

IDENTITY: A STORY OF TRANSITIONING



Young Adult Graphic Novel

By Corey Maison

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Book Summary:

A young transgender boy transitions into a girl.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains alternate gender ideologies and alternate sexualities.

2 / 5

Teen Guidance
BookLooks Review Rating

| Page | Content |
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| 11 | <p>The illustration on this page depicts a person split vertically. On the left side of the page, the person is depicted as a boy with a blue background on the page. On the right side of the page, the person is depicted as a girl with long hair and a pink background on the page.</p> <p>The text on the page reads: OF TELLING THE WORLD HOW I WAS BORN ONE WAY...AND LIVED ANOTHER...</p> |
| 13 | <p>A WORLD WHERE OUR BODIES SAY ONE THING... ...AND OUR "BEINGS" SAY ANOTHER. YOU SEE, I WAS BORN A GIRL TRAPPED IN A BOY'S BODY.</p> |
| 20 | <p>BIGGER HANDS SHE WISHED SHE HAD TO PROTECT HERSELF? OR THE HEAVY HANDS THAT STRUCK HER AT NIGHT?</p> |
| 30 | <p>AND FOR KAILEE...SHE WASN'T A SISTER HELPING HER BROTHER OUT THAT DAY...IT WAS A SISTER HELPING A SISTER... IT WAS THE GREATEST BIRTHDAY GIFT A LITTLE GIRL COULD EVER HAVE. TO SEE MY MOTHER WITNESS A GENUINE ACT OF KINDNESS BY ONE DAUGHTER FOR ANOTHER...</p> |
| 33 | <p>AND KAILEE WOULD NEVER COMPLAIN...SHE WOULD JUST WEAR FEWER GIRLY CLOTHES AND LET ME RUN AROUND AND PLAY "DRESS UP." I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHY ID WANTED TO WEAR GIRL CLOTHES...I JUST KNEW I FELT BETTER WHEN MY OUTER APPEARANCE MATCHED HOW I FELT INSIDE.</p> |
| 34 | <p>IT WAS ONE THING TO WEAR A DRESS AND HEELS INSIDE THE HOUSE... BUT I COULD NEVER DRESS LIKE THAT IN PUBLIC...</p> |
| 38 | <p>I HAVE TO THINK SHE TOOK THE TIME TO STARE AT HER LITTLE BOY... ...SLEEPING PEACEFULLY AS HER LITTLE GIRL.</p> |
| 39 | <p>BUT THE SECOND I'D COME HOME, THE BOY CLOTHES WOULD COME OFF... ...AND THE GIRL CLOTHES WOULD GO ON.</p> |
| 40 | <p>I'D PRANCE AROUND IN KAILEE'S "REJECT" DRESSES... ...AND I'D WEAR PINK SOCKS.</p> |
| 42 | <p>TRUTH BE TOLD, I HATED MY SISTER WITH A PASSION DURING MY MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARS. NOT BECAUSE SHE WAS TRYING TO MAKE ME ANGRY... ...OR BLOCK MY GIRLHOOD. I HATED MY SISTER FOR ONE SIMPLE FACT: SHE WAS A GIRL...AND I WASN'T.</p> |
| 46 | <p>I WAS DIFFERENT. MISUNDERSTOOD. GIRLY.</p> |
| 50 | <p>THAT IS UNTIL...SHE FOUND A VIDEO ON GOOGLE DURING A RANDOM SEARCH. IT WAS ABOUT A GIRL NAMED JAZZ JENNINGS. IN THIS VIDEO, IT SHOWED A YOUNG "DUCKLING" BOY WHO TRANSITIONED INTO A "SWAN." AND WHEN IT WAS OVER, I LOOKED AT HER AND SAID, "OH, MY! I'M JUST LIKE HER. I'M A GIRL TRAPPED IN A BOY'S BODY..."</p> |

