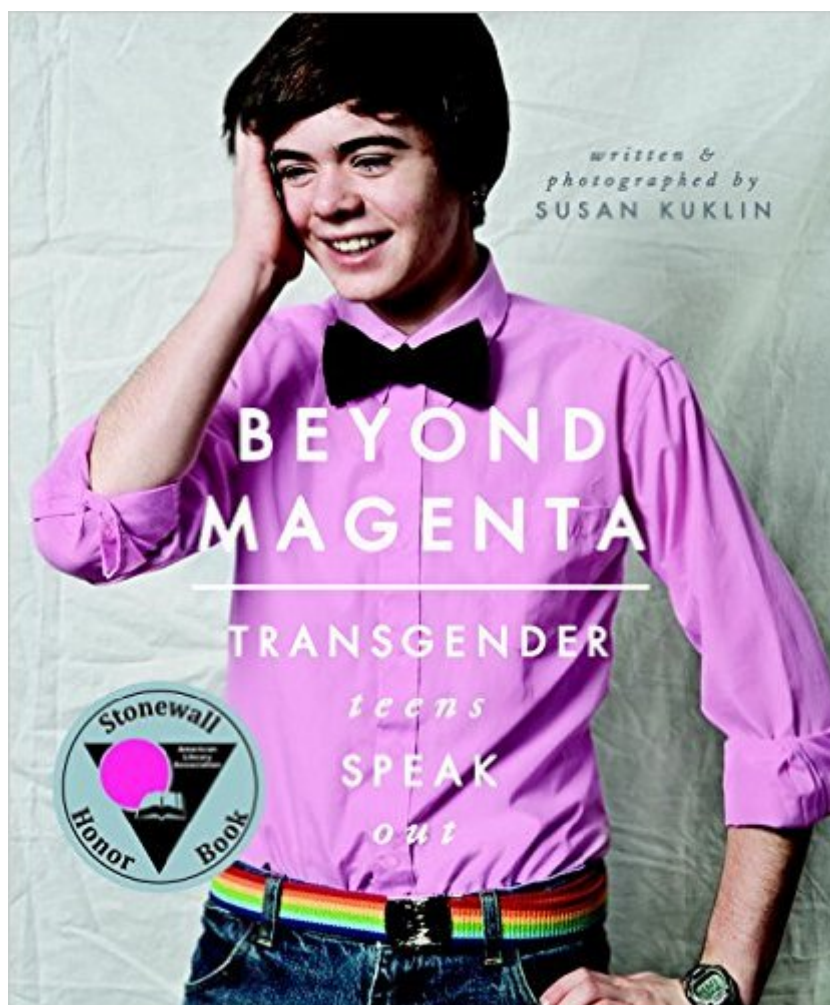


The book was found

Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out



Synopsis

2015 Stonewall Honor Book A groundbreaking work of LGBT literature takes an honest look at the life, love, and struggles of transgender teens. Author and photographer Susan Kuklin met and interviewed six transgender or gender-neutral young adults and used her considerable skills to represent them thoughtfully and respectfully before, during, and after their personal acknowledgment of gender preference. Portraits, family photographs, and candid images grace the pages, augmenting the emotional and physical journey each youth has taken. Each honest discussion and disclosure, whether joyful or heartbreaking, is completely different from the other because of family dynamics, living situations, gender, and the transition these teens make in recognition of their true selves.

Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

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Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars See all reviews (48 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out tackles the difficult subject of transgender teens. It provides a glimpse into the lives of five transgender teens and young adults. At this point, I believe it is important to go through the basics of sex, gender, and transgender before I review the book. Although a majority of people use the terms "sex" and "gender" interchangeably, they are vastly different concepts. The term "sex" is purely biological and it refers to the physical characteristics of genitalia, chromosomes, and hormones. Someone who has male genitalia, XY chromosomes, and primarily testosterone is referred to as male. A biological female has female genitalia, higher levels of estrogen, and XX chromosomes. Intersex individuals can have any number of combined male and female physical characteristics and ambiguous genitalia. Now these physical attributes have

nothing to do with gender, which is a societal context, internal feeling and identity. A person's gender is how they identify in terms of being man/woman, pronouns they prefer (he/she), bathrooms they use, and countless other thoughts, feelings, and sense of who a person is. Now a majority of people are cisgender, meaning their intrinsic gender identity matches their biological sex. However, for a small minority of people, their intrinsic gender identity doesn't match their biological sex or have ambiguous biological sex. This is what the term "transgender" means and it is an umbrella term for any gender identity which doesn't precisely match a person's physical characteristics. For example, a person could be born biologically female, but, identify as a man or F to M. Of course this is just one example under the general umbrella term of transgender.

This was my response to S.C. Sue, who recommends some alternative books that I think may serve a different purpose. You'll have to read the comments on her review to see those, and it may be worth it for those titles if this book isn't what you want. My response to Sue is below: Thanks for responding. I can understand why you might not like the format. It does NOT seem like a book for someone looking for advice on how to deal with these issues on a personal level. Given the number of books you have read, maybe you know someone who deals with some of the issues that the kids in the book deal with. I probably know someone too, or many people, but I am not aware of their struggles and wasn't looking for any information that would help me or them. I looked at this book as serving a different purpose. I felt each section was short and could be read by a teenager, or maybe even a pre-teen like my 12 year old son. Kids who may not have any significant gender identity issues and whose only exposure to this material is to whisper about the effeminate seeming boy or the two girls making out during recess. Well, that, and to hear me explain how prevalent these things are, and that they aren't abnormal. Even reading just the first story is enough exposure to start kids thinking about how difficult it can be to deal with gender issues. That's a pretty huge thing. I probably wasn't exposed to these issues until medical school. I read this and it made me think of the kid in my middle school who was shunned a bit because he was different. I had no classes with him and only knew his name, but I didn't make any effort to understand him at all or even to say hello to him when I walked past him. He was different from the "cool kids" I wanted to be associated with.

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