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Some Assembly Required: The Not-So-Secret Life Of A Transgender Teen



Synopsis

Seventeen-year-old Arin Andrews shares all the hilarious, painful, and poignant details of undergoing gender reassignment as a high school student in this winning first-of-its-kind memoir. Now with a reading group guide and an all-new afterword from the author! In this revolutionary first-of-its-kind memoir, Arin Andrews details the journey that led him to make the life-transforming decision to undergo gender reassignment as a high school junior. In his captivatingly witty, honest voice, Arin reveals the challenges he faced as a boy in a girl's body, the humiliation and anger he felt after getting kicked out of his private school, and all the changes—both mental and physical—he experienced once his transition began. *Some Assembly Required* is a true coming-of-age story about knocking down obstacles and embracing family, friendship, and first love. But more than that, it is a reminder that self-acceptance does not come ready-made with a manual and spare parts. Rather, some assembly is always required. Now with a reading group guide and an all-new afterword from the author! In this revolutionary first-of-its-kind memoir, Arin Andrews details the journey that led him to make the life-transforming decision to undergo gender reassignment as a high school junior. In his captivatingly witty, honest voice, Arin reveals the challenges he faced as a boy in a girl's body, the humiliation and anger he felt after getting kicked out of his private school, and all the changes—both mental and physical—he experienced once his transition began. *Some Assembly Required* is a true coming-of-age story about knocking down obstacles and embracing family, friendship, and first love. But more than that, it is a reminder that self-acceptance does not come ready-made with a manual and spare parts. Rather, some assembly is always required.

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Customer Reviews

Gr 9 UpÃ¢ –â •In this memoir, a female-born, transgender teenager describes the challenges presented by his transition. Andrews was always pleased to be called a tomboy as a child; in spite of his body, he felt like a boy, and his mother's insistence that he wear dresses and take part in pageants was painful. Andrews's relationship with his first girlfriend, a lesbian, helped him become aware of the fluidity of gender and sexuality and realize that it wasn't so bad to be different. However, his mother saw his girlfriend as a terrible influence and forbade the boy from seeing her. Andrews struggled with depression and suicidal thoughts: Who was he? Why did he feel so out of place? A YouTube video introduced the teen to the idea of being transgender. With the help of a family therapist specializing in gender dysphoria and an adolescent LGBT support group, Andrews began the journey toward transition and taking on his true identity. Readers will find many useful resources at the end, such as organizations, websites, and YouTube channels. The teen writes frankly and bravely about his transition and romantic relationships. This nonfiction account from an actual transgender teen authorÃ¢ –â •as opposed to a novel, such as Cris Beam's *I Am J* (Little, Brown, 2011)Ã¢ –â •is enlightening. The tone is more journalistic than personal, which may hold some readers at arm's length, but this is still a solid addition.Ã¢ –â •Brandy Danner, Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, MA --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Ã¢ –â “This is a brave book that handles complicated and sensitive topics honestly and, at times, with humor.Ã¢ –â • (Publishers Weekly)Ã¢ –â “How do you begin to understand who you are when you donÃ¢ –â „,et even know the word for it, and no one else in your community does either? Arin Andrews has found the words now, and theyÃ¢ –â –â „,re poignant and startling.Ã¢ –â –â • (Ellen Wittlinger, award-winning author of *Parrotfish*, *Hard Love* and *Love & Lies*.)Ã¢ –â –â “ArinÃ¢ –â –â „,s gutsy and important coming-of-age memoir is a must-read for anyone who has ever felt alone, marginalized, or Ã¢ –â –â œother.Ã¢ –â –â „, Sad, funny, and completely real.Ã¢ –â –â • (Susan Kuklin, author and photographer of *Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out*)Ã¢ –â –â “[A] plainspoken and sometimes humorous memoirÃ¢ –â –â |background information about societal gender expectations and physical transition processes fit in easily among typical teenage concerns like love, heartbreak and prom. Friendly and informative.Ã¢ –â –â • (Kirkus Reviews)”[Arin Andrews] writes frankly and bravely about his transition and romantic relationships. This nonfiction account...is enlightening.” (School Library Journal)”Teens will feel for [Arin], root for him, and learn a lot about

the costs and complexities of gender transition." (VOYA)

What a fantastic book about an amazing journey. Arin holds very little back and tells his story the way it is. He is an amazing young writer that you find yourself almost standing right beside as he goes through his life. It is an inspiring and educational ride through something that most of us have no idea or concept of what it could possibly be like and when you are finished you have a definite understanding and perspective that you had not had previously. I recommend this for everyone. Love. In the end guys, that is all that should matter. Just Love.

This book has to be one of the most raw and personal books I've read right beside Tweak by Nic Scheff. I couldn't recommend this book more highly. This book helped me figure out a lot of things about myself. It's a great read for those that are figuring out they're trans or for anyone who is trying to understand why your friend or family member is progressing through a transgender body. There were times where I laughed, cried, or even smiled. Get yourself a copy.

This book is great. As a teen trans guy this book definitely helped me a lot and gave knowledge that I would've otherwise never known. I've read it three times so far and love every second of it. Really helps me out on dysphoric days.

I work with young teens and this book was a recommendation of one of my students. Certainly opened my eyes to the struggles of transgender teens and the obstacles they face as they embark on their journeys to find their places in this world.

An honest and insightful read as I educate myself about what my own child (and my students) are perhaps thinking or feeling in the quest to be their authentic selves. Thank you for sharing your journey. The resources at the end are especially appreciated.

There is humor and deeply compassionate writing here. I learned so much and realized how much I have yet to learn about the transgender experience. I am grateful to the author for this authentic sharing.

Such a good book, well written, easy to read, very important story, interesting throughout

Perfect depiction of the everyday struggles of a transgender teen. You root for Arin every step of the way. A very important novel.

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