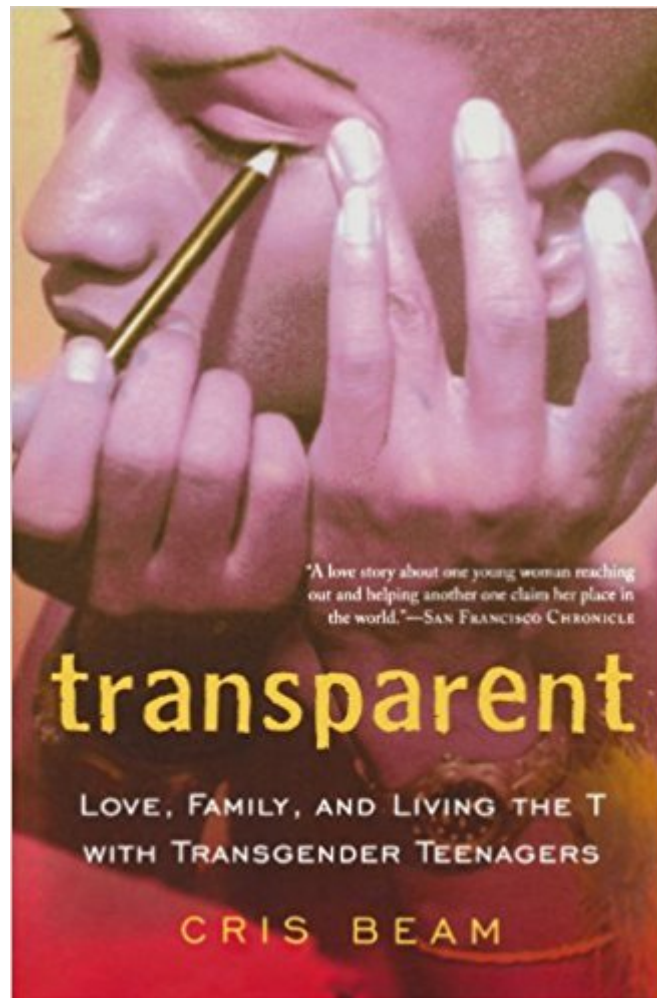




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# Transparent: Love, Family, And Living The T With Transgender Teenagers



## Synopsis

When Cris Beam moved to Los Angeles, she thought she might volunteer just a few hours at a school for gay and transgender kids. Instead, she found herself drawn deeply into the pained and powerful group of transgirls she discovered. Transparent introduces four: Christina, Dominique, Foxxjazell, and Ariel. As they accept Cris into their world, she shows it to us— a dizzying mix of familiar teenage cliques and crushes and far less familiar challenges, such as how to morph your body on a few dollars a day. Funny, heartbreaking, defiant, and sometimes defeated, the girls form a singular community. But they struggle valiantly to resolve the gap between the way they feel inside and the way the world sees them—and who among us can’t identify with that? Beam’s astute reporting, sensitive writing, and passionate engagement with her characters place this book in the ranks of the very best narrative nonfiction.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. In this gripping, illuminating and deeply moving portrait of transgender teens in Los Angeles, the smallest incidents reverberate sharply. Beam, volunteering at a support center for trans teens, helps a young woman named Christina make changes on her driver's license: her name from Eduardo and the gender from male to female. The DMV clerk adamantly refuses to make the adjustment and only acquiesces after the humiliated Christina has a meltdown and Beam, pretending to be an ACLU lawyer, demands a supervisor. Christina is one of several, mostly minority, male-to-female transgender women to whom Beam becomes attached. Their group interactions—including fights, friendships and daily struggles to survive—form the

center of the book. Though these women's lives are difficult—when Christina is beaten during an attempted rape, she has to lie to the police about being transgender—there are also moments of quick wit. As Beam morphs from parent to therapist, chum, cheerleader and legal adviser, she seamlessly blends memoir, reportage and advocacy. The result is a vivid and fiercely empathetic narrative that juxtaposes dead-on portraits of these young women with clearly articulated fury at a culture that's not only fearful of anyone who deviates from traditional gender roles but treats minorities and the poor with contempt. (Jan.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Beam writes of her volunteer activities at Eagles, a small high school for gay and transgender teens in Los Angeles, by focusing on first one, then another, of the young people she encountered. Many were homeless, thrown out by their parents. Some alternated between gender identities, switching from masculine to feminine names as well as apparel. Beam taught language skills and writing. She and her students, who sometimes wandered into school and sometimes didn't, "managed to pull together enough pieces to make a magazine." Along with obituaries of friends, the 20-page glossy contained teen poetry, medical advice on the hazards of too many hormones acting too quickly, a transgender "Hints from Heloise," and two columns, "Getting Out of a Gang" and "When Your Grandma Finds Your Drag Clothes." Other victories, less tangible but equally important as she established meaningful relationships with the kids, as well as frustrations, obstacles, and disappointments, make for compelling reading that fills an important niche in gender studies. Whitney Scott Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I have a 20-year-old niece who is transitioning from male to female now. She's identified as transgender since 14. I bought this book for information to understand her better and gifted it to my sister, her mother. The stories of these young people is very heart-wrenching. But the informative chapters are excellent, too. Recommend to anyone who cares about understanding trans youth. Very well done.

I generally gravitate toward books that deal with identity because I find this subject fascinating. This book will find a home on my bookshelf permanently after I loan it out to friends. I loved this book. I think the author did a great job reporting her experience of 'adopting' and parenting a MTF

transgender teen without becoming overly sentimental or tediously scientific; no easy task given the setting and subject of the story. This book opened my eyes in ways I never would have imagined and made me question and re-calibrate my assumptions. I finished the book 3 weeks ago and I am still thinking and talking about it to people every day.

This book is a very different view truthful view of what it is like to be a transgender and keep up the ways and means of dressing, make up, life style, and experiences of a life mostly unknown to the average world. Beam follows a number of people who are trying on a new life in more ways than one and it is an eye-opener. Life in the unusual lane is hard, fast, and tends to bring out the hidden parts of humans who need to express themselves in a non-tradition way. The author covers love, family, and living the with transgender teenagers. It will help you understand, think out side of the box, and feel the life of being in another's shoes, be it high heels or flats.

Cris Beam lived the experiences she relates in this book and relays them without embellishment. We know this because she tape recorded every conversation described, and the few she didn't tape record she kept logs of. It is written in the form of a narrative and is written with skill and intimacy. Cris Beam explains that as we mature from children into adults there is an inexorable question we each seek to find an answer to. For a transexual youth named Dominique the question was: What drug could be so good my mother would choose it over me? For Cris the question was: What child could be so bad she's unlovable? The answer to Chris's question is answered in this book: no child. This book has widened my experience of what it is to be human and I recommend it to everyone.

As advertised. Quick delivery.

Very insightful.

This book is the perfect go to for an easy day! So informative! The book really shines a bright light onto the struggles and triumphs of young transgender teens in a very respectful manner! Beautiful story and a delightful read any day!

Love this book. Great add to my book collection. Was in great condition when I purchased it. Used and it was definitely a steal.

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