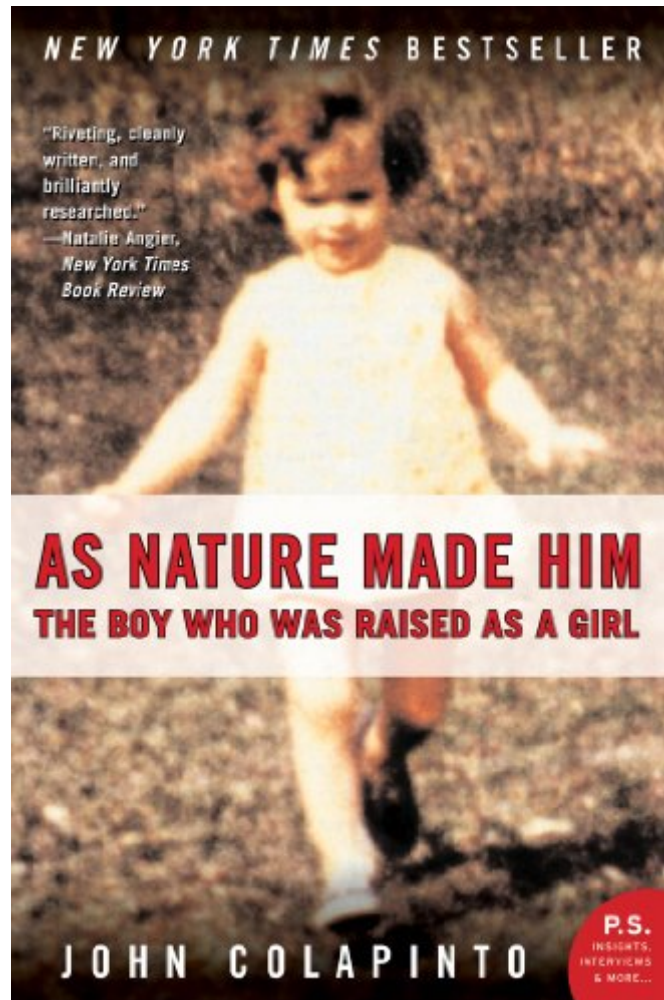




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As Nature Made Him: The Boy Who Was Raised As A Girl



Synopsis

In 1967, after a twin baby boy suffered a botched circumcision, his family agreed to a radical treatment that would alter his gender. The case would become one of the most famous in modern medicine—and a total failure. As Nature Made Him tells the extraordinary story of David Reimer, who, when finally informed of his medical history, made the decision to live as a male. A macabre tale of medical arrogance, it is first and foremost a human drama of one man's—and one family's—amazing survival in the face of terrible odds.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

WOW - What an interesting and sad story. This is a true story, and extremely well written and easy to read. You will not be able to put it down. What this young child, teenager, and adult had to endure was horrible. The book ends on an upbeat and positive note. But the story doesn't end there. You must read the "Update" at the end. The book is basically an old argument regarding "nature" versus "nurture". Which is the more powerful? After reading the book, you

will probably be convinced. What is sadder is that this was a common procedure performed on little boys. And in some places still is.

This book was one recommended to me by a Doctor of Psychology. It is a story that galvanized the nature nurture debate in the 70-90's. It also shows the hidden side of research where influence from an esteemed college ,even that of John Hopkins, can be led astray by unethical research practices! But more than this , this story of early age sex reassignment can cause tremendous trauma to a child!

I'm in process of reading this right now -- it is quite fascinating how the arrogant doctor refused to acknowledge that there might have been an error. I was in school during this time -- majoring in social psychology -- and I do remember the strong emphasis on "nurture" as controlling development. I also was involved in the women's movement, with the firm approach that women and men were the same. I am also the mother of five children. And I know, from personal experience, that genetic factors control virtually everything. I just located a daughter I'd put up for adoption 30 years ago. And when we were first getting acquainted at breakfast, I was astonished to see a mannerism that I've noticed in only one other person -- my husband's niece! This book is fascinating.

I remember the news item when I was a kid, a child in Canada injured during a circumcision. And I read many years later of his committing suicide. But I never heard of the life that occurred in between. This book fills that gap. This story is important as it finally laid to rest the "nature vs nurture" argument. And while a life was lost, it's a story of everyone doing their level best to help him. Things just turn out wrong sometimes. Even when caring people do their best.

Very interesting true story. Spoiler alert-The author finished and published the book prior to the suicide of both twins involved. Very sad story with a sad ending as well.

With so much attention drawn to gender problems now, it would definitely be advisable to read it by those parents who come across such problems. Even though the author sticks to an idea of natural gender development he admits that the problem does exist and stresses that very much care should be taken when dealing with such kind of problem.

As Nature Made Him by John Colapinto, is a compelling and heartbreaking story about a boy who was raised as a girl. This book was written not only to shed light on gender identity and whether it was biological or environmental, but to tell the story of a child who had a botched circumcision. He was born Bruce Reimer, a twin, along with his brother, Brian, in Winnipeg, Canada. At seven months old, their mother noticed that they were both in pain when they were urinating, even after a diaper change. When the boys were taken to their pediatrician, the parents, Janet and Ron, were told that their infant boys had a condition called phimosis, a narrowing of the opening in the foreskin, and were recommended to circumcise the children. This procedure was performed by doctors at St. Boniface Hospital on Bruce only because there was a malfunction with a cautery machine, which severed his genitals. The parents went to see different doctors and specialist to find a fix for their son's dilemma, but were unsuccessful in finding a solution. Then one night while watching the television, they saw Dr. John Money, who performs sex reassignment surgeries, and felt that he was the doctor to help them. On July 3rd, 1967, Bruce, almost two years old, had surgical castration, with the removal of his testicles, becoming Brenda Lee, and raised by his parents as a girl until the age of fourteen. It was at this age, that the parents decided to tell her the truth about what happened and this lead to her decision to become a boy, named David. Once I started reading this story, I felt compelled to keep reading without stopping because it was such an intriguing and astounding story. I felt this book was an amazing read and would highly recommend it to everyone because it allows one to see through another person's eyes. It also opens your mind to people out there in our societies who claim they are a specific gender and not to judge them for being who they truly are inside.

A newborn boy, a botched circumcision, and the dramas of patient, family, the medical/psychological community, and countless others are revealed and explored as good-faith attempts are made by all to remedy an unfortunate accident. This important book describes attempts, through a nurturing protocol, to override what nature had created prior to birth. The plight of children born with ambiguous genitalia, is also presented.

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