



***Growing Up Trans: In Our Own Words* edited by Dr. Lindsay Herriot and Kate Fry**

Orca Book Publishers, 2021

9781459831377 (paperback)

*Age Range: 9 to 12

Grade Range: Gr. 6+

BOOK SYNOPSIS

What does it mean to be young and transgender today?

Growing Up Trans shares stories, essays, art and poetry created by trans youth aged 11 to 18. In their own words, the works illustrate the trans experience through childhood, family and daily life, school, their bodies and mental health. Together the collection is a story of the challenges, big and small, of being a young trans person. At the same time, it's a toolkit for all young people, transgender or not, about what understanding, acceptance and support for the trans community looks like. In addition to the contributed works, there are questions and tips from experts in the field of transgender studies to challenge the reader on how to be a trans ally.

Growing Up Trans came out of a series of workshops held in Victoria, British Columbia, to bring together trans youth from across the country with mentors in the community.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Heartfelt and honest, this will be a valuable resource for trans readers hoping to see themselves and will help cis readers better understand their journeys." – *Booklist*

"A vibrant collection...This book serves stereotype-busting diverse perspectives that are sure to resonate with many." – *School Library Journal (SLJ)*

"Sensitive and heartfelt...A sense of hope permeates these stories, and readers will root for their success. Middle and high school libraries should consider this title as a useful classroom resource for adults as much as for students." – *School Library Connection*

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“*Growing Up Trans* is an illuminating window into the diverse lives of our trans and gender-creative youth. They share outstanding stories of self-discovery, bravery and resilience as they deal with navigating gender journeys, discrimination, mental health difficulties, families and school life. Family members, care providers, teachers and youth should read *Growing Up Trans* to understand the lived experiences of our trans and gender-creative kids.” – Dr. Charles Ho, MD, Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist, BC Children's Hospital Gender Clinic

“*Growing Up Trans* makes an important addition to literature on trans and non-binary youth experiences. The themes that are presented allow the reader to gain new insight on some of the issues they face, through the young people’s very own eyes, feelings and experiences portrayed through various forms of art. Each theme centres trans voices from start to end and is commented on by trans scholars who offer thoughtful reflections on possible ways forward to better support and accompany young people on their journey as growing human beings. *Growing Up Trans* should be included in all school curricula as it provides powerful material to discuss issues related to gender identity and gender expression in various contexts.” – Dr. Annie Pullen Sansfaçon, Canada Research Chair on Transgender Children and their Families, School of Social Work, Université de Montréal

“How lucky we are for this collection on what trans means and how trans feels—it’s nothing short of an intergenerational trans wonderland. Readers young and old will smile and shake their heads and say, ‘I had no idea.’” – Kate Bornstein, author of *Gender Outlaw*

“This book is a precious gift and a call to action. With great courage and generosity, the youth have offered their truths, beautifully expressed through words and images. This will be a powerful resource for my patients and their families and should become required reading for future health professionals and educators—it has the potential to inspire those of us without lived experience of gender diversity to examine our biases, listen well and commit to walking alongside trans, gender-diverse and Two-Spirit youth in our work and our communities.” – Marria Townsend, MD, CCFP, Medical Director at Trans Care BC

“An invaluable resource for all those working with, caring for and about trans youth and issues—and for anyone interested in the exuberant, gender-troubling creativity and insight with which trans youth invent themselves. In their own words: a unique, a wonderful thing... a work of art.” – Dr. Sara Bragg, Centre for Sociology of Education and Equity, University College London

“*Growing Up Trans* reshapes the stories we believe to be true by sharing the stories we live to tell.” – Trans Student Educational Resources (TSER)

“Voice matters. In a world that too often silences, sensationalizes and simplifies trans youth experiences, *Growing Up Trans* is a vital tonic. A vibrant collection that powerfully shares the everyday moments, feelings and challenges of being and becoming trans, with guiding questions and resources to find out more. Dive into the diversity and enjoy this open dialog with the experiences of trans youth in their own words.” – EJ Renold, Professor of Childhood Studies, Cardiff University

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- Vancouver Children’s Literature Roundtable Information Book Award, **Short-listed, 2022**

- Canadian Children's Book Centre (CCBC) TD Canadian Children's Literature Award, **Short-listed, 2022**
- Canadian Children's Book Centre (CCBC) Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Children's Non-Fiction, **Short-listed, 2022**
- BC Books for BC Schools, **Commended, 2021**
- Ontario Library association (OLA) Best Bets , **Commended, 2022**
- Rocky Mountain Book Award (RMBA), **Short-listed, 2023**
- Bank Street College of Education Children's Book Committee Best Children's Books of the Year , **Commended, 2022**
- CCBC Best Books for Kids & Teens, starred selection, **Commended, 2022**
- Forest of Reading Yellow Cedar Award Honour Book, **Commended, 2023**

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

Add link to discussion guide, author interviews, blog posts, or any additional resources that provide useful context about the book.

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

Importance of books about trans individuals:

<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2023/06/lgbtq-book-challenges-are-on-the-rise-heres-why/>

<https://diversebooks.org/how-lgbtqia-book-bans-impact-kids-and-teens/>

<https://rippleofchangemag.com/the-fight-for-inclusive-kids-books/>

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

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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