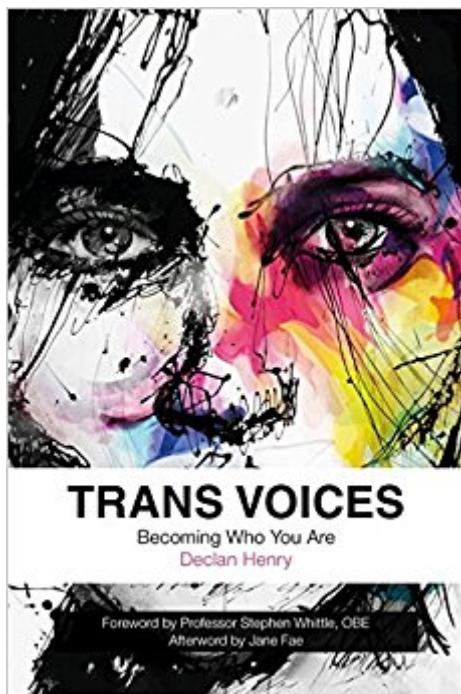


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# Trans Voices: Becoming Who You Are



## **Synopsis**

Bronze Winner for the 2017 Independent Publisher Book Awards in the category of Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Trans Non-Fiction Foregrounding the voices of transgender and non-binary people, this honest and insightful book is a compilation of the voices of those who have decided to undergo transition - both male-to-female and female-to-male. Drawing on over one hundred interviews with individuals, the book details the diverse experiences and challenges faced by those who transition, exploring a range of topics such as hormone treatments; reassignment surgeries; coming out; sex and sexuality; physical, emotional and mental health; transphobia; discrimination; and hate crime, as well as highlighting the lives of non-binary individuals and those who cross-dress to form a wider understanding of the varied ways in which people experience gender. This powerful book is an ideal introduction to those keen to understand more about contemporary trans issues as well as those questioning their own gender identity.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Declan Henry's 'Trans Voices' captures the diversity of the breadth of the transgender experience through personal stories that make the topic accessible and understandable for any reader and give the book heart that many other books on the subject lack. -- Charlie Craggs, Founder of Nail Transphobia Declan Henry starts the book with a refreshingly honest confession that at one point he knew very little about the T in LGBT. With complete earnestness he sets out to give an overview of the transgender community in simple and very readable sections. He has packed this small book full of information, snippets of enlightening interviews and his thoughts about transgender equality and

equality in its widest sense. A must read for anyone wishing to be an ally who realises that only with knowledge and understanding can you change hearts and minds. -- Juno Roche, Writer, campaigner and Patron of cliniQ This book gives an important, valuable platform to many diverse trans voices. We must listen and learn from their experiences and concerns; and act in solidarity with their human rights struggle. -- Peter Tatchell, Director, Peter Tatchell Foundation We congratulate Declan Henry on developing this perceptive account of trans experiences, richly illustrated with a wide array of authentic personal narratives. It is a timely reminder of the diversity of trans individuals and the many barriers to equal treatment they still face. We commend the book to everyone who is in a position to improve their lives. -- Bernard Reed OBE, Trustee, Gender and Identity Research and Education Society (GIRES)

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Trans Voices is a book with a bit of a strange pedigree, written as it is by a gay man who was ashamed of how little he knew about trans people. It is a book written both for those friends, families, and allies who are interested in better understanding trans issues, and for those of us questioning (or just exploring) our own gender identity. The book itself is very easy to read,

balancing social and psychological theories with real trans experiences. In writing the book, Henry interviewed several dozen trans individuals, and he allows them to speak in their own words throughout. As a result, we get to see all sides of the story, allowing readers to not just understand the trans experience, but truly emphasize with it. What struck me most about the book is how inclusive it is. It opens with the mandatory chapters on Being Trans and on Transitioning, and then moves right into MTF and FTM transsexuals. Pretty standard stuff. After that, however, it devotes a chapter to Non-Binary individuals, and another to Cross-Dressers. This is not a book that is about just one group of trans folk, it is a book that strives to embrace and positively support all gender identities and expressions. The chapter on Sex and Sexuality is fascinating reading, and the one on Health is pretty much a must-read for anybody who has ever considered any sort of transition. At just over 200 pages, Trans Voices is a short, but powerful, read that I would love to get into the hands of friends and family. Sure, its diversity might raise as many new questions as it answers, but so long as it's a positive discussion, I am always happy to talk gender.

DNF Review: Trans Voices by Declan Henry~ I received an eARC from the publisher, Jessica Kingsley Publishers, and Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. ~The author of this book is a gay social worker, not a trans person, so I was hesitant at first, but I gave it a shot because he had worked & interviewed trans people, including those who identify as non-binary. I firmly believe that awareness and knowledge break down ignorance and bigotry and can create a world where everybody can get on with their business without interference or prejudice, thus allowing people to become whoever they want to be. Therefore it is the voices in this book that will reach out to you when descriptions of their experiences are conveyed because they are coming from lived lives, rather than from me as a mere spectator. Ultimately, I hope these voices will draw closer to what it is like to be a trans person in today's world. I had high hopes after that statement, but the inclusion of research connecting being trans to being autistic killed this book for me, as someone on the autism spectrum and as a generally informed human being. Autism research is regularly badly thought out, and fails to take into account the people it's missing with its study. The study quoted [found here] is problematic because for a long time, the only reason that people assigned female at birth were taken to be diagnosed because they weren't presenting as ladylike or as pliable as their parents wanted them to be, which plays into gender identity. It gets ignored in so many of us, or it's misdiagnosed. None of that was discussed within any of the study writings linked above, despite that they mentioned that all of this was self-reported. Not to mention, the study was not able to prove its hypothesis, so it

shouldn't have been included except as a theory. Because I know this about this particular study, I don't trust the author to be accurate throughout the rest of the book, and I won't be continuing. If this book had been just the stories from the trans people that the author interviewed, I would have enjoyed it. In fact, if that had been the book (like I thought it was when I requested it) I would have loved it. There's a lot of things this book could have been, and it just wasn't. In the future, I'll stick to books by trans people about their own experiences. This has made me wary of other books by Jessica Kingsley Publishers, and I will definitely be hesitant before requesting other books by them. I hope they'll do better in the future.

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