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George

Amanda Bishop

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Book Review

George

Author

Alex Gino

Illustrator

Reviewer

Amanda Bishop

Rating

Excellent

Level

Intermediate

Pages

224

Year

2017

Publisher

Scholastic Inc.

ISBN

9780545812573

George is the story of a young girl who, biologically, was born male. Everyone sees George as if she were a boy, but George knows that inside she is female. George sees her opportunity to let the world know who she really is inside when the school play is announced. She desperately wants to be cast as Charlotte in the upcoming school play, but her teachers and fellow classmates don't think that a boy should play Charlotte. With the help of her best friend, Kelly, George devises a plan to show everyone that she can make a great Charlotte. She impresses everyone with her acting abilities and is the hit star of the play. George's brother understands when she tells him that she thinks she's a girl, but George's mother is conflicted. It isn't until George goes on an out-of-town trip for the day with Kelly that she gets to be the girl she always knew she was.

George is a coming-of-age novel that approaches the subject of what it means to be a transgender child who doesn't feel comfortable in the body in which they were born. It is not just a story of gender, but of what it means to grow up and to discover who you really are and share it with the world. George is a relatable character for any child who has wanted to be accepted for who they are. This is an important subject and one that needs to be written more about for children who are transgender as well as any child. It approaches the topics of bullying, identity, and gender gracefully and is written in a way that is easily accessible for younger readers, while containing subject matter that will engage readers of any age. This book would make a wonderful addition to any classroom and would facilitate children discussing complex issues and important topics.

*Contains mild sexual content.