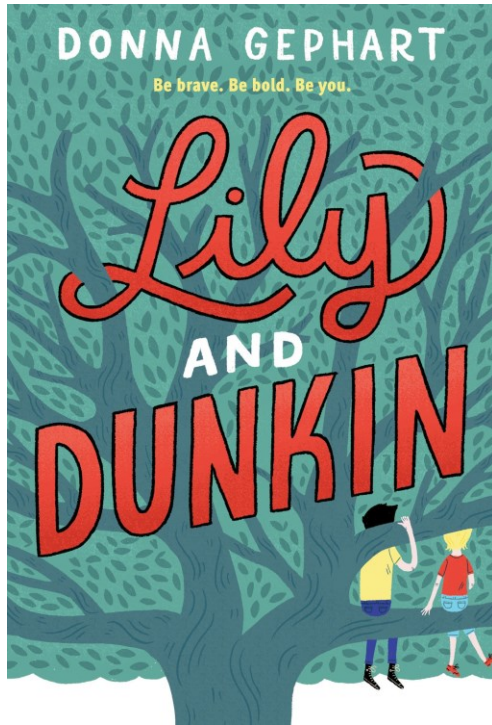


LILY AND DUNKIN



Juvenile

By Donna Gephart

ISBN: 978-0-553-53676-8

Book Summary:

A young teenage boy begins to transition into a girl with the aid of hormone blockers, while her new neighbor stops taking his mood stabilizers and ends up institutionalized.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains alternate sexualities; alternate gender ideologies; profanity and derogatory terms; commentary on suicide.

2 /5

Teen Guidance
BookLooks Review Rating

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1	Lily Jo is not my name. Yet. But I'm working on that. That's why I'm in the closet.
4	I slip into Mom's sandals, barely believing my feet have now grown as large as hers, but they have. In her full-length mirror, I see how the top of the dress bags out. If only I had something up there to fill it out, like Mom and Sarah do. I consider grabbing one of Mom's bras and stuffing it with socks, to see how it would look. How it would feel.
7	"Timothy McGrother," Dad says quietly. "If you want to wear that"- he juts his chin toward Mom's beautiful dress with disgust- "you'll do it inside our house. Not out here."
8	What does he see? A girl stuck in a boy's body or a boy stuck in a girl's dress? ...But the boy smiles. At me. Outside in bright daylight, while I'm wearing my mom's dress and sandals. Maybe he thinks I'm a girl.
18	"Could we change my name before I go to this new school?"
20	It's way too early for a beer...and TV.
23	"I've dressed like a boy all the way through seventh grade." Dad nods. "That's right." I test the water. "For you." "For me?" He shakes his head. "You mean for you, Tim." ...I know I was born with boy parts. I get that. And it makes people uncomfortable if I dress and act like a boy. It's what they've learned to expect. But remember when I was little and wore Sarah's dresses?"
24	"But it's not who I am. Every day, every single minute of every single day, I know that I...am...a...girl." ..."The hormone blockers. Remember I told you about them? I have to get started on them now or else-"
25	"Why won't he let me be...me? Am I so bad? he wouldn't even let me talk about the hormone blockers. I need them, Mom!"
26	"He's making it impossible for me," I say. "I can't go on like this. I can't turn into- ..." "I don't have more time." I pull away from Mom. "I'm beginning to change. And it's making me crazy. I need to start hormone blockers right now or things are going to happen that can't be reversed. I can't wait any more, and I need one of you to sign the form so I can get them." "I'll talk to him," Mom says. "Again. Please be patient a little longer. I want your dad to be on board before we take this next step."
35	After signing up for a computer, I research hormone blockers again- I need to be certain about the right time to start them. There's something called Tanner Stage II. That's when my boy parts start growing, when hair starts growing down there, when all the things I don't want to happen start happening. That's when I'm supposed to start the hormone blockers. That means I should be starting them now. It's not like I'm asking for estrogen or surgery. Yet. I just don't want to grow hair down there or get a deep voice or a bulging Adam's apple or...Why can't Dad support me on this?

