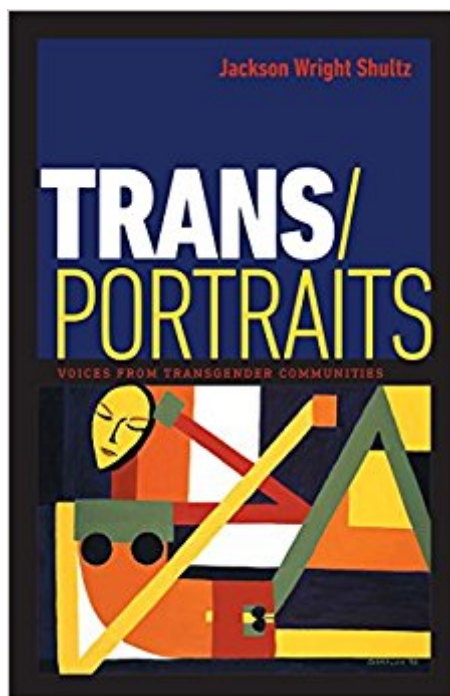


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# Trans/Portraits: Voices From Transgender Communities



## Synopsis

A fascinating collective memoir of the lives and experiences of transgender people, in their own voices

## Book Information

File Size: 618 KB

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## Customer Reviews

This was a very moving book. It's a collection of essays by 30-something transgender individuals, only their experiences are broken up based on various themes. I thought this worked better than offering big, long essays one after another. You get to see how different people's experiences vary, and you hear about them in their own words. It's a must-read for anyone who wants to be a good ally, as well as those who might be going through the process themselves. It was very eye-opening to follow so many individuals through their own unique processes. I like that it spoke to intersectionality of other issues like race, class, disabilities, even the Deaf and kink communities. Some of the stories are sad and hard to read, especially with regards to abuse or other victimization, but I'm grateful to those who spoke their truth. It's given me a lot to think about, and it

will definitely help me be more mindful and, I hope, a better support to my friends and family who are transgender. I wish everyone would read this book and realize first-hand what so many trans people go through. We might see a lot less hate, or at least a lot more understanding, in the world if they did. It's easily accessible, being written in a conversational tone, but it's also very educational. I'd honestly recommend this for everyone.

Not since Stone Butch Blues has a book moved me so much. This book was both heart warming and heart breaking in its truths. Absolutely a must read. Loved this book! Carrie G

Great Book - Great Reading!

Wonderful and informative. A very diverse group of voices.

This book is simply phenomenal. I was hesitant that it would cast transfolks in too polished of a light, and we already have too much plasticizing of trans people in the media; however, this book far exceeded my expectations. There are people of all different races, ethnicities, abilities, etc. throughout the book. Whereas many times diversity can feel forced, Shultz managed to include a melting pot of folks whose stories interconnect while keeping a genuine feel. It's neither campy nor strained. Shultz writes in a really down to earth and genuine manner, while at the same time elevating the conversation and highlighting nuance. He provides helpful commentary throughout, but mostly he lets the characters tell their own stories. The interviewees speak in the vernacular of the community, and the theme of gallows humor is often present. As funny as the book can be, it simultaneously rains truth. There are lines that are agonizingly raw in their beauty and vulnerability. I could imagine this being used as a text in a women and gender studies course, a humanities course, a writing course or even as a unique common reading on a college campus. As a nonbinary trans person, this book hit the spot. If you're trans, if you love someone trans, if you don't know anyone trans but want to: this is the book for you. I would also highly recommend it to professionals with trans clients as well as family members of transfolk - they may miss some of the inside jokes, but it's still a great primer for them, too.

"Nothing educates like stories; apparently human beings are wired for the narrative. Jackson Wright Shultz, scholar, activist, teacher, and writer knows this. His book, *Trans/Portraits: Voices from the Transgender Communities*, just published by Dartmouth College Press, contains the words of

thirty-four transgender people. They talk, in real-people rather than academic style, about their transition experiences in small towns and big cities, the need for not Ã¢Â€Âœgoing it alone,Ã¢Â€Â• and how race and class may make a difference. In the final chapter, called Accidental Activists, they recount the many ways they try to advocate, including protests, mentoring a young person, or insisting on rights and respect in their workplaces. . It is the stories that will stick. . ShultzÃ¢Â€Â™s dedication page reads: Ã¢Â€ÂœFor Those Whose Truths HavenÃ¢Â€Â™t Yet Been Told.Ã¢Â€Â• With this book, at least some of those truths have been." For a fuller review, see <https://www.dailyuv.com/news/823309>

The oral-history based concept of this book is especially interesting to me. And the creative organization of the book, which presents the issues and numerous individuals experiences and opinions in distinctly framed windows, succeeds in giving the reader a view that is surprisingly intimate. While reading this book I found myself feeling as if I was sitting-in on a candid conversation with an amazingly varied group of openly and even ardently communicative persons. And by varied, I mean not only in terms of their gender or sexual orientations or identities -- which were incredibly diverse -- but also racially, age wise, in socioeconomic backgrounds, levels of education, professions, and familial experiences. And to make it even more multifaceted -- and therefore truer to life -- an important host of additional intersectional complexities are shared and explored as well. In the end, I felt fortunate to have been in the presence of such an open and inclusive group of persons. And I greatly enjoyed the intriguing writing technique of this book.

There are so many great voices in this book. I particularly appreciate how many African-American, Latinx, Asian-American and Native people were interviewed for this book. I think my favorite part was this: "For years and years weÃ¢Â€Â™ve been put under the magnifying glass while white doctors and psychiatrists have written volumes of books about us, and we havenÃ¢Â€Â™t got to say a word about it. Our voices have been silenced long enough. ItÃ¢Â€Â™s about damned time that somebody let us tell our truths." There are many really great lines like that. It's really clear that this book was written with passion, and with love for the community. I think it elevates the community in new ways, and it sparks fresh thoughts about the treatment of trans/nonbinary people.

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