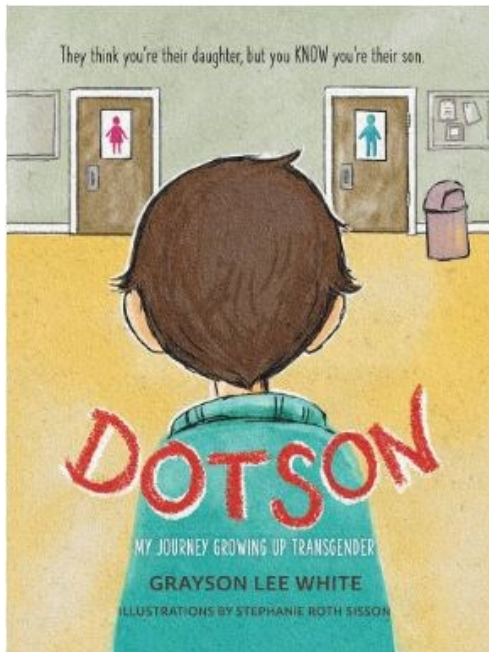


DOTSON: MY JOURNEY GROWING UP TRANSGENDER



Juvenile

By Grayson Lee White

ISBN: 978-1-5131-3933-3

Book Summary:

A child tells their experience with transgenderism.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains explicit alternate gender ideologies.

2 /5

Teen Guidance
BookLooks Review Rating

Page	Content
3	2. The word I made up to describe myself before I knew the word "transgender." ...A Dotson is a supposed daughter who KNOWS he is really a son.
5	Although I'm transgender and that's an important part of my life and what this book is about, it isn't normally a big part of my personality or my writing.
7	One thing I've known for as long as I can remember is that I am a boy, not a girl. ...I started calling myself Dotson, a combination of "daughter" and "son." I tried to explain to my mom when I was three or four years old: "I know I'm supposed to be your daughter, but I feel more like your son. I guess I'm your...Dot-son." My mom loved the name and it stuck for a few years until we learned the correct term for what I am: transgender.
13	At that moment what I was about to do felt very real. I had been waiting to start puberty blockers (medicine that delays puberty) for most of my life.
16	Why did God Make me a girl?" ..."I am supposed to be a boy," I continued.
18	"I wish I looked like a boy." "I wish people called me a boy."
19	"I wish this whole transitioning thing will work out." ..."I wish that someday I'll be a boy...one way or another." ...I am a boy now, legally, and in many other ways. I look like a boy. I use he/him pronouns and I have a masculine name.
39	"If God made me who I am," I told her, "then he made me want to be a boy."
43	I don't think he understood how strongly I felt that I wasn't a girl, and neither did his kids.
47	I think it was because she was scared that people would mistake me for a boy, and she worried that would make me feel bad. What she didn't know yet was that it would have made me feel good to have people recognize me as a boy.
56	My heart wanted me to go in the boy's line. But I had spent six years being told I was a girl and used a girl's name and she/her pronouns. I took my best guess and stepped into line.
57	"Zoe is a girl, actually," Mrs. Wahl said, trying to rescue me. (Oh, I should let you know that Zoe was my old name, also known as my "dead" name.)
61	Mom sat quietly for a moment, then asked, "Why don't you tell people that you feel like a boy in your heart and your mind?" "Because that would be cheesy. And it doesn't feel like the truth. I don't feel like a boy...I AM a boy." ...I was a boy. I very clearly knew and had always known that I was a boy inside. ...After what felt like a very long time, my mom looked me in my eyes and said, "Sweetie, if you are a boy, then you shouldn't have to be called 'she' any longer. It's possible for you to change your name and to go by 'he.' How would that feel?"
83	Eventually, I shared my new bathroom challenges with my mom. "I just want to use the boys' bathroom," I told her in frustration.
89	"Do you want to be a boy?" I answered yes to all. I must have missed her hitting the gavel on that wooden thing, but next thing I knew they were handing us copies of the court documents approving my new name and my birth certificate with a gender change to "male."

Page	Content
95	Not all trans kids see endocrinologists, but my mom was worried (of course) about my bones getting weaker, a possible a side effect of the medicine. She wanted someone paying close attention to my bones before I started getting Lupron shots. Lupron is the hormone blocker medicine that would hit the pause button on puberty for me.
97	The chest development tells the doctor if I've started puberty and can begin blocking the hormones that come with it.
98	"Sometimes Lupron can impact bone density. Some kids start puberty as early as nine and have to start blockers then. Hopefully, Grayson will start puberty later so he'll take Lupron for less time. That will be easier on his bones.""When will he start taking testosterone?" ..."Most likely when he's around fourteen. I'm not sure exactly when, but we'll keep checking his hormone levels and bone growth so we can maximize his growth potential." "Maximize growth potential" means balancing my hormones in a way that will give me the most time to grow.
99	The shots I'd been getting for years were not yet hormone blockers or testosterone.
100	And I was really excited about taking testosterone, eventually. That will lower my voice and might help me grow some facial hair, just like other boys when they go through puberty.
104	Once third grade rolled around, there were more kids in my class who hadn't known me before I transitioned. ..."When should I tell them that I'm transgender?" I asked my mom.
106	"Okay... uh... okay, well, it's like... um... when you're born as a girl but, like, not really 'cause you're always a boy in your head, but then you change from looking like a girl and being called a girl to looking like a boy and being called a boy."
113	When people used my "dead" name, it was a constant reminder that I didn't feel like I belonged. I felt the same way every time people called me "she" instead of "he."
122	"That's it!" the nurse said cheerfully. I had officially started taking hormone blockers!