



## Daddy's Roommate

*Michael Willhoite*

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This story's narrator begins with his parent's divorce and continues with the arrival of "someone new at Daddy's house". The new arrival is male. This new concept is explained to the child as "just one more kind of love". The text is suitably straightforward, and the format--single lines of copy beneath full-page illustrations--easily accessible to the intended audience.

## **Daddy's Roommate Details**

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Author : Michael Willhoite

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## **From Reader Review Daddy's Roommate for online ebook**

### **Sarah Fisher says**

The storyline of this book is great and perfect for young children. There's about one simple sentence per page and the concept of a gay couple is presented perfectly for the age group. The child spends time with his dad and his "roommate." He explains that his dad and his roommate do everything together. They hang out with him. They cook together. And they sleep in the same bed together. Mom later explains that dad is gay. The son asks what that means and she simply says, it means they are two men that love each other. That love can be expressed in different ways.

Now on to the illustrations. Oh...god... Basically, you want to read this to your 3 year old? Go for it...they won't notice. But here's the deal, we can assume the child's dad divorced the mom when he finally came out of the closet. He's fairly normal looking and obviously related to his child. His "roommate"? Think middle aged Freddy Mercury on a really gay beach vacation. Stereotyped (albeit hilarious ones) out the ass. And speaking of beach vacation, the illustration for the two dads hanging out at the beach with their son is just TOO unnecessary as they lotion each others backs. And as someone else mentioned, the Freddy Mercury wannabe has a sizable package...

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### **Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says**

In this book a boy talks about his father and his father's boyfriend, with whom he visits. What I found unrealistic is the easy acceptance on the part of the mother. True, there may be some women who would be accepting, but I think the majority would be embarrassed and/or angry if their husband turned out to be gay. What I also disliked about the book were the illustrations, which were cartoonish. The style seemed to detract from the serious message of the book. Otherwise, it was a nice, positive effort to explain a homosexual relationship to a child whose father may be involved in one.

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### **Jackie says**

An unexceptional picture book with an exceptional message. The book, quite simply, shows the protagonist's father and his father's new boyfriend acting like any heterosexual couple; they cuddle, argue, make up, and raise the protagonist together. The protagonist's mother, amicably divorced from his father, explains that the two men are gay and that the fact that they love each other is the most important thing. The book is great for showing children that having a gay parent, or two gay parents, is nothing to be ashamed of--it would work both for children who have gay parent(s) and those who live in a different family situation. On a lesser scale, the book also suggests that having divorced parents and having parents who date or remarry is normal, too, and not the end of the world.

The actual content of the book is nothing special; the illustrations are bright and pleasantly cartoony, and the text is serviceable. The book's message is one that needs to be taught, though--it's worth it just for that.

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## **hhhhhhhh says**

this book is FAIL.

well, let me clarify: this part is GREAT: "Mom says Daddy and Frank are gay./At first I didn't know what that meant. So she explained it./Being gay is just one more kind of love./ And love is the best kind of happiness." Lovely, appropriate, true.

but the illustrations are wack for a kid's book. Daddy's roommate has a package!? You gotta be kidding me. In one panel, "We go to the beach", Daddy's too busy making googly eyes at Frank while Frank rubs sunscreen on Daddy's back to even notice the little kid has wandered off and is talking to strangers.

Daddy's Roommate Redux, with updated illustrations, would rock. I'm sure he and the publishers meant well, but according to the book, the writer/illustrator wrote cartoons for gay grownups and something called "And Now For My Next Trick..." before taking on a kid's book. It was brave to write this in 1990, but even I wouldn't keep this in my collection.

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## **Mira? says**

♥?

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## **Nicole says**

My personal reaction was I thought this book Daddy's Roommate shows the truth about gay parents. For example, gives a real world experience with the realities of having a gay parent.

The purpose of the book would be for read aloud enrichment. It would best be suitable for k-1. The theme is that even though they are different they are still normal. They do normal things such as do household cleaning and even fight like a normal couple. I think this book would be good for realistic fiction because the subject in this book relates to real life experiences. Also, this book hints that if your parents are divorced it's okay for them to get back out there and meet someone else. Bright illustrations enhance the text.

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## **Cammie Scott says**

This book would be a helpful tool to use to help children understand same sex marriages/relationships. The book became controversial in 1990 after it was published. People were angry that the author was normalizing same sex relationships. It began disappearing off library shelves so children in the community could not read it. However, I thought it was a great book. While there was not much text in the book, the author easily writes about how same sex couples create love in a family. The whole theme of the book was that there is still the same amount of love coming from same sex parents. I think that it is a great book to use in the classroom if it is something that needs to be discussed. Otherwise, it is a great tool for families who can relate. Overall, I thought it was a really great book.