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| 51 | I HAD ALL THE BEHAVIORS THAT JAZZ HAD. I HAD BEEN "INSISTENT, CONSISTENT, AND PERSISTENT"... ...IN MY FEELINGS THAT I WAS NOT IN THE RIGHT BODY. AND NOW I HAD A NAME FOR IT: TRANSGENDER. |
| 52 | THE NEXT DAY, MY MOTHER TOOK ME TO A THRIFT STORE AND LET ME BUY ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING FOR A "GIRL." |
| 56 | BY THE TIME I REGISTERED FOR 8TH GRADE, MY MOM AND I DECIDED THAT I WOULD "GO STEALTH." MEANING, I WASN'T GOING TO A NEW SCHOOL AS A BOY, BUT AS THE "NEW" GIRL. |
| 57 | "HEY COREY. REMEMBER ME? WHY ARE YOU DRESSED UP AS A GIRL? YOU'RE A BOY." |
| 58 | MEANWHILE, MY MOTHER HIRED A "GENDER THERAPIST" AND WE BEGAN TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESS OF TRANSITIONING. I FLEW TO CHICAGO AND ENROLLED IN THE LURIE ADOLESCENT GENDER CLINIC. THEY TOLD ME ABOUT THE TANNER STAGES, WHICH DESCRIBES THE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF PHYSICAL MATURITY. ONCE MY BODY REACHED TANNER STAGE II, I STARTED TAKING "PUBERTY BLOCKERS" TO STOP MALE PUBERTY. ALL I NEEDED WAS A "READINESS" LETTER FROM MY THERAPIST TO START TAKING ESTROGEN TO ENABLE MY BODY TO TRANSFORM... ...JUST LIKE JAZZ... ...FROM UGLY DUCKLING TO A SWAN. |
| 64 | THE NEXT DAY, I WALKED ON CAMPUS AND I FELT LIKE THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND. THE ENTIRE SCHOOL GREETED ME WITH FLOWERS, HUGS, AND TEARS. |
| 65 | A GROUP OF BOYS GANGED UP ON ME. THEY KICKED ME IN THE RIBS. SPIT IN MY FACE. SHOVED ME INTO THE LOCKERS. SHOULDER-CHECKED ME TO THE FLOOR. I GOT TO MY FEET IN A DAZE... I FELL FACE DOWN AND BROKE TWO TEETH... MY MOUTH BLEEDING...HOLDING MY TEETH IN MY SWEATY PALM. |
| 67 | A GIRL WHO JUST WANTED TO BE IN THE CORRECT BODY AND TO BE ACCEPTED AS A GIRL. |
| 69 | HI! I'M COREY. I'M 14 YEARS OLD...I MIGHT LOOK HAPPY NOW, BUT I HAVEN'T ALWAYS BEEN...I'VE KNOWN I WAS DIFFERENT ALL MY LIFE...WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I LOVED TO PLAY WITH DOLLS AND PLAY DRESS UP...I LOVED PAINTING MY NAILS, TOO. WEARING MY MOM'S HIGH HEELS WAS MY FAVORITE! BUT ONLY IN THE HOUSE. NEVER OUTSIDE. BECAUSE I WAS BORN A BOY... |
| 74 | I AM ENROLLED AS A YOUNG WOMAN WHO IS FULLY ACCEPTED AS "TRANSGENDER." ...AND BECAUSE MY MOTHER HAS SO COMPLETELY SUPPORTED MY TRANSFORMATION... ...I OWE IT TO HER...TO DO THE SAME THING FOR HER. ...AND NOW, SHE IS TRANSITIONING FROM A WOMAN TO A MAN... OF COURSE, HE WILL ALWAYS BE..."MOM." |
| 75 | The illustration on the top-right-side of the page depicts Corey and her mother in a crowd of people. They are holding up signs which read: MORE RIGHTS FOR TRANS |

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| 77 | Corey is an LGBTQ activist and is determined to raise awareness of transgender youth. |
| 78 | I was ten years old, headed to fifth grade graduation. I began my transition less than a week later. |
| 81 | <p>FIVE PARENT TAKE-AWAYS ABOUT TRANSITIONING</p> <p>DR. POWERS is a Board Certified Family Medicine Physician who has a practice in Farmington Hill, Michigan, specializing in care of LGBT people. He regularly lectures around the country about transgender medicine.</p> <p>...Children who express a gender identity that does not match the sex they were assigned at birth can be placed on puberty blockers. These medications are used to temporarily pause puberty to allow time for psychological evaluation and development. When the child reaches the age of puberty, or when they are considered to be a good (or poor) candidate for hormones, these puberty blockers can be stopped. This allows puberty to start normally or be induced with different hormones.</p> <p>...If a transgender boy (assigned female at birth) is attracted only to females, he is considered heterosexual. If attracted only to men, he is considered homosexual.</p> |