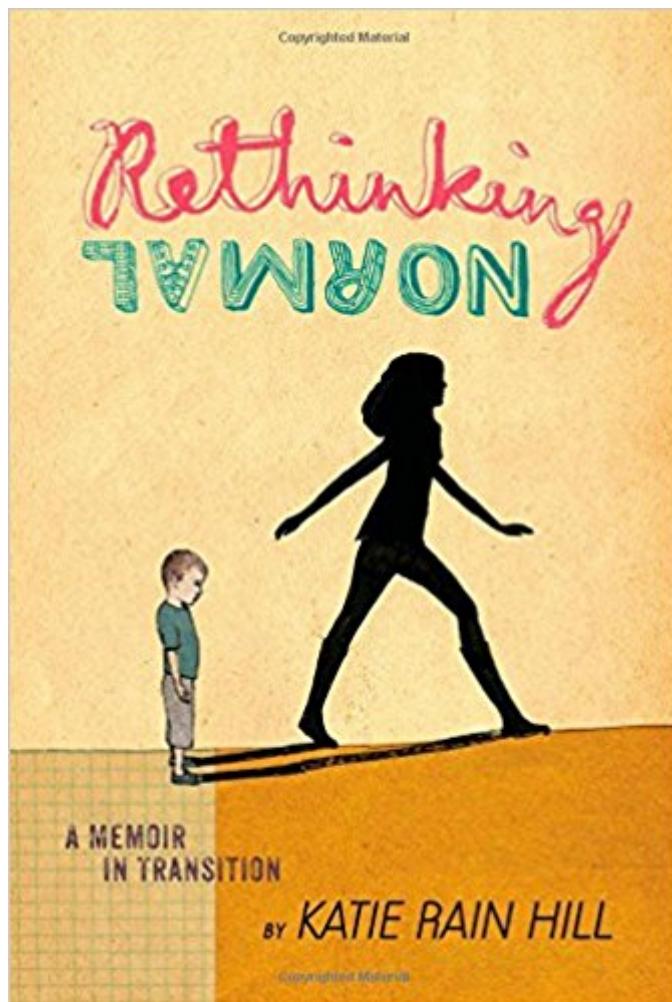


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# Rethinking Normal: A Memoir In Transition



## Synopsis

In her unique, generous, and affecting voice, nineteen-year-old Katie Hill shares her personal journey of undergoing gender reassignment. Have you ever worried that you'd never be able to live up to your parents' expectations? Have you ever imagined that life would be better if you were just invisible? Have you ever thought you would do anything to make the teasing stop? Katie Hill had and it nearly tore her apart. Katie never felt comfortable in her own skin. She realized very young that a serious mistake had been made; she was a girl who had been born in the body of a boy. Suffocating under her peers' bullying and the mounting pressure to be "normal," Katie tried to take her life at the age of eight years old. After several other failed attempts, she finally understood that Katie the girl trapped within her was determined to live. In this first-person account, Katie reflects on her pain-filled childhood and the events leading up to the life-changing decision to undergo gender reassignment as a teenager. She reveals the unique challenges she faced while unlearning how to be a boy and shares what it was like to navigate the dating world and experience heartbreak for the first time in a body that matched her gender identity. Told in an unwaveringly honest voice, *Rethinking Normal* is a coming-of-age story about transcending physical appearances and redefining the parameters of "normalcy" to embody one's true self.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up Like most transgender children, Katie, who was born and raised as a boy named

Luke, was aware of her difference early on, though it was years before she found the word to describe herself. Other family problems made it easy for her to withdraw into a serious depression without being noticed. When Katie finally came across the word "transgender" and read descriptions of what it meant, she risked everything and reached out to her mother, who was supportive and relieved to understand her child better. She promised to help Katie make the transition to her internally identified gender of female, if Katie promised not to kill herself. The book opens with Katie starting college. Having chosen to be an out and open transgender activist while still in high school, she decided to "go stealth" at college, a term used to describe transgender people who prefer not to be identified as such. The writing style is open and straightforward, although much of the dialogue is awkward and extraneous. The book starts out a bit slowly and picks up significantly in the later half. This is a worthwhile addition, given how few transgender memoirs there are for teens. Nancy Silverrod, San Francisco Public Library

