



***Sasha Masha* by Agnes Borinsky**

FSG BYR, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2020

ISBN: 9780374310806 (Hardcover)

\*Age Range: 14-18 (Suggested by Publisher)

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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Transgender author Agnes Borinsky deftly explores gender identity and queer romance in this heart-wrenching debut novel.

Alex feels like he is in the wrong body. His skin feels strange against his bones. And then comes Tracy, who thinks he's adorably awkward, who wants to kiss him, who makes him feel like a Real Boy. But it is not quite enough. Something is missing.

As Alex grapples with his identity, he finds himself trying on dresses and swiping on lipstick in the quiet of his bedroom. He meets Andre, a gay boy who is beautiful and unafraid to be who he is. Slowly, Alex begins to realize: maybe his name isn't Alex at all. Maybe it's Sasha Masha.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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"Written in the first-person, this coming-of-age story offers an intimate view of self-discovery. Queer community and history play a refreshing significance in Sasha Masha's personal revelations. . . . a sensitive and vulnerable story of self-growth." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Borinsky does an excellent job of taking the reader inside Sasha Masha's troubled mind as he agonizes over his identity. The result is a memorably offbeat coming-of-age-novel that is sure to resonate with readers." —*Booklist*

"In straightforward first-person prose, debut novelist Borinsky captures the ups and downs of teenage soul-searching, struggling to define one's gender, and coming out as trans . . . Sasha Masha is a well-crafted, memorable protagonist whose voice rings true and whose experiences will resonate as he learns to accept that his journey, like any questioning person's, is an ongoing one." —*Publishers Weekly*

"The book refreshingly ends without Alex defining his gender, pronouns, or path forward. However, the reader leaves knowing that Alex is surer in himself and ready to embark on a journey to a better, truer future. This #ownvoices novel is a reminder that "transitions" don't always have a definite endpoint and an uncertain identity is not an invalid one." —*Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

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Contact [mary.vanakin@macmillan.com](mailto:mary.vanakin@macmillan.com)

"Borinsky walks the reader slowly and thoughtfully through Alex's transformation without rushing past the uncomfortable and often painful parts of his journey. The book's conclusion is satisfying in its open-endedness, leaving both protagonist and reader with a great curiosity and optimism for what comes next." —*Horn Book*

"Sasha Masha is a quiet, yet insightful novel, chronicling the confusing stages of understanding and exploring your gender identity and shows that gender is a spectrum and that it's okay to not know where you land on it just yet. That it's okay to experiment and find what feels right for you and that there's no rush to put a label on it." —*The Nerd Daily*

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- A Junior Library Guild Selection
- A Lambda Literary Most Anticipated LGBTQ Book
- A *Bitch Media* Feminist Read of the Month
- A *Book Riot* Favorite Upcoming Book of the Month
- Lambda Literary Award - Nominee

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- BuzzFeed: [13 Must-Read Books For Trans Day Of Visibility](#)

## \*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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