



### **Freakboy by Author**

Square Fish, Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR), 2013

ISBN: 9780374324728

\*Age Range: 12-18

Grade Range: 9+ (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

## **BOOK SYNOPSIS**

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A powerful novel in verse told from the points of view of a genderqueer teenager, the teen's girlfriend, and a trans woman

“An important story, written with compassion and startling insight.” —Ellen Hopkins, *The New York Times*–bestselling author of the Crank trilogy

From the outside, Brendan Chase seems to have it pretty easy. Brendan is a star wrestler, a video game aficionado, and a loving significant other to seemingly perfect match, Vanessa.

But Brendan feels so wrong. Why does Brendan sometimes fantasize having long hair, soft skin, and gentle curves? Is there even a name for people like Brendan? People who are assigned male at birth but who sometimes want to be girls? Or is Brendan just a freak?

In *Freakboy's* razor-sharp verse, Kristin Clark folds three narratives into one powerful story: Brendan's exploration of gender; Vanessa, who fights to keep her and Brendan's relationship alive; and Angel, a woman who's struggling to confront her own demons.

## **REVIEWS AND PRAISE**

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“Debut novelist Clark uses free verse to write a gripping story about a complex topic: the challenges of growing up transgender or genderqueer.” —[Publishers Weekly](#), *starred review*

“This gutsy, tripartite poem explores a wider variety of identities—cis-, trans-, genderqueer—than a simple transgender storyline, making it stand out.” —[Kirkus Review](#), *starred review*

“It succeeds in conveying the message that “you are not alone” to transgender youth while helping everyone else get a handle on these often-tortured teens. The author succeeds in her mission to foster “greater understanding and acceptance of gender's vast and lovely variation.” —[School Library Journal](#)

“A sincere, profound rendering of sexuality, queerness, and identity.” —[The Horn Book](#)

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## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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*ALA Rainbow Project Book List*

*Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year*

*Northern California Book Award Master List*

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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[Discussion guide](#) for *Freakboy*

Read an interview with the author in [School Library Journal](#)

## RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

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"Texas judge orders banned books returned to library shelves," [The Hill](#)

## AUTHOR STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)

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"What some kids were saying was that I left the characters 'on the road to OK,' and I think about those kids and other kids that don't have access." Kristin Elizabeth Clark, profiled in [Ashland News](#)

## \*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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