Transgender Lives: Backstory and new resources

Here’s the publisher’s blurb for her book: Transgender Lives: A Collection of Stories, Essays, and Poems is a collection that explores the diversity of transgender experiences, and offers an insight into the lives of transgender people.

Transgender Lives Backstory and new resources

Here’s the backstory:

In May 2015, I was contacted by my editor at Twenty-First Century Books about writing a book for high school libraries about transgender individuals. I was recommended to her because of Random House Children’s, and she was very interested in the topic. We spent some time chatting about my previous work, my writing process, and my ideas for the book. She was very excited about the project, and we agreed to move forward.

There were some concerns about the book, of course, which include: how to approach it, how to make it accessible to students, and how to ensure that it is respectful and inclusive. We discussed these issues at length, and I was able to provide some ideas on how to address them.

The book is intended to be a comprehensive resource for students and educators, and it includes chapters on the history of transgender activism, the experiences of transgender individuals, and the rights and protections available to transgender people. It also includes interviews with transgender individuals and activists, as well as resources for further reading and support.

The book is one of over ten non-fiction books that she’s written about transgender issues, and it is aimed at high school students.

In February 2016, I was invited to attend the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (GLBTQ) Pride Parade in San Francisco. I was honored to be a part of such a special event, and I learned a lot from the other participants.

In March 2016, I was invited to attend the Transgender Day of Visibility. It was a powerful experience, and I was able to witness the strength and resilience of the transgender community. I was also able to meet some of the amazing individuals who were involved in the event.

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Beautiful Music for Ugly Children

Beautiful Music for Ugly Children is wandering freely in the world, and it's so exciting! I love watching what happens when a book is in the wild—you just don't know where it will go.

If you are unfamiliar with Gabe's world and need a basic synopsis of the book, here you go:

Gabe Williams is a guy with big summer plans. He's got a job as a radio DJ, following in the footsteps of his mentor, and he wants to move far away after graduation. He's also hoping his best friend Paige will fall in love with him—she's smart, she's hot, and she tolerates his music habit. He couldn't ask for more. His only problem? The rest of the world has known him as Elizabeth for the last eighteen years.

Beautiful Music for Ugly Children is the story of how Gabe learns to be a guy so he can leave Elizabeth behind. Some good things happen in the course of his summer—Gabe graduates, gets asked out, and gets loved by the fans of his show. But he also gets outed and threatened, and he must defend himself against violence that's rooted in fear. In essence, Gabe's journey to find himself is the same one we all take. His is just electrified, amplified, and broadcast into the night.

And the most amazing thing has happened: Beautiful Music won the 2014 Stonewall Award from the American Library Association! It's an award given to books "of exceptional merit relating to the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender experience." I had no idea BMUC was still eligible, but evidently their award period runs from October of 2012 (when it was released) to September of 2013. Who knew? I was astonished to receive the phone call—what a huge, huge honor. I am humbled. BMUC is also the winner of a 2014 IPPY Award (Independent Publisher Book Award)—a silver medal in their Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Trans Fiction category.

BMUC also received some generous honors last year from the ALA. In January 2013 it was named a Top Ten pick for the 2013 Rainbow List, and it was also placed on the 2013 Best Fiction for Young Adults list. So exciting! The announcements were also wonderful, unexpected surprises. Being loved on by librarians is pretty awesome. In June 2013 it also received a silver medal in ForeWord Review's Book of the Year Awards for YA fiction! These awards are for books from small and independent presses, so yay for Flux! It was also honored as a Lambda Literary Award finalists in the Children's/Young Adult category. That nomination was huge to me, too.

One other surprise happened in the same week the ALA awards lists came out: Beautiful Music was featured in an article about YA fiction in The Advocate, one of the largest LGBT magazines out there. And they used my purple hair photo! It feels really good to be acknowledged by them. A student showed me the article, and I squealed when I saw it. Not gonna lie.

Here's a link to the Publisher's Weekly review as well as the Kirkus review. You can buy it at IndieBound, Barnes and Noble, or other fine establishments.
About

Here's a formal-ish bio:

According to geographers, the American West begins at the 100th longitudinal meridian. Thanks to the fact that this meridian is the main street of her hometown in Nebraska, Kirstin Cronn-Mills grew up six blocks east of the West. According to her mother, she learned to read when she was three—and she hasn't stopped since.

