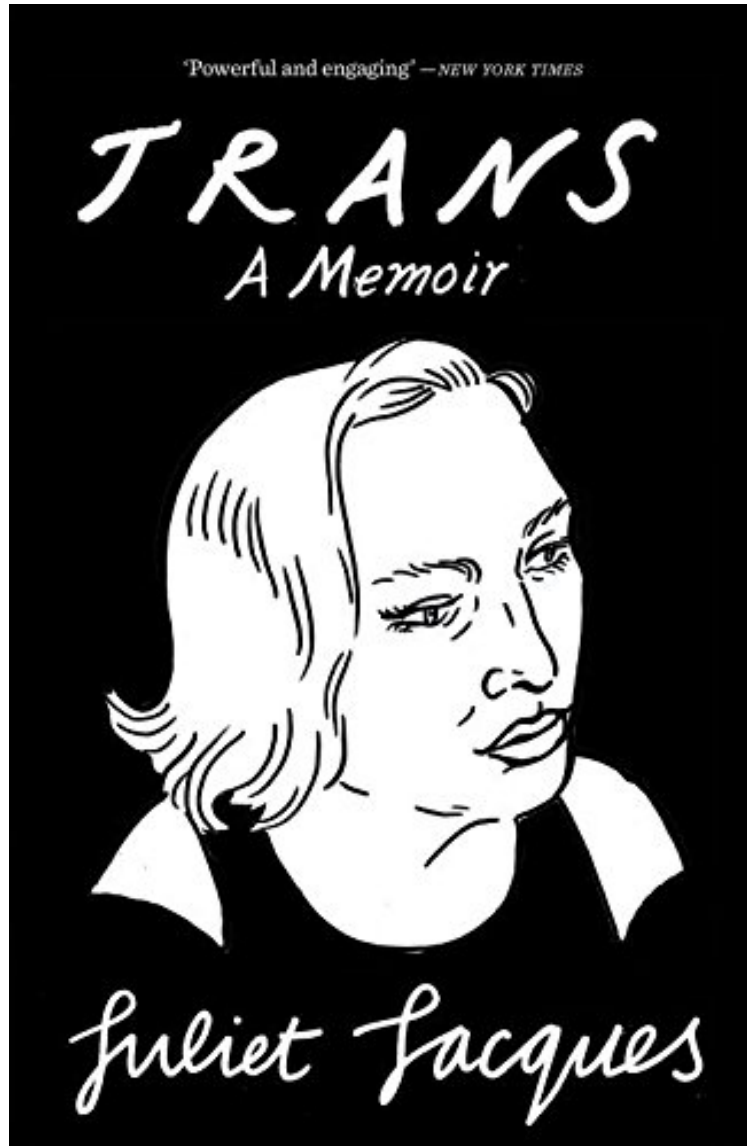


(Mobile ebook) Trans: A Memoir

Trans: A Memoir

Juliet Jacques

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Juliet Jacques : Trans: A Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Trans: A Memoir:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Brutally Honest Memoir By Foster Corbin If I had to write a one sentence review of Juliet Jacques memoir TRANS, I would say that she is brutally honest. And her book is completely engaging. I have previously read five memoirs by other trans people: a woman who financed her reassignment surgery by driving an eighteen wheeler, the quickest way she could make money to support her family; a trans man born in

Africa but who now lives in the U. S.; Jennifer Finney Boylan, who has written three books about her experience that should be read in sequence and Jan Morris, the travel writer from Great Britain. (I don't think I can count Christine Jorgenson whose story I read as a youngster in the East Tennessee newspaper in the 1950s when it was serialized. As I remember, Ms. Jorgenson was treated pretty much as a freak; I suppose we should not be surprised, given the place and time.) I was trying to recall what makes Mr. Jacques experience different than the other trans-persons I have read. I think it has to be that she began her journey much younger and unlike four of the other five people, did not have the added task of dealing with spouses and with children in the case of two of these individuals. That is not to say that she does not have her own set of problems. She has had to deal with abuse from the people who hate her for who she is (I read articles often about trans women usually and often women of color who are victims of violence often leading to murder here in the U. S. --Ms. Jacques is from Great Britain so her story is certainly, sad to say, relevant.) She also has the added burden, like so many people of her age, (she was born in 1982) of trying to make a living in this economy. Even though she has written a blog for the GUARDIAN, where I found out about her book, she would like to be known as someone who writes about a topic not just dealing with her transgender experience (I believe Ms. Boylan has expressed a similar view) although that is what most prospective employers want her to write about. Two things about Ms. Jacques that fascinate me to no end are her love for post-punk music since I am of her father's generation and relate to his love of rock music (the Who) and wouldn't recognize post-punk if I heard it-- and her love for football, both as a player and spectator. I think we can say that she is smashing stereotypes. There are many touching events Ms. Jacques writes about: the support she gets from friends and her mom and dad, who ultimately come around. But the two that stood out most for me: while she is transitioning from male to female and pretty much wearing makeup and women's clothes, she agrees to dress as a young man to attend the wedding of her brother (although she does not agree to be a member of the bridal party) and the account she gives of going with her mom to pick out a bra, an event that is supposed to be the initiation into womanhood for all young girls. Finally, Ms. Jacques is also quite political and gives a good summary of the books that have been written on trans-theory. A very good book indeed. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of the best personal narratives about reclaiming your gender By Trimalchio in West Egg Extraordinary personal narrative of coming to terms with reclaiming your gender. Details the horrific UK bureaucracy that mandates fulfilling a archaic psychiatric notion that required living as a cartoonish approximation of a biological female without any medication in order to receive the eventual reward of SRS. In addition to being subjected to violence, gender discrimination and trying to "pass" Juliet still transcends every obstacle and lives to be herself. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By David H. Williams Book is as in depth as I expected.