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43	I touch my own chin, panicked because I feel a new hair. I have to get hormone blockers!
48	I look at Dad and realize I don't want to say that he was the boy who walked by while I was wearing Mom's dress this morning.
50	"We have to give her the hormone blockers," Mom says. "I know you don't like the idea of them, Gary. But..." ..."He'll be better off without them, Ellie. Let nature take its course. When Tim becomes more boy-like, it'll be good for him."
51	"Remember that time I caught Lily with the nail clippers after her bath?" Dad's quiet. "She told me she wanted to cut her penis off, Gary. That it didn't belong." An unbearable silence, then Mom's voice: "She was five years old, Gary. She knew when she was five." I knew before I was five. And I remember holding those nail clippers that Mom had left on the counter. But back then, I didn't think about the possibility of bleeding to death. I just wanted it gone. And I still do. ..."...Middle school kids can be rotten. The world can be rotten. Letting this go on is what's dangerous to Tim."
53	"The way my mom thinks is the way most of the world thinks. That's why we have to protect Tim, keep him from dressing like a girl outside this house. Let him turn into the boy he's supposed to be. That's the best thing for him." ..."Just not on the best way to do it. Lily has to get those hormone blockers."
59	"Oh, here we go again. Your dad doesn't accept who you really are, so you can't be that person, blah, blah, blah."
61	I think of Tim wearing a dress on a dare and how I thought he was a girl.
72	I love that Dare calls me Lily when we're not in school. Mom calls me Lily now, too, even though Dad doesn't like it. And Sarah told me she'd call me Lily when I'm ready to fully be Lily.
78	Mom hands us a sign she made. It reads: Lily and Dare- 1st day of 8th grade. ...Last year's sign read: Tim and Dare- 1st day of 7th grade. And each year before that was the same, except for the grade. I guess the sign changed because Mom changed.
79	I peek back to see if Mom's watching. She's standing outside the door, one hand over her heart. The other is holding the sign.
80	In addition to four new mustache hairs, which I plucked, I found another couple wiry hairs down there this morning, and I'm going to lose it if Dad doesn't let me get hormone blockers soon.
145	Today in Mr. Creighton's class, he does a quick lesson on pronouns before we break into critique groups to work on our stories. He says some of us aren't using them correctly. He. She. It. They. We. Them. Mr. Creighton's right. Some people don't use pronouns correctly. For example, "she" is the correct pronoun for me. But people keep incorrectly referring to me as "he."

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	<p>She. I can't wait until the whole world calls me by the correct pronoun. She. Someday, they'll get it right. She. Someday...</p>
167	"Lily, do you mind if we talk about your hormone blockers?"
167	<p>"Your mother told me that your father would rather you didn't get them. How will you feel when you grow hair on your face and around your penis, when your voice deepens and your shoulders broaden?" I can't believe she says the word penis just like that. I'm NOT okay with hair growing around my penis, because I'm not okay with my penis. ..."Lily, why do you think your father doesn't want you to get the hormone blockers?" ..."He doesn't like...he doesn't like...who I am."</p>
170	<p>As soon as the three of us are in the car, Dad says, "Go to the endocrinologist's office," and hands Mom the envelope. ...I know what this means because I read all about hormone blockers on the Internet. If my parents say it's okay and a psychologist or therapist writes a letter saying it's okay, I might be able to get the blockers. Go, Mom. Go! Before Dad changes his mind.</p>
171	<p>The endocrinologist asks me a million questions about how my body's been changing and how I feel about those changes and even about some of the things I did when I was a little kid, like wore Sarah's dresses and played with dolls. ...I don't even mind the pinch from the needle for the blood test, because I know if everything goes right, I'll finally be able to start getting hormone blockers.</p>
179	If my blood test comes back okay, I'll start on the hormone blockers soon, and that's all thanks to Dad's change of heart.
181	<p>"You happy about the hormone blockers?" I swallow. "Of course." "You're absolutely sure that's what you want?" "Absolutely!" A part of me is afraid he's going to take it all back, say I can't get them after all. "Good," Dad says, running a hand through his hair. "Because they're expensive." A wave of guilt washes over me. "I know, I'm sorry." Dad puts the newspaper down and looks right at me. "You're worth it. And don't forget that."</p>
193	"...I think it's important now that I'll be getting the hormone blockers. Small steps toward being me."
208	<p>Not for the first time, I wish my boobs looked like hers. Developed. Unmistakably feminine. Someday, I tell myself, I'll be able to move on to female hormones. Then I'll finally, finally get the body that matches who I am- more curves, fewer angles.</p>
211	<p>"My sister is a boy." ..."I...I was trying to be funny. I mean I have a brother, not a sister. That's all."</p>