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### **Madeline Shogren says**

I decided to read this book for my controversial-type book. The title caught my attention right away when I saw it and I believe that the topic would be relatable to some of my future students. I know that this is a family dynamic that some children have nowadays because it is legal in most states. Children are able to embrace this type of family and I think it should become a commonality just as any other type of family. It is about a child's parents who decide to split up and then their father starts seeing a new man. The child is puzzled about this new relationship because many children do not learn about gay relationships or marriage in schools. It is often not mentioned during sexual health education lessons so many kids are not aware of what it entails. I feel like this would be a hard transition for a child to have, from their original parents splitting, to their father starting to see a person of the same sex. I think that I would consider keeping this book in my classroom for older students, maybe 3rd-5th graders. I would keep it in elementary aged children because it is a picture book. I think that it is an important topic for students to learn about and I think that teachers should consider teaching same sex relationships and marriages as normal just like opposite sex couples. I never want any of my students to be bullied about having a different family dynamic than others. I would make sure to email parents/guardians about the book first being in the classroom just to make sure that there are none who are uncomfortable about it being placed in a classroom. I would also have to check with the school to make sure it is not banned.

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### **Hannah Givens says**

Dated... but kind of adorbs, and significant for enthusiasts. (Queer history, queer-friendly kids' books, etc)

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### **Rebecca Drake says**

Reading this story I think it does an amazing job and talking to children about different family structures!

This book was challenged in many states in the nineties for the same reason of "King and King" It openly shows an LGBTQ relationship, and many people didn't want their children to have access to that in the libraries.

I think the story is very well done. It uses simple and appropriate wording, and talks about how two men can love each other and that's okay. The illustrations are wonderful as well.

In terms of use in the classroom, this is a book I would have in my library, and if I was teaching an older group, possibly use it to teach about families. I also think if I had children who related closely to this story, it would be important to use as a way of helping that child feel accepted.

There are a lot of instances where a couple divorces, and one of the people starts dating a member of the same sex. It happens, and we have children who are in that situation. That's their family dynamic, and even if it is different, it is important to discuss their family as well!

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### **Brian Strand says**

This book is a banned book for obvious reasons; it is about a homo sexual couple who live together like a normal married couple. They portray the home life like a normal one; they do normal chores, and have the occasional argument. What is the biggest things that symbolizes they are a normal house is how they raise their kid.

I don't feel that this is something we should have on the shelf for kids to read. If parents what their kids to learn about it then it is up to them to expose them to it.

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### **Stas says**

A little dated, but surprisingly solid.

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### **Des says**

Daddy's Roomate tells a story about a boy whose parents are no longer together and his father starts living with a guy. The father does all the things with his partner. The young boy is also involved in every activity. He then asks his mum and his mum says that his father and new partner are gay. Mum also explains that gay is another form of love.

I love this book because the story line is clear. Each of the part is being explained well and briefly. I love also the part when this young boy's mum explains him about what gay is. I think it is good thing also that one can use this book to give an illustration about gay to his or her children about what gay is in the simplest way.

4 stars out of 5

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### **Nicole Baldwin says**

So, while conducting my research on the book prior to reading, I found many things. I found that this was actually one of the first books to portray gay life in a positive way. I found that this book simply shows their daily routines, nothing out of the norm. However, this book has been known as one of the most banned books in the recent years. The American Library Association rated this book 2/100 for top banned books. "In 2005 in Centerville, Indiana, the newly-elected Centerville School Board felt the need to "protect its students from exposure and access to controversial materials"" (<http://world.edu/banned-book-awareness...>). So, what this is saying is that the book is banned because they are portraying a gay couple rather than a straight couple. If the couple was straight, then this book would have not been banned. Apparently, there were so many complaints about this book from parents, librarians, and other people involved in schools that they began to take out of libraries.

The only way I could see this book to have been banned is because of religious beliefs. Some parents may feel that if a teacher reads this book to their children they are trying to change their religious beliefs. The word “gay” is used and possibly parents do not want their children to learn about different types of sexualities yet. This book includes few words, but great pictures to show how happy they are. I think the main reason this book is banned is because of people who do not believe in same sex relationships. If parents do not believe in them, it is very likely they do not want their children to believe in them either.

Despite anyone’s views on this book I absolutely loved it. I would love to share this book with any grade, especially the younger grades. I think this book would promote more acceptance in our community. I enjoy the message of this book how that just because they are gay does not mean they are wrong or any different than people who are not gay. This book portrays an alternative family and I think this would be great for children to see. This book could bring up a lot of questions that children have about this topic and I think that is great. I think reading this book to first graders would be very beneficial because they could start very early learning about people who may be different than them. This would not only be educational, but it could prevent future bullying. Also, when children start to learn more about their own sexuality this book could be beneficial because it may show them that no matter the gender of the person they like, they can be happy. I wish I could read this book to my class someday, maybe the world will become more accepting while I am a teacher. Therefore, this was a lovey book and I truly hope you read it someday.

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### **Destinee Sutton says**

If someone asked me to recommend a book for kids with gay parents, I would not recommend this one. Still, it's not really terrible. It's just so old school and, I think, probably written by someone who just wanted there to be one decent picture book where a kid has a homosexual parent.

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