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The Book on Big Brother

Candace Gingrich, the lesbian half sister of the conservative House speaker, has sold a book about her life and times with Newt Gingrich to Scribner's.

A copy of the book proposal, tentatively titled "Family Matters," calls her brother on the carpet for not condemning the intolerant, anti-gay rhetoric of the right, and says she will retrace "Newt's path from an eccentric libertarian . . . to an arch-conservative closely aligned with hard-right anti-gay crusaders like Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson." She also says in the 10-page summary that when she came out, her brother offered his "unconditional acceptance."

The deal was signed earlier this week, and there is no publication date. A spokesman for the publishing house wouldn't discuss how much Gingrich will be paid.

Candace Gingrich, 28, is 23 years younger than her half brother. The speaker's mother, Kathleen, left his father when Newt was an infant. She later remarried and had three more children.

In her proposal Candace notes that although she was proud of her brother when he rose to power in the House, she was also "worried."

"As a lesbian," she writes, "I feared that he was leading a right-wing takeover of



Candace, Newt Gingrich: Read all about it.

American politics that would be extremely dangerous for my gay and lesbian brothers and sisters across the country."

She also says he can be a "real crackpot sometimes. . . . After all, he's always going around calling himself a historian while making bizarre statements that an average fifth-grader could refute. The time Newt said that women should not serve in military combat positions because they were more prone to yeast infections is but one example."

And at one point, she flat-out calls Newt a "hypocrite" for "moralizing about homosexuality" when his own personal life hasn't been picture-perfect.

Newt Gingrich spokesman Tony Blankley says he's sure the speaker is "delighted" Candace is writing a book, and hopes it will be a bestseller.