"The writing style is open and straightforward" this is a worthwhile addition, given how few transgender memoirs there are for teens. (School Library Journal) "Hill tackles both painful and joyful experiences with a light touch, and background information about gender and physical transition is woven seamlessly into the narrative" Will both educate cisgender readers and strike sparks of recognition in those questioning their own gender identities. (Kirkus Reviews) "Once I began reading Katie's bold, beautiful unflinchingly honest memoir, I couldn't put it down. I felt as if I could reach out and touch her." (Susan Kuklin, author and photographer of *Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out*) "In this powerfully honest book, Katie Rain Hill explains it all for you. If her story of growing up transgender in Bible Belt Oklahoma doesn't touch you, you may be made of stone." (Ellen Wittlinger, award-winning author of *Parrotfish*, *Hard Love* and *Love & Lies*.) "Part of what makes Katie's story so extraordinary is that many of her struggles are entirely ordinary...Being so open and openly imperfect makes Katie relatable on a human level, not just as a spokesperson." (Publishers Weekly) "Katie's memoir is an extraordinary educational tool for anyone who wants to understand more about the transgender experience. Her compelling personal journey and relatable modern voice make her story accessible to readers who have never experienced gender dysphoria, and allow her to casually and efficiently define terms such as sex, gender identity, gender expression, romantic attraction, and sexual attraction, as well as the differences between them." (Edge Magazine) "Katie's emotions are raw and gripping, and her fight to be accepted is awe inspiring...[T]his is the perfect title to foster acceptance

regardless of age, gender, or orientation." (VOYA)

I wasn't sure what to expect when I sat down and opened up *Rethinking Normal* for the first time, but I quickly found myself in the shoes of an amazing person telling her life story in honest detail. This is the story of Ms. Hill's journey to self discovery in spite of pain and suffering by her peers, that is often heart wrenching and uplifting. At times, as the reader, I felt like I needed to give the author a big hug and tell her it will be okay. Ms. Hill's story is touching, and brings awareness to a less than aware audience. It is a journey that the reader will take with the author as she recounts her tales of sadness, despair, love, and discovery that ultimately leads to her being the strong intelligent woman that she is today. This is a book that should be read by anyone and will help shed light on what it is like to grow up transgender in modern society, and will truly make you rethink what is normal.

Outstanding read. There were some very emotionally poignant moments, and the story overall gave me a personal and touching glimpse into a lifestyle I knew nothing about, and was too afraid to ask about. Trust me, ALL your questions will be answered. I highly recommend this book - it will open your eyes and your mind.

I loved this autobiography! I loved the author's candidness and learned a lot about Transgenderism that I wished I had known earlier. I feel bad for all that she went through during her childhood. She's also a fantastic, intelligent writer and her story reads a lot like a novel. I wish her all the best going forward. She deserves it! The only thing I wondered while reading her book was how she felt comfortable sharing with the world her most intimate thoughts (especially the bad thoughts) about her relationship with Arin and the other people in her life.

great insight into a world I knew nothing about. It really made me see trans issues differently and I feel like I understand a lot better. Well-written, too! Even without the trans aspect, the story was really interesting--the author's depression, family life, boy troubles, friends and school issues made for a lot of interesting drama.

On the strong side, this book gives a good insight into lives of transgendered people. There's a lot of emotion embedded into these pages: both high and lows as we get familiar with Katie's story. As it turns out, these experiences are not that different from common people (aka cisgendered). In a lot of instances Katie acts and feels and even falls in love like any girl her age would do. It clearly

shows how unbased are society's fears and prejudices against transgender. And it calls for change to happen. However, there is a reason why people should not write memoirs about themselves, especially at young age. Overall it lacks maturity and reeks a lot of judgments that author herself has. Like calling someone "probably gay" who can be easily identified from the events in the book. Or giving only onesided opinion about people that she did not like for some reason. But worst of all was her recounting on relationship with Arin. Poor Arin... From Katie's perspective it seems that she never saw him as a man in her life. In other words he was friend-zoned, a feeling that is quite familiar to a lot of unhappy guys. Making it all public is a very rude thing to do - especially for someone who works very hard to build a masculine identity.

I got this used and it was in great condition! I found pencil marks in a few spots, but easily erasable! I love this book so much!

It's allows you to keep an open mind. That life's struggles are real for everyone. They may not look the same but they are. Respect and keep yourself educated.

Yay Katie! You are beautiful and make our world a better place! May the faeries bless you and yours with much magick, love and joy!

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