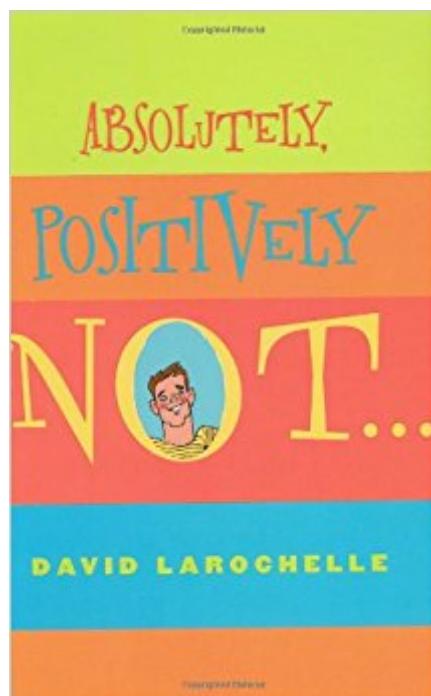


The book was found

# Absolutely Positively Not (Sid Fleischman Humor Award)



## **Synopsis**

There is one thing Steven knows for sure: He's absolutely, positively NOT gay. Steven's a 16-year-old boy with two obsessions: sex and getting his driving license. The problem is, Steven's not thinking girls when he's thinking sex. Could he be -- don't say it -- gay? Steven sets out to get in touch with his inner he-man with Healthy Heterosexual Strategies such as "Start Hanging Out with the Guys," and "Begin Intensive Dating." But are Steven's tactics going to straighten him out, or leave him all twisted up? Absolutely hilarious. Positively sidesplitting. But absolutely, positively NOT GAY!

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 730L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Arthur A. Levine Books (June 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0439591090

ISBN-13: 978-0439591096

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 5.5 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 34 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #980,807 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #90 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > LGBT Issues #726 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Gay & Lesbian #795 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Boys & Men

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 6-9 "Sixteen-year-old Steven relishes square dancing, drools over his male health teacher's musculature, and keeps a stash of International Male catalogs underneath his bed, but is determined that he is absolutely, positively not gay. In an eager crack to prove his heterosexuality, he futilely attempts to buy a Playboy magazine, tries mingling with the meathead jocks at lunch, and embarks on a series of disastrous dates with girls from his class. From the outset, it's obvious that Larochelle's first novel is mostly lighthearted laughs as Steven tries to rid himself of deviant sexual behavior (as explained in an ancient teen sexuality book he borrowed from the library). When he finally does own up to his shortcomings as a heterosexual, he decides to out himself to his best

friend, Rachel, who is relieved that he has finally told her and blabs the news to her entire family while urging him to form a gay-straight alliance in his high school the following day. Even though the good-natured humor does cloud the book's overall sense of reality at times, Larochele's eye-opening and accurate portrayal of Steven's coming out will ring optimistically true for many teens and their friends who are struggling with sexuality issues. And it's the delivery of his outing, coated in a healthy dose of hilarity, that makes *Absolutely, Positively* Not a fast-paced, funny, and frivolously frank read.â "Hillias J. Martin, New York Public Library Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

\*Starred Review\* Gr. 7-10. In a touching, sometime hilarious coming-out story, Steven DeNarski, 16, tries to deny he is gay. He covers his Superman posters with pictures of women in skimpy bikinis and lacy lingerie, and he follows the aversion therapy prescribed in a parents' handbook for getting over his "deviant" desires and awakening his sluggish interest in girls. He hangs out with the hockey players and tries to start dating (even kissing), to the delight of his fussy mom and macho dad. It doesn't work. When he reluctantly tells his friend Rachel that he is gay, he has to restrain her from celebrating it to the world and "empowering" him at school. The wry, first-person narrative is wonderful as it moves from personal angst to outright farce (Steven takes a pet golden retriever to the school dance). The characters are drawn with surprising depth, and Steven finds quiet support, as well as betrayal, in unexpected places. Many readers, gay and straight, will recognize Steven's need to talk to someone. Hazel RochmanCopyright Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

My 12 year old son is likely gay. He doesn't yet know what this means, and I want him to find himself at his own pace and on his own terms as his teen years unfold. I have been trying out several books to eventually pass his way. This book -- at least for our situation -- is just perfect. The protagonist is not a cliched amalgam of gay stereotypes. He's just a regular kid who is attracted to other boys. The book is touching, understated, and extremely relatable. It's profound, yet also extremely entertaining to read. I found myself smiling and chuckling out loud several times. Think a gay Adrian Mole. A truly wonderful book for a young teen who is facing issues of sexual identity. At 12 my son is not quite ready for the book, but I will have it on hand for him to read in the next 2-3 years. So happy to have found this book for my great kid!

This was *Absolutely, Positively* a wonderful read. Well written and funny. Some of the author's

assumptive conclusions were slightly unrealistic but not to a fault. This story about a high school student's journey into self-discovery gently broached many sensitive issues while avoiding many of the pitfalls of other books that attempt to get the kids to act adult-like rather than the confused and fumbling goofballs high school kids can be. Totally worth the money. Follow up stories about this courageous kid highly encouraged.

Inspirational, amazing and quite beautiful- what every gay guy and girl deserves. Kindness, awesome humour and honest self acceptance. Magical book.

I sat in a writing session with David at a Young Authors Conference in the Spring of 2007. I was so impressed with his ability to communicate effective ways of using humor to convey important ideas to youth, that I immediately purchased his book *Absolutely Positively Not*. I read it in one sitting, being absolutely positively captured by his graceful and naturally funny treatment of a certain young man's coming of age story. As an educator, I highly recommend this book to both youth and adults alike. David's perspective is priceless.

It's a nice story with not many clichés. Even thou it's placed in High school, it's different from other stories out there. I'd like a sequel, just to know how it moves on and if he finds someone.

This coming out story made me laugh on every page. The characters are wonderfully believable caricatures. The entire read was charming but never sweet. The end was a beginning and made me wanting to read more from this author.

I never had to hide International Male magazines or underwear catalogs under my bed. I never covered my school books with Victorias Secret ads to fool my classmates. I'm not even a boy. Or gay. But I still found this book laugh-aloud funny, sweet, and occasionally heart-breaking (in just the right spots). Though light-hearted, the story has complex characters and depth. My kind of book!

I have read this story twice and laughed my way through each time. Highly recommended.

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