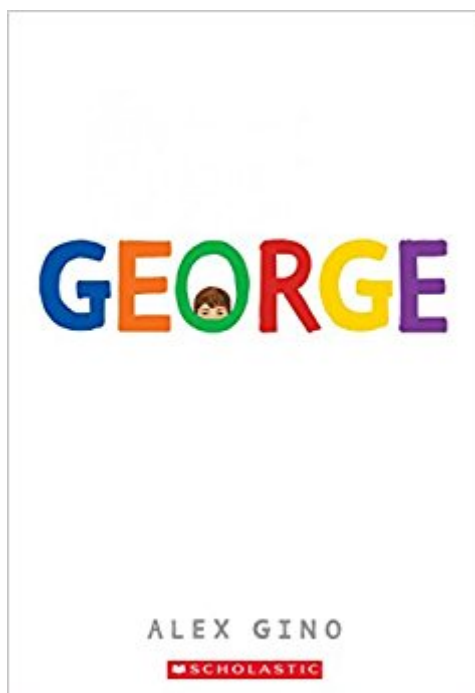


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# George



## Synopsis

When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl. George thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever. Then her teacher announces that their class play is going to be *Charlotte's Web*. George really, really, REALLY wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part . . . because she's a boy. With the help of her best friend, Kelly, George comes up with a plan. Not just so she can be Charlotte -- but so everyone can know who she is, once and for all.

## Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 175 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #10,973 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies](#) #303 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4-6 • Before her mother and older brother Scott come home, George has a few, treasured moments to experience life as she's always wanted to live it. She looks in the mirror and calls herself Melissa, combs her hair over her forehead to mimic the appearance of bangs, and reads glossy magazines full of ads for lipstick, perfume, and tampons. Once her mom and brother come home, however, the magazines must go back to their secret hiding place. While George has no doubt she's a girl, her family relates to her as they always have: as a boy. George hopes that if she can secure the role of Charlotte in her class's upcoming production of *Charlotte's Web*, her mom will finally see her as a girl and be able to come to terms with the fact that George is transgender. With the help of her closest ally, Kelly, George attempts to get the rest of the world to

accept her as she is. While children can have a sense of their gender identity as early as the age of three, children's literature is shockingly bereft of trans\* protagonists, especially where middle grade literature is concerned. *George* offers more than the novelty of an LGBTQ coming-out story, however. Here, what is most remarkable is the use of pronouns: While the world interacts with George as if she is a boy, the narrator only refers to her with female pronouns, which gives her girl-ness a stronger sense of validation. In addition, George comments on the fact that, in past years, gays and lesbians have achieved a certain amount of visibility and acceptance, while the trans\* community is still largely ignored and misunderstood. George's mother remarks that while she can handle having a gay child, she simply can't accept her as "that kind of gay." For George, as is the case for many LGBTQ youth, coming out is a process that she must repeat until she is properly recognized. There is pain in George, but not without the promise of a better tomorrow, even if tomorrow doesn't arrive as soon as it should. VERDICT A required purchase for any collection that serves a middle grade population. — Ingrid Abrams, Brooklyn Public Library, NY --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

— "Timely, touching | George may be the most right-now book imaginable. — • New York Times Book Review — "Insightful — "It'll resonate with anyone who has ever felt different. — • — People Magazine — "George is a timely book for parents to share and discuss with their children, whether dealing with similar issues or simply to foster understanding. — • — Entertainment Weekly — "Warm, funny, and inspiring. — • -- Kirkus Reviews, starred review \* — "Profound, moving, and — as Charlotte would say — radiant... — • -- Publishers Weekly, starred review \* — "A required purchase for any collection that serves a middle grade population. — • -- School Library Journal, starred review\* — "[A] sensitive, insightful portrayal of a transgender child coming to terms with gender identity. — • -- Booklist, starred review — "Readers going through a similar experience will feel that they are no longer alone, and cisgender (non-transgender) readers may gain understanding and empathy. — • -- BookPage — "Reading this breathtaking debut should be a requirement for living. — • #6 on the Indie Next Autumn '15 List — • — Marisa DiNovis, Flyleaf Books, Chapel Hill, NC

George's life revolves around middle school and her family, her mom and older brother Scott and her best friend Kelly, a free spirited girl who George perhaps once envied. George isn't a girl's name, and George's body is a boy's, but in her heart she calls herself Melissa. George does face

bullying and misunderstandings but remains true to herself -not gay- but transgender, and wonderfully real. Every year when her school finishes reading *Charlotte's Web* they put on a play, deeply affected by the death of Charlotte and a talented actor, George wishes to be Charlotte in the play. The part goes to Kelly, but together George and Kelly hatch a plan to reveal that George can act the girl parts, on and off stage.

Very uplifting. This is the first book I've read with a transgender protagonist this young. I had never really thought about it from a child point of view. Loved the use of *Charlotte's Web*, and the use of the character's decided pronouns. The family's reaction seemed real. It wasn't always easy. Would recommend.

I loved this book. From the first word to the last. I felt like I was there with George the entire time. The way it's written is so descriptive. I loved how George cared so much about Charlotte, even though she was just a character in a book. The only thing I wished were different is Rick's ending. I felt that he was set up to be nice to George and apologize but never happened. It's an incredible book.

"George" is a wonderful book that accurately portrays transgender children in a new, innocent way. It has a sweet plot and loveable characters, in addition to realistic dialogue and great writing techniques. This is a lovely book for ages 9-99. The narrator in the audiobook is amazing, by the way, and it is a relatively quick listen, perfect for a long car-ride.

I read this before giving it to my 10 year old son. Good story that help kids understand what it could be like for a kid who is trans. I hope this will help make kids (and adults) who read it more tolerant and understanding.

Great book. Like *To Kill a Mockingbird* is for race understanding, this is something every middle school child should read for gender dysphoria and acceptance. I read it as an adult and it is thought provoking and enjoyable. You just pull for George.

There are few middle school stories about transgender kids. This is one of only two that I know of and I'm a middle school librarian. George is sensitive and touching, but I doubt that it's completely realistic. The challenge for George is merely difficult, not deeply unbearable. It is perhaps a better

read for kids who know a boy or girl at school who is transitioning, and wants to understand what they are going through emotionally.

A hopeful, gentle book about a fifth-grader who knows she is a girl, even though the world tells her she's a boy. George is a transgirl who is not yet exactly "out" (hence her birth name rather than the one she chose for herself, which I won't spoil), and who is still wondering if and how she'll ever get to be recognized as a girl. Her attempts to make the world understand and accept her as her come to a head when George auditions for Charlotte the Spider in her class play (shout-out to the "Charlotte's Web" fans, including the young target demographic of the book). The book is not all rainbows and sunshine -- George gets picked on for being a "sissy" etc., her teacher thinks George is joking when she tries out for a girls' part, and a lot of the time her mom is...not helping. But I want to say, the book has a happy ending. It's not another sad story about the tragic life of queer kids. And George has some true allies helping her get to know herself and getting the world to see her as she really is. It's not on a soapbox. It's not graphic. It's not insensitive. It's not reductive. It's a story about a girl who wants to play Charlotte in the school play and wants people to stop telling her she'll be a good man someday.

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