

Title: *Becoming Brianna*

Author: Terri Libenson

Review by: Abbey Dahl

The book, "Becoming Brianna," focuses on a girl named Brianna who is 13 years old in middle school. Brianna is going to have a bat mitzvah, but is questioning if she can overcome her stage fright and be prepared enough to go through with the event. Along the way, Brianna has friendship troubles, divorced parent troubles, and troubles with herself. Brianna wants her bat mitzvah to be a personal choice because she feels that her mom is the only reason she is having one. This book is a graphic novel that combines illustrations and words to create a coming of age story.

I would recommend this book to anyone who is in middle school to read because it was nice to read about a culture that I didn't know much about. "Becoming Brianna" had a lot of information about bat mitzvahs, which allows the reader to understand the stressed Brianna faces. I was able to put myself in Brianna's shoes as I also get nervous in front of large groups of people as well. It was nice to see that her nerves didn't magically go away. She was able to work through them by talking with friends and family, which gives great advice to the reader. I also enjoyed the comedic elements included in both the text and art style of the book. This book is the fourth in a series by Terri Libenson, but each novel can be read separately. One thing I disliked about the book was that the side plot of friendship drama was underdeveloped, but I enjoyed that things worked out in the end for Brianna. Overall, I would give this book a 4/5 because I think it is a great book for its targeted middle school audience.