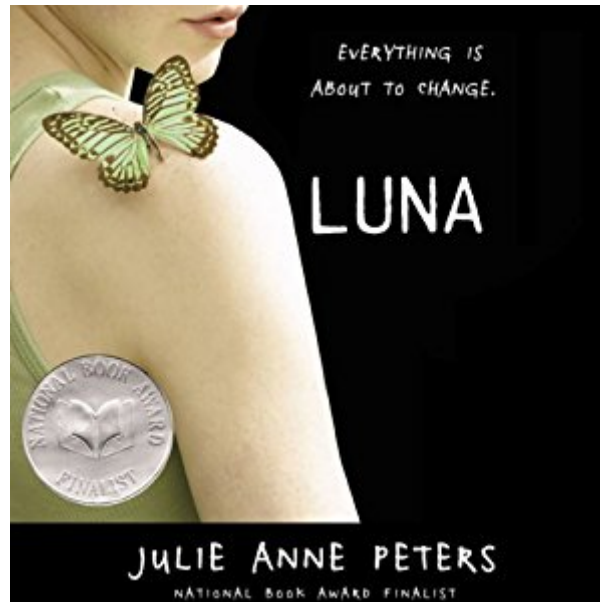




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Luna



Synopsis

Regan's brother Liam can't stand the person he is during the day. Like the moon from whom Liam has chosen his female namesake, his true self, Luna, only reveals herself at night. In the secrecy of his basement bedroom Liam transforms himself into the beautiful girl he longs to be, with help from his sister's clothes and makeup. Now, everything is about to change - Luna is preparing to emerge from her cocoon. But are Liam's family and friends ready to welcome Luna into their lives?

Compelling and provocative, this is an unforgettable novel about a transgender teen's struggle for self-identity and acceptance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was drawn by this book's mysterious cover and the National Book Award Finalist badge.

I've never read a book about a transgender person before, and the minute I sampled the first page, I was sold. Luna is the story of Liam/Luna, a high school senior and boy genius who has always known he was meant to be a girl. The story is narrated, however, by his younger sister Regan, Liam's only confidante. At night, Liam transforms into Luna, playing dress-up in Regan's bedroom with her make-up and clothes. Regan loves her brother and does everything to protect him from the cruelty of a world that doesn't understand him, but it costs Regan her relationships with her parents and friends. When Liam begins to discuss "transitioning," Regan doesn't get what it means at first. She doesn't know how to feel when she realizes that Liam's dream is to become Luna full-time. I was amazed by

the pain and struggle to find acceptance that most transgender people must endure. My heart really went out to Liam, and to Regan who had to keep his secrets. The only reason I give this book 4 and not 5 stars is because there were several loose ends when the story was over that I would've wanted to see tied up. I wanted Regan to work things out with the family she babysat for, I would've liked to see her open up more to her love interest, Chris, and we never really did learn much about Regan's dreams or plans for her future after high school. Although Regan is the narrator, we walk away knowing far more about her brother than about her. Overall, this is a well-written, true-to-life, and heart-wrenching story that explains and helps draw a powerful bridge of compassion for transgender people.

Actual rating 3.5 stars. I loved the soul of *Luna* and its message. There is valuable information in here. Attitudes to realise and live by. On the whole this is such a cool story shedding light on a family coping/not coping with Liam/Luna and the realisation she was born in the wrong body. The fact that it was in the setting of a family unit, even a dysfunctional one, shows that gender dysphoria, and relating to people starts at birth and it can be a long, awkward, and sometimes painful journey. The cast of characters is what brought the rating down for me they felt too much of a caricature. Additionally, flashbacks happened too often (a pet hate of mine). I know they were imparting vital knowledge to drive the plot forward, but towards the end of the novel I was getting tired of them. The content of these reminiscing scenes also made me cringe like events had been lifted out of a University study of typical gender dysphoric traits. It lost a personal edge, like it wasn't connected to the characters at all. With the story told completely from Regan's POV, it helps shed light on the impact of a transgendered individual on family, and makes no apologies. I really enjoyed this aspect. At times Regan felt a little too politically correct, and others really hit the nail on the head. It is a difficult subject to wrap your feelings around. Liam / Luna was the worst character in this book. She was written in a way to speak to a cause and left me not really connecting to her as a person. I love her message, but found myself rolling my eyes at her pretty much the entire time. In the famous words from *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* "I'm not bad, I'm just drawn that way" and that's what I feel about Liam/Luna; she had the potential to be epic, but what I got was a cheesy afterschool special. Chris felt like the most realistic of the cast, I would have loved to see him more involved in the main plot, I feel he could have balanced out all of the PC factoids and

added a dash more authenticity. With all of the issues I had with the characters, Luna illustrates a unique and important issue surrounding acceptance, how we treat others, love and gender identity. I felt this was more a story of how far you can push someone before they snap, and that event causes a switch in perception allowing you to lose that baggage and become a better version of yourself. Like a cathartic cleansing of your personality. Luna is ground-breaking, helps shed light on important causes and provides a story for anyone out there who identifies, or has someone in their life identifying as transgender. And I can't praise this novel enough for tackling such a sensitive topic with aplomb (even if the characters fell short of the mark). A fast-reading, light narrative easy enough to read in one sitting on over a weekend. A quaint book with a universal message : don't judge and be who you are.

This was a book told from the point of view of a girl with a transgender sibling. Make no mistake, it's not the trans girl's story; it's her sister's. I think reading it would still help young trans people understand that they're not alone, but it's more focused on the family relationship and the experience of having a family member who's trans. The writing style is realistic and the characters are well-written. I especially appreciated that Regan--Luna's sister--is supportive but not unrealistic; she sometimes gets angry at her sister and misgenders her as a brother, experiencing selfish teenage thoughts and getting annoyed that keeping this secret and being supportive is causing friction in her own relationships. Telling the story from a family member's perspective helped because it showed the family issues in first person--the voice is mainly sympathetic but not empathetic, which is an important difference. The reader can really pick up on Luna's frustration and deep-seated desire to be recognized as female, and it is realistic in that her transgender status is shown to not be the same as being a transvestite or being a person with a fetish or sexual quirk. In Luna's case, she experienced herself as a girl since childhood, and many trans kids have thought of themselves as a different gender since they were old enough to know what gender is. That's reflected in Luna's experience--she liked Barbie and taking the role of the mother while playing house, and even though her father pushed her toward baseball and her mother was in denial about her being trans, she always knew who she was. This is the story of her trying to come out and embrace the woman she really is--and the story of the sister who helps her realize her dreams.

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