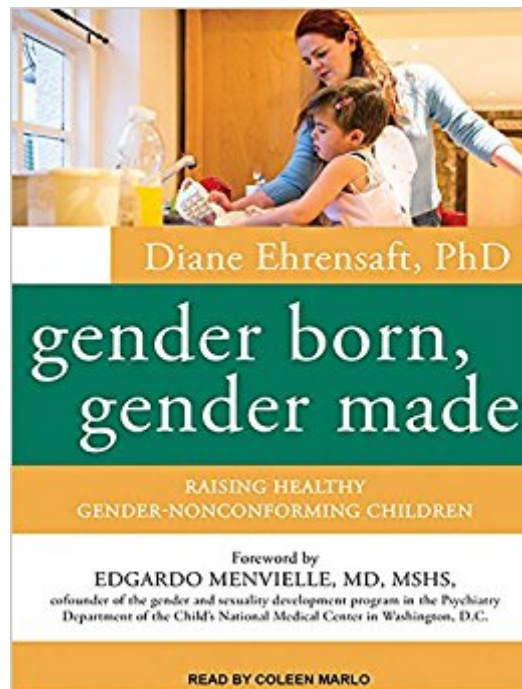


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# Gender Born, Gender Made: Raising Healthy Gender-Nonconforming Children



## Synopsis

No two children who bend the "rules" of gender do so in quite the same way. Felicia threw away her frilly dresses at age three. Sam hid his interest in dolls and "girl things" until high school-when he finally confided his desire to become Sammi. And seven-year-old Maggie, who sports a boys' basketball uniform and a long blond braid, identifies as "a boy in the front, and a girl in the back." But all gender-nonconforming children have one thing in common-they need support to thrive in a society that still subscribes to a binary system of gender. Dr. Diane Ehrensaft has worked with children like Felicia, Sam, and Maggie for over thirty years. In *Gender Born, Gender Made*, she offers parents, clinicians, and educators guidance on both the philosophical dilemmas and the practical, daily concerns of working with children who don't fit a "typical" gender mold. She debunks outmoded approaches to gender nonconformity that may actually do children harm. And she offers a new framework for helping each child become his or her own unique, most gender-authentic person.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Oh my, this book made me throw things against the wall. My child may be trans. This book makes it clear that my choices are to let her be suicidal, subject her to the abuse of society or to try to hide it with toxic hormones and disfiguring surgery. This book is somewhat informative but left me profoundly angry and depressed. There's a better book called *The Transgender Child* by Brill and Pepper that has a more confident tone and better information. If you want to spend time thinking

about trans children, I'd recommend that one instead.

This is the definitive book on gender, and in particular children's gender issues. I've been studying gender for well over 35 years and have never read such a complete and well explained book as this one. It's a must read for parents of gender variant children, but even more importantly for those whose knowledge of this topic is limited. Congrats to Dr. Ehrensaft on such a fine accomplishment.

My son was a princess for Halloween 20 years ago. I wish I had this book then. There is so little information available for parents and much of it is unsupportive of gender non-conforming children. I highly recommend this book to all parents, teachers, caregivers, aunties, uncles, grandparents, etc. of gender non-conforming children to help us create a world where they are accepted and celebrated for who they are.

I have read this book, and being transgendered from an early age, I looked at it and see if I could answer any questions that I have regarding my childhood. The one thing is that it seems to state that a child's gender and sex are the same thing... This is not so... A child's sex is determined when the doctor looks at the child after being delivered, and says it's a boy or it's a girl, based on what is between the child's legs. A Child's gender is completely internal, and is not discovered until the child is 3-4 years old as most psychologists say. It is after this period of development that the child begins to understand, and leans towards being female or male internally. Most children do go along with what their birth certificates say, and their gender matches the sex deemed at birth. However, as science is beginning to realize, far more frequently the gender the child identifies with is not the same as what is between their legs, and they have been subjected to years of being verbally bombarded with how they should behave. And then society forces them to hide their true selves or risk being ridiculed, beaten, or killed for being different. This was me for the first twelve years of my life. Looking back the signs were so obvious, but my parents, and teachers didn't know how to handle it, so they ignored it hoping it would go away, but it never did. I am now out and proud so say that I am female, and I hope that people in society begin opening their eyes and realize that who a person really is is not what is between their legs, but rather what is on the inside.

This book may not be suitable for someone who is trying to understand the transgender issue. The book is extremely detailed as if written more for practitioners who are trying to get deeper knowledge of a subject they already know a little about. There too many case studies and too many

classifications for the layman.

This book explains so many things about gender variant children. The book also gives you the children's point of view, which is really helpful. If your child or a child you know is gender variant you need this book.

I was hesitant about this book but the author has vast experience with helping families of Gender Non-Conforming/Gender creative children. She is very understanding how difficult it can be for parents. This is the first book we read since finding out our son is gender non conforming so I do not have other books to compare it to but I was very glad to read information from someone with a great deal of experience and stories to share. I gave it four stars because she is a little long winded and repeats info at times.

Diane Ehrensaft presents the argument for allowing gender-variant children to grow and mature as the persons they truly are, rather than forcing them to hide their true selves by conforming to the roles dictated by the gender assigned at birth. Parents involved in child rearing, educators, social workers, medical personnel, and the general public would benefit by the information, insights, and concerns in this easy-to-read book.

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