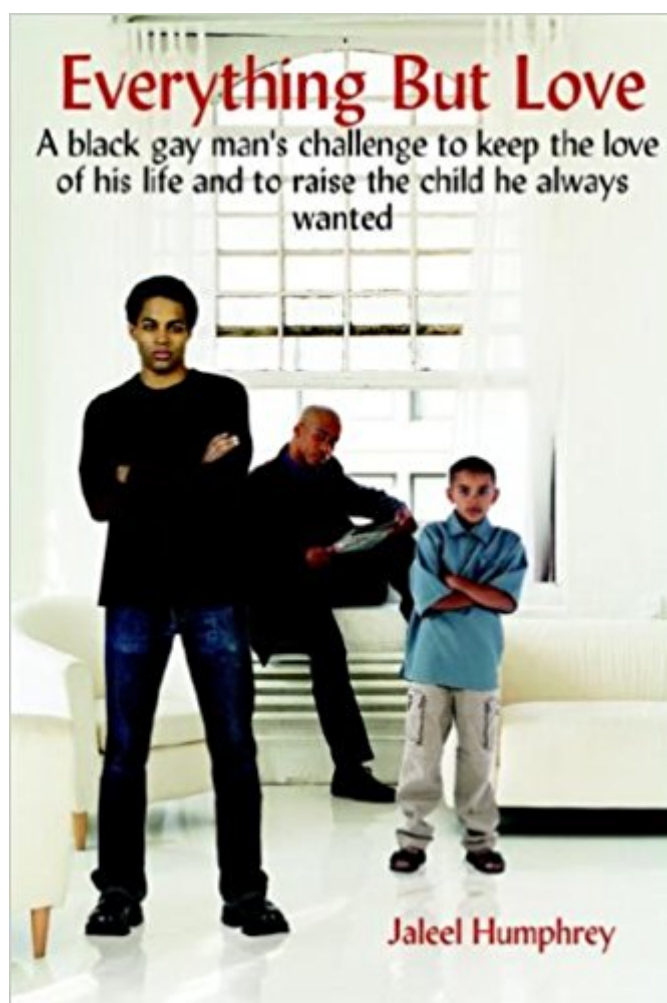


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# Everything But Love: A Black Gay Man's Challenge To Keep The Love Of His Life And To Raise The Child He Always Wanted



## Synopsis

Parenting in today's world can be a challenge for everyone. For Quinton Harris, being a father proves to be the most difficult undertaking of his life. He wants more than to just hang out in the bars and clubs in New York that offer nothing more than casual relationships. He wants a family that includes a life-long partner and a child. Quinton's life is about to be changed forever as he meets the love of his life, Spencer, and Andrew Anderson, a seven-year old boy who will become his foster son. He soon discovers that the life he's always dreamed of may turn into a nightmare as a system of child-care workers ignore his cries for help and a justice system works to erase all his accomplishments.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I completely understand that small presses cannot afford the number of editors as large ones. However, the number of typographical errors in this book is truly disturbing. "Himself" was written as two words, and not one, throughout the whole work. Apostrophes were often in the wrong place. Every other sentence lacked needed commas. Its was spelled as it's; there was their; our was are. A fifth grader could have noticed and corrected many of the errors in this book! The mistakes here are striking, too, because the main character is a teacher that notices the poor writing of young students. The cover is deceptive as well. The main character has a man who loves him from start to finish, so it is odd that this is titled "Everything BUT Love." The text says the main character has dreadlocks that he never had cut, yet no one on the cover has dreads. Surely a dreaded brother out there would have loved to pose for a black, gay book's cover. In addition, the book is divided into

three parts, yet there is no page to mark Part One. When Rosie O'Donnell came out on TV, an expert said that the gay men who adopt kids are completely different from those who frequent bars and clubs. This book focuses on the first type of gay man, rather than the second. Some readers may be bored with how this book focuses on the parent-child connection more than the connection between black gay lovers. Sex does take place between the adult couple, but it is described in PG-rated terms that won't excite many readers. In the same way that Winfrey's "Beloved" failed because audiences did not like the character Beloved, the child in this book is not endearing. I am worried that this book will have a chilling effect where black, gay men may be discouraged from adopting children, especially older ones. Bigoted leaders in states with homophobic adoption laws could use this as a tool to say, "Gay men, read this!: It shows you would not want to adopt anyway!" In no way am I giving away the ending by saying adoption advocates will be gravely disappointed about what this book describes. The main character explains why he wants to adopt. However, he never says why he did not try to adopt a baby. He teaches sign language, but he never answers why he did not try to adopt a deaf child. Surely, a black, deaf foster child could have benefited from a parent like this. Further, the book does not present adoption agencies, or their workers, in a positive light. If adoption agencies hide information as much as the one in this book, I am surprised that more of them don't get sued, thus creating an even worse chilling effect on what this country needs: more adoptions!

I almost did not buy this book because of the reviews that I read with regard to it. However, I am so grateful that my better judgment was my guide. I was very impressed with Jaleel Humphrey's debut novel! I did not realize until I read the final page that the author was able to tell what appears to be a fictional account of his own real life without using any gratuitous profanity or sexuality. Despite the editing issues that were mentioned in some of the other user reviews, the author succeeded in his task of making me relate to the pain and frustration that he was experiencing with regard to wanting to make a positive influence on Andrew's life. The author was also able to convey the complex and vulnerable emotions that one is subject to experience when they finally experience true and unconditional love from another human being for the first time. The love story between Quinton and Spencer was inspiring (even to a heterosexual, african-american female like myself) and definitely did not need to be expressed in an overly graphic way to show how much they truly loved each other. I felt an immediate attachment to these characters and I had a hard time putting the book down after I started reading it. People who truly enjoy reading are sick and tired of the same old books about the same old topics, and it is my opinion that we need to nurture aspiring authors with

new and fresh ideas. While it is acceptable to correct them, we shouldn't forget to encourage newbie authors to tell their stories. I commend you Mr. Humphrey, for putting yourself out here in this way. I look forward to your second novel! Think of it this way, people probably said that same things about the way that Zora Neal Hurston decided to write "Their Eyes Were Watching God"!

This book was engaging. The outcome was not predictable as is the case with most novels. Thoroughly enjoyed the book and would recommend to my friends who're kindle inclined.

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