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222	<p>My whole body tingles as I pull my shorts up to expose my thigh. No more facial hair. No deep voice. No Adam's apple. No new hair growing down there. No anything else growing down there!</p> <p>"That's it?" I ask after the doctor plunges the needle into my thigh.</p> <p>I had expected the shot to really hurt, but it didn't.</p> <p>..."To celebrate, Lily. We need to celebrate this milestone."</p> <p>..."We do need to celebrate."</p> <p>And we do!</p>
235	<p>"I'm thankful for my family and friends," I say, giving Dad a special nod because he made sure I got my hormone blockers.</p>
276	<p>"It was just a mistake when your mom called you Lily. Right? A weird mistake."</p>
278	<p>"I look like a boy. I have boy parts." I can't believe I said that. "But I feel like a girl. I always have."</p> <p>...I wonder how it could make sense to someone who was born into the body that matches who they are.</p> <p>..."It's just that I never met anyone before who was transgender," he says.</p>
289	<p>"...Does Vasquez know about Tim being Transgender?..."</p>
279	<p>I can't believe Dunkin named it. "Well, that's what I am," I say. "Transgender." I'll have a lot to talk to Dr. Klemme about on my next visit.</p>
308	<p>In one swift, surprising motion, Vasquez bends and yanks down my shorts and underwear.</p> <p>"Well, look at that," he says. "You are a boy. Barely."</p> <p>They all crack up.</p> <p>Someone smacks me on my bare rear end.</p>
317	<p>Then I admit the one thing I couldn't face until now: "He killed himself. That's the reason Mom and I moved here to Beckford Palms."</p>
321	<p>I look at myself in the mirror. Mom's dress and sandals. Bright red nail polish. My hair long enough to put up in two little clips on each side. I think about what Vasquez did to me in the locker room, how he tried to shame me for being myself. I think of the reaction I'll get when I walk into the dance as me- Lily Jo McGother-girl.</p>
332	<p>"She showed me a statistic. Forty-three percent of transgender kids try to kill themselves." Dad sniffs again, hard. "Then she said, 'Would you rather have a dead son or a live daughter?'"</p>
332	<p>"She explained that kids who get a lot of love and support have a much lower suicide risk."</p>
335	<p>Joppe is a girl, born with male anatomy.</p>
335	<p>...but every time I read an article about a transgender individual, I saved it.</p> <p>...I poked at beginnings of this new novel about a transgender girl, but I wasn't brave enough to commit.</p> <p>...I thought of how brave every transgender person is, living in an authentic life, or trying to live it, in a world where people are often ignorant and less than accepting.</p>

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349	1. A transgender person is someone who does not identify with the biological gender assigned to him or her at birth. Lily, born Tim, associates as a female and wants to start the hormone therapy that will allow her to begin the physical transition to becoming a girl. When did Lily begin to think of herself as a girl? Why is it best that she begin the hormone therapy now? Her mother and sister are very supportive, but her father is not. Discuss why her father is resistant. How is Lily's father finally convinced to support her decision?

Profanity/Derogatory	Count
Faggot/Fag	20
Piss	7
Shit	1