Kirstin is a self-proclaimed word nerd. Her grandmother and her father passed on their love of language to her, and that love became a love affair when she started writing poems in sixth grade. She still writes poems, but now she focuses on young adult novels.

In 1992 Kirstin moved from Nebraska to southern Minnesota, where she lives now. She writes a lot, reads as much as she can, teaches at a two-year college (she won the Minnesota State College Student Association 2009 Instructor of the Year award), and goes around with her son, Shane, and her husband, Dan. Her first young adult novel, *The Sky Always Hears Me and the Hills Don't Mind* (Flux, 2009), was a 2010 finalist for the Minnesota Book Award for Young People's Literature. Her second novel, *Beautiful Music For Ugly Children* (Flux/Llewellyn, 2012), won ALA's Stonewall Award in 2014 as well as an IPPY silver medal for Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Trans Fiction. BMUC was also placed on ALA's 2013 Rainbow List (as a Top Ten Pick) as well as their 2013 Best Fiction for Young Adults list.

She has also published nonfiction books for middle and high school libraries: *Collapse! The Science of Structural Engineering Failures* (Compass Point Books, 2009) and *Transgender Lives: Complex Stories, Complex Voices* (Twenty-First Century Books/Lerner, 2014).

Some less formal things:

-I love this picture of me with purple hair and an Elvis sneer.
Love it a lot. It makes me look like I’m a fun person, which is 75% true. The other 25% of me is a writhing mass of insecurity.

-I am really good at hyperbole and exaggeration, and I talk like a teenager way more than I should. ZOMG!

-I don’t eat chocolate. I used to. Yes, I miss it.

-I love lemon water, with bubbles or without.

-Football (the American version “and” soccer) is my favorite sport to watch, though in American football, college ball is my favorite (Go Big Red!) because the pros tend to annoy me. Favorite pro team: Green Bay, because their fan spirit is the closest to the Huskers.

-Related to that, I have managed my kid’s soccer (football) team, and I love being a soccer mom. I love being a mom, period.

-I love to play outside, winter or summer. I love to play in the snow!

-If I don’t listen to music for a few days, I get droopy. : ( Music is like blood or water—I need it in my veins. What kind of music? Almost any kind. My list of favorites would take up this whole page.

-I have four tattoos, two of which you can see on any given day.

Visit me on [Facebook](#)

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BEAUTIFUL MUSIC FOR UGLY CHILDREN playlist

Listed on 31st May, 2012 by Kirstin Cronn-Mills

Genre: Compilation
Total Tracks: 156
Duration: 17 hours, 28 minutes

Listen to this playlist for FREE on Spotify!

Total plays 0,000,053

Playlist Description:

This playlist includes the songs and artists mentioned in the YA novel BEAUTIFUL MUSIC FOR UGLY CHILDREN (October 2012, Flux).

Share: Tweet 0  Google+ 0

Sign Up to see what your friends like.

1. "That's All Right"
   Elvis Presley
   1:56

2. "Grace Kelly"
   MIKA
   3:08

3. "American Idiot"
   Green Day
   2:38

4. "In the Summertime (Re-Recorded)"
   Mungo Jerry
   3:33

5. "You Know My Name (Look Up the Number)"
   The Coverbeats
   4:20

6. "Da Ya Think I'm Sexy? (Remastered Album Version)"
   Rod Stewart
   5:29

7. "Best Love Song"
   T-Pain, Chris Brown
   3:16

8. "Try A Little Tenderness"
   Otis Redding
   3:21

9. " Ain't Too Proud To Beg"
   The Temptations
   2:32

10. "Mama Tried"
    Merle Haggard
    2:11

11. "Tight Fittin' Jeans"
     Conway Twitty
     2:50

12. "Hurt"
     Johnny Cash
     3:37

13. "God Save The Queen"
     Sex Pistols
     3:20

14. "Another Tricky Day"
     The Who
     4:57

     The Rolling Stones
     5:39

     The Smiths
     6:47