An extraordinary memoir of transition and transgender politics and culture Six weeks before sex reassignment surgery (SRS), I am obliged to stop taking my hormones. I suddenly feel very differently about my forthcoming operation. In July 2012, aged thirty, Juliet Jacques underwent sex reassignment surgery a process she chronicled with unflinching honesty in a serialised national newspaper column. *Trans* tells of her life to the present moment: a story of growing up, of defining yourself, and of the rapidly changing world of gender politics. Fresh from university, eager to escape a dead-end job, she launches a career as a writer in a publishing culture dominated by London cliques and still figuring out the impact of the Internet. She navigates the treacherous waters of a world where, even in the liberal and feminist media, transgender identities go unacknowledged, misunderstood or worse. Yet through art, film, music, politics and football, Jacques starts to become the person she had only imagined, and begins the process of transition. Interweaving the personal with the political, her memoir is a powerful exploration of debates that comprise trans politics, issues which promise to redefine our understanding of what it means to be alive. Revealing, honest, humorous, and self-deprecating, *Trans* includes an epilogue with Sheila Heti, author of *How Should a Person Be?*, in which Jacques and Heti discuss the cruxes of writing and identity.

Powerful and engaging it's hard not to see [Jacques] as anything other than brave, even as she pushes readers to recognize that what is revolutionary is the very ordinariness of her day-to-day life. *New York Times* Brave and moving, *Trans* is necessary reading for anyone who cares about gender, power, freedom and desire. Juliet Jacques deals with the forces of cruelty and ignorance with a hard-won clarity and calm. A vital voice in our turbulent times. Olivia Laing, author of *The Trip to Echo Spring* *Trans* is a marvelously nuanced journey through gender, brilliantly contextualized in the disparate worlds of pop culture, football, mass media, and the NHS. This is a terrific read by an accomplished author. Kate Bornstein, author of *A Queer and Pleasant Danger* Understated and urgent, Jacques comes across as a woman carrying an ambiguity she doesn't seem to want or feel able fully to shed She confounds the distinction, not just between male and female, but also between the emotional atmospheres which the various trans identities are meant to personify. Jacqueline Rose, *London of Books* [Jacques's] storytelling is clear-eyed and evocative. Cat Fitzpatrick, *Lambda Literary* *Trans* challenges us all, no matter what our gender or sexuality. Ultimately, it makes us look at our selves, and wonder what price we pay for the identities we assume, or which we have thrust upon us. Philip Hoare, *New Statesman* I Am Cait for the literary set. Jacques lays her

transitioning experience barehormones and surgery and all. New York Magazine Juliet Jacques has a funny, ruthlessly honest voice that readers will dig. Susie Rodarme, Book Riot An honest, articulate account of one life so far. Stephen Burt, Guardian Brutally honest and funny. Marie Claire Trans broadens the growing genre of trans literature in its portrayal of medical and social transition as a means of achieving personal congruity rather than ostensible womanhood. This makes it an important contribution to transgender literature Where Trans breaks new ground is in the complexity of its narrator and her willingness to take a brutally honest look at her motives and attitudes throughout the process. Harvard Gay Lesbian Trans is about what its like to be an outsider, about the difficult interplay between gender variance and social acceptance In making herself vulnerable, Jacques shows how likeable she is. At the end of the book I wanted to be her friend, and you will too. New Humanist A lyrical exploration of [Jacques] gender journey Thoughtful and intimate, its a fine successor to books such as Jan Morriss Conundrum. Guardian (Best Politics Books of the Year) As dedicated to educating the ignorant public as Jacques is, shes also committed to a narrative that nurtures people who share her experiences, and her writing is free of sanitized, after-school-special, feel-good endings A hybrid memoir that offers alternative conversations to disarm and dismantle a hostile, antagonistic, and often violent cultural climate towards transgender individuals. Vanessa Willoughby, Mask Magazine Jacques is trapped in the wrong narrative, and Trans offers the possibility of a more complete one, with a holistic personal story that does not reject pre-transition identity, and an understanding that gender lies on a continuum the most sublime moments in Trans come when Jacques shares with us a vision she has gained and often these are hard-won into what it means to have a unified self, whether its when she receives recognition from her parents for her success, has a great day on the soccer field, or simply feels good in her skin. Amanda DeMarco, Flavorwire [Jacques] has a Proustian rhythm and pace. Her evenness of voice, when discussing personal and emotional detail of the very intense and difficult parts of her life let the viewer share a comfortable intimacy with her, that I can only imagine was difficult to balance while maintaining a sense of self and privacy [Trans] is a history as well as a personal history. Seattle of Books An inherently fascinating read and one of those intensely personal stories that will linger in the mind and memory long after the autobiography is finished and set back upon the shelf. Midwest Book Trans maintains the quick pacing and firebrand tone from Jacques Guardian writings, while treading far deeper into theory and the authors personal life and further developing her natural skill for transmuting abstract concepts into engaging life stories Her authorial voice mixes passion with a grittiness inherited from her history in several UK alternative music scenes. [Trans] maintains a slick, effortless tone characteristic of all Jacques writing. Scott Esposito, Literary Hub About the Author Juliet Jacques is a freelance writer, best known for the Guardians Transgender Journey the first time the gender reassignment process had been serialised for a major British publication. Her column was longlisted for the Orwell Prize in 2011. She was included in the Independents Pink List for 2012, 2013 and 2014, and is a regular contributor to the New Statesman. She has also written for Granta, TimeOut, Filmwaves, 3am, the London of Books, the New Humanist, the New Inquiry, and many other publications. She lives in London.