managed to miss one very important thing about Jamie -- and when he realizes that, it feels like his whole life crashes at once.

I'm not exactly sure how to review this book, because part of me really wishes I hadn't known the plot twist going in so I could have been as surprised by it as Dylan was, but on the other hand, I probably wouldn't have read the book if I hadn't known. I'm going to keep the twist to myself. If you want to know, you can look at virtually every other review for this book, since 9 out of 10 of them give it away right up front. If you don't want to know, don't read the GR summary, the library jacket flap, or any other reviews.

This is a bit of a rough read. Dylan has hit one of those points in life where he realizes that things can't go on the way they have been, but he doesn't know how to change anything. He wants to stop growing. He wants people, especially girl people, to see him, and not just his fur. He wants signs from his dead father to show that they have some kind of relationship. He wants healthy, genuine friendships, and it's not clear where that leaves him and JP. He's lonely and stressed, and all of that comes through in his narration.

Jamie is the bright point. She's made a conscious decision that she knows who she is, and she doesn't have time for people who want to hide their truths or their real selves. She calls Dylan out on how superficial he can be, since after years of being teased and reviled, he's convinced that everyone is as obsessed with

appearances as he is. Dylan falls for her, hard, and because she thinks he knows her truth and accepts her as she is, she falls for him, too. But then Dylan learns what he missed, and has to decide if he can handle the truth.

This is a deep and meaty little book, as Dylan confronts his relationships with Jamie, JP, his mother, his dead father, and himself, all at the same time. It's raw, honest, and heartbreaking.

And in the end, it's a story about loving and accepting other people for *who they are*, baggage and all, accepting that maybe they can feel the same way about you, and extending some of that love to oneself, too. It's a story about being brave and making your own path in the world without driving yourself crazy over other people's reactions to what makes you happy.

So while this is a bit of a tough read, it's all worth it. Definitely recommended.

Jamie (Books and Ladders) says

Actual Rating: 3.5*

Dani and I are reviewing this on Books Are My Fandom for our BAMF Review book for December!

I had a love-hate relationship with BEAST because I loved the story but I didn't like the MC and that made it really hard to connect to anyone BUT Jamie. I feel like had the story been from Jamie's POV, I would have enjoyed it more. She was perfectly flawed and written so well in my opinion and I loved every second of it. Jamie is transgender, so I read some reviews from people who identify as transgender to better understand how they felt about her characterization before writing my review. There were some that thought she was well written and others that had issues with some of the characterizations, so please take my review with a grain of salt as I can only talk about this to the extent of my knowledge and realize that my voice should not be the one listened to the most over others who have lived experiences.

I liked the retelling aspect of it and thought that Spangler did a good job working in elements of the original story and twisting it to fit into contemporary times. I enjoyed that Dylan's personality and aspects of his life made him more of a "Beast" rather than a curse on him or anything like that. I also really liked the therapy scene where the majority of the characters talked about their body issues -- both the teen girls in the session and Dylan who felt uncomfortable in his body. I felt like I could really relate to everyone there because it took me years to feel comfortable in my own skin and even to this day I still have body image issues. Of course, not to the same extent as what others may feel.

I did like that it didn't really feel like a "reveal" that Jamie was transgender because there were clues along the way that if you know what to look for, you would have understood and picked up on them along the way. I thought that the majority of the aspects of Jamie being transgender were handled well and I felt as though I learned something from reading this book. I do agree with Wesaun's review that there was too much focus on genitalia and that is a huge thing for cis people to get caught up on and highlighting that over everything else reinforces this type of thinking rather than breaking free of it in the narrative. I would recommend reading both Wesaun's and Meredith Russo's review as they have differing opinions on the transgender representation in the novel and their opinion matters more than mine.

However, I did not like Dylan's POV at all. He didn't need to be super likeable for me to understand his perspective, but I felt like he kept making the wrong choice -- and the stupid choice -- over and over again. You never really saw any character development until the VERY end of the novel and it was too late for me

by that point. I did love the narration (I listened to this as an audiobook) but I did not love Dylan. And that really hindered my enjoyment of the novel.

As a caution, there are a lot of transphobic thoughts in Dylan's mind during this novel, so please be advised of that if you are sensitive to that sort of thing. I would recommend this to people who are beginning their journey to learning more about transgender but please recognize that this may not be the best representation that you can find.

Espe says

Un 3,5

Reseña completa: <http://letraslibrosymas.blogspot.com....>

No sé muy bien que esperaba de este libro, pero desde luego no era la historia que me encontré entre sus páginas, aún así ha sido una historia muy bonita que ha conseguido conquistarme poquito a poco. Con la voz de Dylan como narrador en primera persona iremos viendo su día a día -en el instituto, con sus amigos, su madre y Jamie-, sus sentimientos y miedos, su conflicto interno y lo mal que lo pasa al no sentirse normal. Es una novela muy sencilla en cuanto a trama, que se lee en un suspiro, gracias en gran medida a la pluma de Brie Spangler que es muy coloquial, directa y con un toque de sarcasmo y humor que hace más distendida y natural toda la historia... y se agradece porque es una historia con temas realmente duros como la transfobia, la depresión, el bullying o la poca autoestima. Así que a pesar de contar una historia juvenil de amor también toca cuestiones importantes y actuales, que pueden concienciar y me ha parecido maravilloso la forma en la que lo ha hecho.

Catie says

Dear Jamie,

Although you were occasionally long-winded, and I have absolutely no idea why in god's name you would ever give Dylan a second chance, you also seemed authentic. I wish you had narrated this novel.

Sincerely,
Catie

Dear **Asshole** Dylan,

Thank you. Thank you for making me so eye-poppingly angry that I screamed curse words at you in my car and momentarily forgot that my country is turning into a fascist regime. Although your journey through heterosexual white male angst was probably authentic (I'll never know), I couldn't have cared less about your "pain." I felt zero sympathy for you when your uncertainty about where your relationship with Jamie would go caused you to IGNORE HER COMPLETELY AND ACT AS IF SHE HAD DIED. I hope that Jamie dumps you tomorrow and that you finally feel perhaps 1% of the heartache that she has gone through FOR HER ENTIRE LIFE. I do admit that your story might be helpful someday for others struggling to accept transgendered friends or partners. Unfortunately, I found it completely impossible to sympathize with

you.

Good day,
C.
