

## Meet the Author of Beautiful Music for Ugly Children: Book Talk Recording

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[Kirstin Cronn-Mills Book Talk Recording --Beautiful Music for Ugly Children](#)

 MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

**Meet the Author of  
*Beautiful Music for Ugly Children***

**April 16th, 2014 at 1:00 P.M.**

**Memorial Library Casual Learning Lab, ML 45**

**Presented by:**

**Library Services in collaboration with the Good Thunder Reading Series  
and Maverick Visual Productions, Information and Technology Services**



## Meet the Author of Beautiful Music for Ugly Children: About the Book

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### Book Trailer



### Summary of the Book from the Author--Kirstin Cronn-Mills

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

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.

Extracted from the [author's website](#)

### Listen to a Book Reading by Author

- Beautiful Music for Ugly Children Meet-the-Author Book Reading  
from TeachingBooks.net

### Checkout the Book's Playlist

- Beautiful Music for Ugly Children Playlist  
Listen to the music from the book.

### Checkout the Book from the MSU, Mankato Library



**Beautiful Music for Ugly Children** by Kirstin Cronn-Mills

Call Number: ERC Juvenile Collection PZ7.C88149 Be 2012

ISBN: 9780738732510

Publication Date: 2012-10-08

"This is Beautiful Music for Ugly Children, on community radio 90.3, KZUK. I'm Gabe. Welcome to my show." My birth name is Elizabeth, but I'm a guy. Gabe. My parents think I've gone crazy and the rest of the world is happy to agree with them, but I know I'm right. I've been a boy my whole life. When you think about it, I'm like a record. Elizabeth is my A side, the song everybody knows, and Gabe is my B side—not heard as often, but just as good.

It's time to let my B side play. Winner of the 2014 Stonewall Book Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature.



## Meet the Author of Beautiful Music for Ugly Children: About the Author

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### Formal-ish Bio from the Author



Photo by Chelsea Kocina at Chelsea Morning Photography

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 goofs around with her son, Shae, and her husband, Dan. Her first young adult novel, *The Sky Always Hears Me and the Hills Don't Mind* (Flux), was published in 2009 and was a 2010 finalist for the Minnesota Book Award for Young People's Literature. Her second novel, *Beautiful Music For Ugly Children* (Flux), released in October 2012, which was placed on ALA's 2013 Rainbow List (as a Top Ten Pick) as well as their 2013 Best Fiction for Young Adults list. She also published a middle-grade science book in 2009: *Collapse! The Science of Structural Engineering Failures* (Compass Point Books).

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.

extracted from the [Author's Website](#)

### Articles About the Author

- [North Mankato Author Wins National Award](#)  
by Amanda Dyslin from The Free Press (January 27, 2014)
- [Kirstin Cronn-Mills](#)  
from Balancing the Tide (April 24, 2012)



# Meet the Author of Beautiful Music for Ugly Children: Reviews of the Book

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## Book Reviews Available Electronically

- [From The Hub \(YALSA\)](#)
- [Review from Kirkus Reviews](#)
- [Review from Lambda Literary](#)
- [Review from LitStack](#)

## Book Reviews Available in Print

Cart, Michael. "Beautiful Music for Ugly Children." *Booklist* 109.6 (2012): 50. Print.

Evans, Betty S. "Beautiful Music for Ugly Children." *School Library Journal* 59.1 (2013): 104. Print.

Litherland, Tena N. "Beautiful Music for Ugly Children." *Library Media Connection* 31.5 (2013): 74. Print.



# Meet the Author of Beautiful Music for Ugly Children: Format For the Event

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## Overview

After welcoming attendees, the author will be introduced. Before asking questions about the book, a viewing of the book trailer will take place. Following the viewing the author will read a passage of her choosing from the book. This will be followed by a few questions on the writing process, as well as questions about the book. Questions about future books and activities will conclude the discussion with the author. Throughout the question and answer period, attendees are encouraged to ask their own questions of the author. The event will end with drawings for a copy of *Beautiful Music for Ugly Children* to be given away to two lucky people.

Copies of the book *Beautiful Music for Ugly Children* will be available for purchase before and after the event.

## Questions About the Writing Process

1. How long did it take you to write the book and then how much longer did it take to get published?

2. What is your preferred routine for writing?

- Do you sit down at a desk to write for a period of time or do you wait until the mood strikes you?
- Do you have a designated area for writing?
- Do you write in longhand or on a computer or laptop?
- What research do you usually conduct either before or during the writing process?

3. You started out writing poetry. What inspired you to write young adult fiction?

- What author or authors serve as a source of inspiration for you?

4. What aspect of writing is the most challenging for you?

Please note the audience will be encouraged to ask follow-up questions, as well as any other questions they may have.

## Questions About the Book

1. How did you arrive at a title for the book?

2. How did you go about developing the various characters in the story and in particular the character of Gabe?

- Is Gabe based on a real person or a composite of people you know?

3. Music is an integral component of the story and some might even argue it is yet another character, a spectral character.

- Which came first the storyline or the music?
- How was the music selected?

4. Is the storyline of the book based on real events?

5. If you could go back and change anything, would you do so? If so, what would you change? (If possible, no spoiler)

6. Did you ever consider a different ending to the story? (If possible, no spoiler)

7. After readers have finished the book, what questions would you like them to ponder?

8. Were you consulted when the book cover was designed? How about the creation of the book trailer?

9. Is there a possibility the book will become a movie?

- What actor or actress would you like to portray Gabe?

Please note the audience will be encouraged to ask follow-up questions, as well as any other questions they may have.

## Questions About Future Books

1. Do you have another book that will be published in the near future?

2. What are you working on now?

Please note the audience will be encouraged to ask follow-up questions, as well as any other questions they may have.



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### Meet the Author--Kirstin Cronn-Mills



Join the festivities during National Library Week and celebrate the joy of reading. Come and spend an hour with the author Kirstin Cronn-Mills, recipient of the American Library Association Stonewall Award for her book entitled *Beautiful Music for Ugly Children*. Recognized as one of the best novels written for young adults in 2013 by the Young Adult Library Services Association, the book talk will explore the novel's genesis while providing insight into the author's thoughts on the book's storyline and characters. The event is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 16th at 1:00 p.m. in Memorial Library Casual Learning Lab (ML 45)**.

At the end of the event, drawings will be held to give away two copies of *Beautiful Music for Ugly Children*.

Copies of the book can be purchased before and after the event. Kirstin will be available to sign copies of the book following the drawings.

This event will be broadcasted live via MavTUBE, the university's version of YouTube.

### Campus Maps and Directions

#### Campus Maps

- [University area map \(layered/interactive map\)](#)
- [\[PDF\] 3D perspective map \(785 KiB\)](#)
- [\[PDF\] Accessibility map \(303 KiB\)](#)
- [\[PDF\] Aerial view map \(3 MiB\)](#)
- [\[PDF\] Parking map \(484 KiB\)](#)
- [\[PDF\] Bus map \(492 KiB\)](#)

#### Driving Directions

- [\[PDF\] Highways to Mankato \(125 KiB\)](#)