



Out of the Ordinary: Essays on Growing Up with Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Parents

By Noelle Howey, Ellen Samuels, Margarethe Cammermeyer, Dan Savage

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Out of the Ordinary is a truly unique anthology, a groundbreaking collection of essays by the grown children of lesbian, gay, and transgender parents. Ranging from humorous to poignant, the essays touch on some of the most important and complicated issues facing them: dealing with a parent's sexuality while developing an identity of one's own; overcoming homophobia at school and at family or social gatherings; and defining the modern family. In a time when traditional family structure has undergone radical change, *Out of the Ordinary* is an important look at the meaning of love, family, and relationships, and will speak to anyone who has lived or is interested in non-traditional families.

With a foreword by Margarethe Cammermeyer, Ph.D., author of *Serving in Silence*, and a preface by columnist and author Dan Savage, *Out of the Ordinary* also includes a resource guide of organizations that offer support for the hundreds of thousands of gay, lesbian, and transgender parents and their children. As the demographic increases, this book becomes an invaluable tool for learning, understanding, and acceptance.

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Out of the Ordinary: Essays on Growing Up with Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Parents

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

While hearing "faggot" yelled at you in a high school corridor would upset almost anyone, here is evidence that hearing "Your father's a faggot" isn't nearly as bad, and that you might find yourself levelheadedly retorting, "No, my father's a transgendered lesbian." This unprecedented collection of short memoirs by adult children of gay, lesbian, and transgender parents demonstrates once again that love cannot be policed or regulated, and that the bond between parents and children transcends petty categories. Kelley Conway's "My Mother and the Nun" describes the confusion a 14-year-old girl feels when her mother falls in love with another woman at the same time that Conway herself is beginning to recognize her own attractions to other girls. In Peter Snow's "Acting Lessons," a college boy returns home to find that his parents, who have always been unhappily married, are still together, and in fact are cozied up on the couch watching television with his mother's lover, Jackie. What is missing from this volume are essays by children who were born or adopted into same-sex families. Without this perspective, the memoirs are somewhat skewed, since almost every writer had to deal not only with a parent's coming out but with a wrenching divorce, often caused by that parent's sexuality. Nevertheless, this collection should prove helpful to therapists, youth counselors, and families with gay members, and contribute positively to the debates on same-sex parenting and adoption. --
Regina Marler

From Publishers Weekly

The typical adolescent experience of being mortified by one's parents or squeamish about discussing sexuality takes on an additional dimension in this collection of essays by 20 contributors who have a queer mom or dad (or two). The lack of sophistication in these essays is both the book's weakness and its strength. For these accounts, many by first-time writers, sometimes unintentionally show with dramatic clarity how at early ages the authors sensed and shouldered their parents' struggles. Among the most poignant stories are one girl's account of her loss of contact with a much-loved nonbiological "mom" after the "mom" and the girl's mother broke up; another girl's memories of her fear of losing her father as he began transitioning from male to female; and the tale of a nervous boy who has been told to "smile and say nothing" whenever asked why his mother lives with a woman. With the exception of Dan Savage, these narrators don't sound like products of the current, proud gay-parenting boom; many are the children of parents who struggled to leave straight lives (and marriages) and to establish new identities later in life. Despite a number of tributes to parents who succeeded in finding themselves and remaining sensitive to their children at the same time, a pall is cast over the book by the many parents who did not talk to their family about what was happening or who retreated into the closet. One reluctantly perceptive nine-year-old, asked how he would define "lesbian," is quoted as saying, "It's something that happens, and kids don't usually like it happening." (Aug.)

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Review

"Groundbreaking, long overdue, thoughtful and moving--an impressive collection not only of remarkable stories, but of remarkable writing." ?*Lisa Miya Jervis, editor, Bitch: Feminist Response to Pop Culture*

"One of the best collections I've read in 20 years . . . [these] remarkable essays will educate and entertain." ?*Ritch Savin-Williams, author, And Then I Became Gay*

“These are voices we have not heard. There is gold in these pages.” *?Riki Wilchins, author of Read My Lips: Sexual Subversion and the End of Gender*

“Out of the Ordinary succeeds in putting words to the strange, often difficult realities of a peculiar type of growing-up. In doing so, it becomes a rare gem, a book that is as compelling as it is important.” *?Chelsea Cain, Ms.*

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Sandra Snyder:

This Out of the Ordinary: Essays on Growing Up with Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Parents are reliable for you who want to be considered a successful person, why. The reason why of this Out of the Ordinary: Essays on Growing Up with Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Parents can be among the great books you must have is actually giving you more than just simple studying food but feed an individual with information that perhaps will shock your previous knowledge. This book is definitely handy, you can bring it just about everywhere and whenever your conditions both in e-book and printed types. Beside that this Out of the Ordinary: Essays on Growing Up with Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Parents giving you an enormous of experience such as rich vocabulary, giving you tryout of critical thinking that could it useful in your day task. So , let's have it and luxuriate in reading.

Lisa McCann:

The e-book with title Out of the Ordinary: Essays on Growing Up with Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Parents has lot of information that you can learn it. You can get a lot of gain after read this book. This kind of book exist new understanding the information that exist in this e-book represented the condition of the world at this point. That is important to yo7u to understand how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you throughout new era of the the positive effect. You can read the e-book on your own smart phone, so you can read this anywhere you want.

Robin Blakely:

The reason why? Because this Out of the Ordinary: Essays on Growing Up with Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Parents is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will distress you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who have write the book in such wonderful way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book include such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking way. So , still want to delay having that book? If I were you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

Debbie Gagnon:

Out of the Ordinary: Essays on Growing Up with Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Parents can be one of your basic books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to place every word into joy arrangement in writing Out of the Ordinary: Essays on Growing Up with Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Parents but doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource info that maybe you can be one of it. This great information may drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial pondering.

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