



Rethinking Normal: A Memoir in Transition

By Katie Rain Hill

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In her unique, generous, and affecting voice, nineteen-year-old Katie Rain Hill shares her personal journey of undergoing gender reassignment. Now with a reading group guide!

Katie Rain Hill realized very young that a serious mistake had been made; she was a girl who had been born in the body of a boy. Suffocating under her peers' bullying and the mounting pressure to be "normal," Katie tried to take her life at the age of eight years old. After several other failed attempts, she finally understood that "Katie"—the girl trapped within her—was determined to live.

In this first-person account, Katie reflects on her pain-filled childhood and the events leading up to the life-changing decision to undergo gender reassignment as a teenager. She reveals the unique challenges she faced while unlearning how to be a boy and shares what it was like to navigate the dating world—and experience heartbreak for the first time—in a body that matched her gender identity.

Told in an unwaveringly honest voice, *Rethinking Normal* is a coming-of-age story about transcending physical appearances and redefining the parameters of "normalcy" to embody one's true self.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up—Like most transgender children, Katie, who was born and raised as a boy named Luke, was aware of her difference early on, though it was years before she found the word to describe herself. Other family problems made it easy for her to withdraw into a serious depression without being noticed. When Katie finally came across the word "transgender" and read descriptions of what it meant, she risked everything and reached out to her mother, who was supportive and relieved to understand her child better. She promised to help Katie make the transition to her internally identified gender of female, if Katie promised not to kill herself. The book opens with Katie starting college. Having chosen to be an out and open transgender activist while still in high school, she decided to "go stealth" at college, a term used to describe transgender people who prefer not to be identified as such. The writing style is open and straightforward, although much of the dialogue is awkward and extraneous. The book starts out a bit slowly and picks up significantly in the later half. This is a worthwhile addition, given how few transgender memoirs there are for teens.—Nancy Silverrod, San Francisco Public Library

Review

"The writing style is open and straightforward...this is a worthwhile addition, given how few transgender memoirs there are for teens." (*School Library Journal*)

"Hill tackles both painful and joyful experiences with a light touch, and background information about gender and physical transition is woven seamlessly into the narrative...Will both educate cisgender readers and strike sparks of recognition in those questioning their own gender identities." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

"Once I began reading Katie's bold, beautiful unflinchingly honest memoir, I couldn't put it down. I felt as if I could reach out and touch her." (*Susan Kuklin, author and photographer of Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out*)

"In this powerfully honest book, Katie Rain Hill explains it all for you. If her story of growing up transgender in Bible Belt Oklahoma doesn't touch you, you may be made of stone." (*Ellen Wittlinger, award-winning author of Parrotfish, Hard Love and Love & Lies.*)

"Part of what makes Katie's story so extraordinary is that many of her struggles are entirely ordinary...Being so open—and openly imperfect—makes Katie relatable on a human level, not just as a spokesperson." (*Publishers Weekly*)

"Katie's memoir is an extraordinary educational tool for anyone who wants to understand more about the transgender experience. Her compelling personal journey and relatable modern voice make her story accessible to readers who have never experienced gender dysphoria, and allow her to casually and efficiently define terms such as sex, gender identity, gender expression, romantic attraction, and sexual attraction, as well as the differences between them." (*Edge Magazine*)

"Katie's emotions are raw and gripping, and her fight to be accepted is awe inspiring...[T]his is the perfect title to foster acceptance regardless of age, gender, or orientation." (*VOYA*)

About the Author

Katie Rain Hill is a student at the University of Tulsa majoring in anthropology and sociology. She wrote

this memoir while studying for exams, writing term papers, working part-time as a pharmaceutical technician, and advocating for LGBTQA rights. *Rethinking Normal* is her first book.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Paul Skeens:

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Terry Dansby:

The book untitled *Rethinking Normal: A Memoir in Transition* contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains her idea with easy technique. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was compiled by famous author. The author will take you in the new age of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice examine.

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