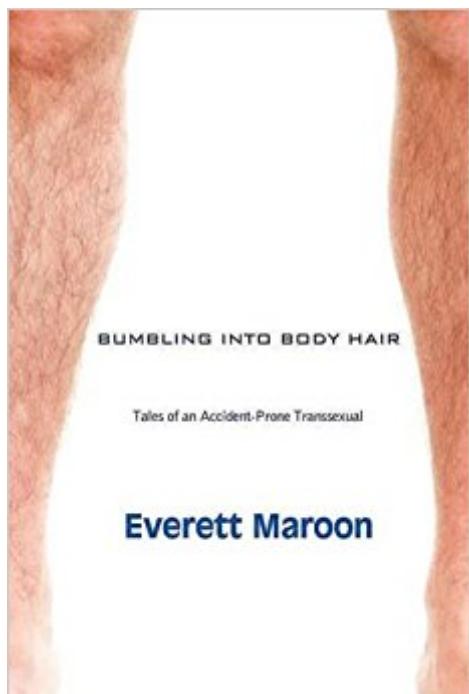


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Bumbling Into Body Hair: A Transsexual's Memoir



Synopsis

A poignant and sincere memoir about a klutz's sex change, *Bumbling into Body Hair* shows how a sense of humor, along with true love, can triumph over the magnitude of the life changes one experiences transitioning. Maroon found himself faced with bathroom drama, hair disasters, resurrected breasts, and crippling self-doubt, but his acceptance of being a transman can be an inspiration to anyone, of any gender.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Everett's work is luminous, brilliant, thoughtful and brave. I am so proud to be on this earth with him. He is who we all fight for, and he is the future of our community." --Margaret Cho, comedian and author of *I Have Chosen to Stay and Fight*"Reading *Bumbling into Body Hair* by Everett Maroon--LOVE IT! Great message for trans folk on being our whole selves--AND it's funny." --Kate Bornstein, author of *My New Gender Workbook* and *A Queer and Pleasant Danger*"All teenagers have body issues, but trans man Everett Maroon had more than his fair share. *Bumbling into Body Hair* is Maroon's humorous take on living life as a clumsy, geeky, and just plaid awkward dude. It's as if *Pretty in Pink* were genderswapped for a new generation. Yet although Maroon's approach is comedic, his perspectives on gender are critically important." --Kristian Wilson, writing for Bustle.com

A well-written and enjoyable memoir by an honest writer with a great sense of humor. I loved the

first 75% of the book, but then I felt like it started to drag to the "happily ever after" conclusion. I would give it 4.5 stars if I could. I guess will do that for us. I definitely enjoyed it and recommend it but I can't quite bring myself to say I loved it when it was over.

Everett Maroon writes an honest and witty memoir about his transition from female to male during his time living in Washington, DC. What makes this book stand out from most memoirs dealing with such a charged subject is the humour. The story begins with a hilarious hair dye disaster during a lesbian march. Everett (who identified as a lesbian before his transition) began to realise that the label just didn't fit. What follows is an earnest account of his attempts to figure himself out while dodging selfish exes, falling air conditioning units, and cat claw attacks. The process of transition can be a little bit like leading a double life, or having a secret identity (if only it came with super powers!), and this book lets you experience that through Everett's eyes while he meets new people who know him as Everett, and struggles to maintain his relationships with those who still knew him as Jenifer. It's a bumpy road, but eventually he makes it through to the other side. Transgender readers will see bits and pieces of themselves in the narrative. Cisgender people who have trans* loved ones may come away with new insights into what they are already aware of, and those who have not met any transfolk will no longer be truly ignorant. But above all, the book is wildly entertaining and Everett is a likeable character and engaging storyteller.

Wonderful memoir that is at times heart-wrenching and touching with a dash of humor. I applaud Everett for having the courage to share his story and opening my eyes to what he has gone through. Everyone deserves to find happiness and the world could use a lot more understanding. Looking forward to reading his fiction as well!

I laughed more through this book than any I have ever read. This was also a compelling read and along the way I was able to pick up a fair amount to be grateful for both in my own life and for the author as she transitioned from Jenifer to Everett. The author well understands how to use vivid details to add humor, bring us into a situation, and better understand the subtleties of every aspect of his life. The setting, Washington DC, where I'd spent five years as a teenager, was wonderfully drawn. The contrast of the ice-cold air conditioned rooms with the stifling heat outside, even the topics of conversation at parties and get-togethers brought back memories. The first scene that put us squarely into Jenifer's world included a botched dye job and a dyke march under the hot summer sun. Here are a couple lines just so you get an idea: "Personally, I liked the dancing gay cowboys,

but I agreed that the lesbians needed a moment in the sun, which in June in DC, was plentiful if not crushing. "So now I looked like an angry, masculine, man-eating lesbian who sweat blood. Perfect." The funny parts balance out the scenes that show us the unpleasant aspects of the transition: harassment, confusion, and intense discussions with family members and friends to name a few. Also, the scenes outlining how many forms a person has to fill out to register the gender change with the proper authorities and institutions gives insight into how big a role gender plays in the ways we all deal with each other, and what aspects of a person's character we take for granted based on their gender. The scenes where we get to see people harass, misunderstand or bully the author gave me much more sympathy for the plight of anyone who struggles through a transition like this. The author also worked in lots of great bits of education. Did you know that GQ is not just a magazine? A person who identifies as genderqueer doesn't "identify as male or female but as "something that messed with gender itself." I was grateful for the insights into this other world, and also by the end of the book I was grateful that I never had to struggle with my identity in this way. How many of us ever consider something as basic as our gender, or how we describe our sexuality? Part of what made this book special was that I got to understand the countless ways people identify themselves and to understand that there is much more than gay, straight or even transgender that a person could imagine.

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