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The Reluctant Sister (Reluctant Series Book 3)



Synopsis

How have I allowed my life to come to this? Less than four years ago, I was your typical skinny, geeky teenage boy until my ex-best friend Ed talked me into pretending to be his date so he could make his ex-girlfriend jealous. I enjoyed the attention so much, that I became Ed's real girlfriend for a few weeks that summer. I put all that foolishness behind me until my senior year in high school, when due to an accident, the school became one cheerleader short. My sister Diane was a star cheerleader at the school back in her day. Since I used to help her practice, the cheerleader coach thought I was the best choice for an emergency one night substitute. My fake boyfriend is starting to feel less fake. Being a girl just seems to come naturally to me. What am I? A boy or a girl? I'm not sure anymore.

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Customer Reviews

This is the third of the four "Reluctant" books. Together they weave a mostly credible story of teen boy Christopher as he struggles with transgender issues. As Chris he

is a "pretty boy" geek, largely ignored by everyone around him and generally not having a good time. But persuaded "just once" to play the role of a girl, Chrissy is "one of the girls" and the target of every red-blooded male around. Christopher isn't sure he wants to be a girl, and doesn't feel gay, but he sure likes being Chrissy more than he likes being Chris. These books are very well written (just a few minor hiccups in the Kindle texts), easy to read, and with lots of humorous touches. A few of the passages are humorous "wet yourself" moments! Written in the first-person, the books really give great insight into the gender struggles Christopher has. We are rooting for Chrissy, and hopefully for books 5, 6 and more. Maybe should do a video miniseries!

The first two Reluctant books were well-written and entertaining, but light fare -- beach books. The writing in Reluctant Sister is even better, as far as plot, character development, dialogue, readability, and consistency. But light it's not. Sure, it has its times of humorous teen-angst situational humor, but the exploration of Chris's thoughts and feelings about their gender are serious, thoughtful, nuanced -- and as individual as Chris. (Yes, I'm using the gender neutral form of Chris's name - and pronouns - intentionally. Neither Christopher nor Chrissy, he nor she, accurately applies to the overall character through the book.) Those of us who have walked this path, whether as teens or in middle age, recognize the joy, depression, excitement, denial, and confusion that we see in Chris. Part of what makes it so realistic is that Chris is never simultaneously he and she. Chris, in their mind, is either one or the other at any given moment, and as the oscillations between the two happen at a higher and higher frequency, we as readers can see Chris's need for a resolution even before Chris does. And because we know what the resolution must ultimately be (because cisgender people never have this struggle) our hearts are in our mouths as we watch Chris fight against that resolution. There are lots of trans stories that I can put myself into in my fantasies, but this is one of the few that led me to revisit and rethink my own gender journey.

I read this and The Reluctant Cheerleader back to back and I love Chris slowly realized that deep down he was really Chrissy. I really enjoyed reading the inner workings of her brain. It made me realize that I am very similar and wonder if I would get the same results if I were to become Davina full time. My only gripe about this is that I felt it needs at least one more book to tie up any and all loose ends.

This is book 3 in the series. It follows Chrissy as a cheerleader and her relationship with Jeff. She goes to her sister's college graduation as a boy but is soon to her sister's dismay is a girl again. You need to read book 2 to see what happens next. I am sure if you read the previous books you won't be disappointed. If you haven't I suggest you do before reading this.

I enjoy reading this series as Chrissy, Chris, tries to get to grips as to why he enjoys being a girl. Those intangibles are so intoxicating and addictive as he discovers the different expectations between boys and girls. Captivating story. I hope there is an additional book coming.

This is a great piece of work. The familiar characters continue in their life which has the twists, turns, decisions, indecisions, doubts, internal and external issues that make life complex. I am a fan of good construction and this story meets my expectations. It is interesting and I really hope far from a conclusion.

I loved it. The story is well written and mostly believable. As for Crissy, this couldn't have happened if she wasn't ready to be a girl; even unconsciously.

Great comedy and excellent story!

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