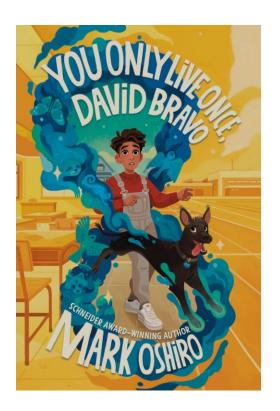


YOU ONLY LIVE **ONCE, DAVID BRAVO**



Iuvenile

By Mark Oshiro

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Book Summary:

An eleven-year-old boy is assigned a timeline guide to help him change his future.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains inexplicit sexual activities; alternate sexualities; alternate gender ideologies; and references to adoption.





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11	I was part of a "closed" adoption, meaning that no one but the adoption agency knew anything about where I came from. My parents were told that my birth parents were Latinx, but that's it.
21	Antoine was probably right, and I guess I could tell them that I consider myself Latinx, since that's the only fact I know about my birth parents.
159	"David Bravo!" Fea shouts, and then stands on her back legs. "Do you like Antoine?" I stare down at her. "What?" "Like do you like him?" "Well, he's my best friend—" "No, silly," she says, sitting back down. "Do you like him?" I groan. "You just asked me that." "Do you like it when he smiles at you?" "Yeah. I do." "Does it make you feel good to hang out with him?" "Always," I say. "Do you find yourself looking forward to seeing him again, so much so that you join sports teams you don't actually want to be on?" I suddenly don't like where this questioning is heading. "I mean " I turn away from Fea as heat rushes to my face. "What's happening right now," she says, racing around me and then hopping up on my bed, "does that happen sometimes when you think about Antoine?" Oh, my god. It happened at lunch, didn't it? That same familiar rumble in my stomach hits me, just like it has when I think about Antoine's smile or his face or when he gets all excited talking about a book. "Do I like Antoine?" I ask, slumping down on my bed.
163	"I don't know about that," she says. "When I was your age, I had this big terrible crush on another girl in my school."
167	My heart is racing as fast as I am on the way over to Antoine's, but before I reach his place, I pause in the driveway. Wow. I'm really excited. And I've got that butterflies-in-the-stomach thing going on, too. Hmmm. Fea told me to pay attention to this kinda stuff. Okay. So I am. But what does it mean? I think I'm mostly just happy that Antoine wants to hang out with me again!
183	"Well," says Fea, taking a deep breath and then continuing. "Mari and I were good friends for years. Until we were eighteen, actually." "But ," I say. "I can hear that coming." "But I fell in love with her, David Bravo," she says sadly. "I fell in love with her by the end of middle school, but I didn't tell her then. I was in love with her all during high school, and I didn't tell her. And then I got the chance to, but I blew it, and we never ended up together."
	"The library," I say. "Mx. Reyes was helping me." "Oh, they're so great, aren't they?" says Antoine, lighting up.
252	"We just wanted to do what is best for you," Mom says. "By sending me away?" Now Dad looks furious. "Don't say that, David. Ever. That's not funny." "Well, my birth parents gave me away," I say, "so it's not like it's impossible." Both Mom and Dad are shocked into silence, and Dad's mouth hangs open a little. Mom





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	wipes at a tear on her cheek, and I wonder if there's any truth to what I said. Are they trying to get rid of me? Is my life just going to be people leaving me?
	"Me, too, David Bravo," she says, and her tone has a sharp edge to it. "But what you didn't see was everything else around it. I couldn't be who I wanted to be when I was your age. The idea that I could go to the dance with a girl I liked? Now that was impossible."
	"I had a closed adoption, which means that there's no info on my birth parents. But I've always thought of myself as Latinx. It's just the best word to describe me."
	"Antoine, I think I like you. Like like like you." He doesn't say any thing, but his eyebrows go up a little bit. "Really?" he says. "Really. And I've never liked someone like this, and I don't know what to do about it or what's supposed to happen next, and I don't even know what it means for me as a person. Do I like boys now? Have I always liked them but never noticed?"
	She gives Maricela a kiss. It's short, but it's a kiss that's been a long time coming. When Juanita pulls away from Maricela, there's a huge smile on both their faces.