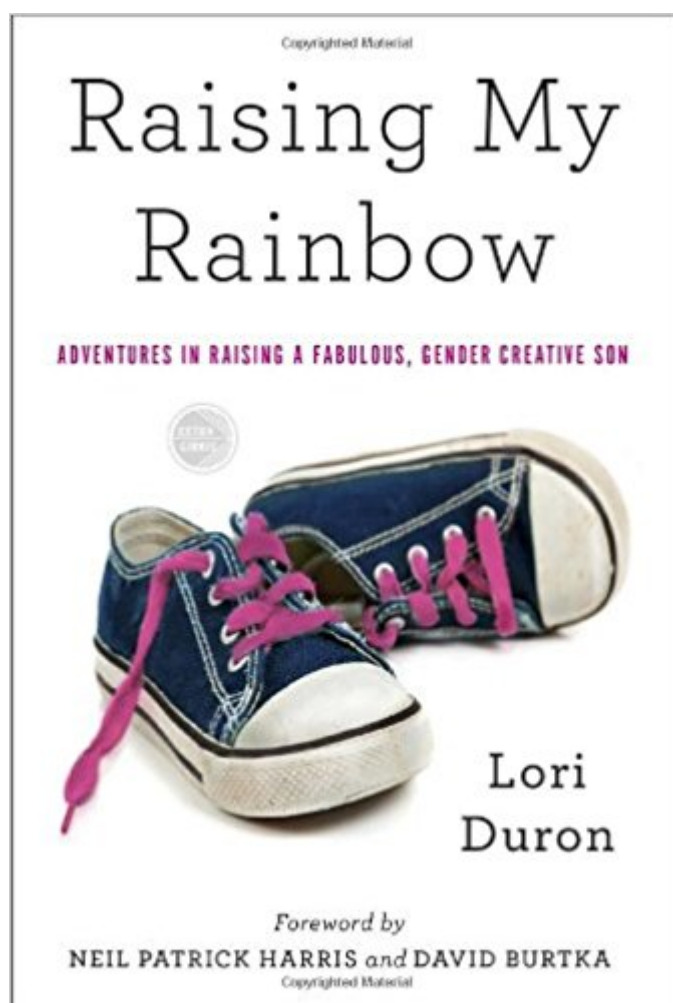


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Raising My Rainbow: Adventures In Raising A Fabulous, Gender Creative Son



Synopsis

Raising My Rainbow is Lori Duron's frank, heartfelt, and brutally funny account of her and her family's adventures of distress and happiness raising a gender-creative son. Whereas her older son, Chase, is a Lego-loving, sports-playing boy's boy, Lori's younger son, C.J., would much rather twirl around in a pink sparkly tutu, with a Disney Princess in each hand while singing Lady Gaga's "Paparazzi." C.J. is gender variant or gender nonconforming, whichever you prefer. Whatever the term, Lori has a boy who likes girl stuff—really likes girl stuff. He floats on the gender-variation spectrum from super-macho-masculine on the left all the way to super-girly-feminine on the right. He's not all pink and not all blue. He's a muddled mess or a rainbow creation. Lori and her family choose to see the rainbow. Written in Lori's uniquely witty and warm voice and launched by her incredibly popular blog of the same name, Raising My Rainbow is the unforgettable story of her wonderful family as they navigate the often challenging but never dull privilege of raising a slightly effeminate, possibly gay, totally fabulous son. Now with Extra Libris material, including a reader's guide and bonus content

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. In her first book, Duron comes out of the mommy blog closet with an optimistic and delightful memoir of her family's process of understanding, supporting, and celebrating their gender-creative son, C.J., who prefers Barbies to trucks and princesses to pirates. The story of the phenomenal growth that this mother exhibits as she tries to do what she thinks is best—steering C.J. toward gender-neutral toys, navigating ever-changing rules about what is

okay for him to wear in public” is humorous and light, even when the issues involved are heavy. Duron employs a range of resources as she tries to understand her son and how best to parent him, including speaking to her gay brother and his transgendered friend, finding LGBTQ resources on the Internet, and discovering peers when she begins publishing a blog about C.J. (RaisingMyRainbow.com). In Duron’s story, parents will find support for a love them, not change them style of parenting, optimism about the outcomes for their gender-creative children, sympathy for the difficulties of parenting, and an affirmation of the appropriateness and necessity for fierce advocacy. Duron’s call for compassion should be heeded by educators, caregivers, and neighbors – an open heart, a desire to listen and learn, and a willingness to accommodate go a long way in doing well by someone who differs from your expectations. Agent: Kari Stuart, ICM Partners. (Sept.)

Praise for Lori Duron’s *Raising My Rainbow* – “Heartwarming, though wrenching” what makes *Raising My Rainbow* fresh and enjoyable is Duron’s utter lack of pretension. – *New York Times Book Review* – “A powerful book at the right time.” – Andy Cohen, author of *Most Talkative* – “Lori Duron, a writer of extraordinary generosity, has given us a guide to parenthood both gentle and revolutionary. *Raising My Rainbow* is a valuable resource not only for parents of gender-nonconforming children, but for readers everywhere who seek the courage to stand up for the ones they love. Fierce, wise, and illuminating.” – Jennifer Finney Boylan, author of *She’s Not There* and *Stuck in the Middle with You*. – “Because of Lori’s courage, there is now an answer when searching how to parent a child who is gender fluid, gender non-conforming, transgender, gay or whatever label you use. This book is a wonderfully authentic read that will bring depth, joy and understanding to parents, extended families and anyone seeking to learn how parents can and do love gender creative children. To acceptance!” – Cheryl Kilodavis, author of *My Princess Boy* – “[S]mart and witty...first-of-its kind...a frank, funny, feminist book.” – *The Advocate* – “[A]n optimistic and delightful memoir” | Duron’s call for compassion should be heeded by educators, caregivers, and neighbors – an open heart, a desire to listen and learn, and a willingness to accommodate go a long way in doing well by someone who differs from your expectations. – *Publishers Weekly*, starred review – “A heartfelt examination of raising a boy who wants to be a girl.” – *Kirkus* – “It takes a village to raise a child, and it takes a gender creative parent to create a gender creative child.” – Lori

Duron is just one of those parents, and *Raising My Rainbow* is a must-read for the entire village. Beautifully written, humorous, and deeply open and self-reflective, this book, the first of its kind, gives us a window into a mother's joys, pain, and courage raising a child who goes against the binary gender grain of our society. This is not only an outstanding book, it is a big step forward in making it a better world for all of us.

•Diane Ehrensaft, Author of *Gender Born, Gender Made* "First drawn to Lori's work as an educator and LGBT activist, it was my role as a father that provided the most poignant critical lens for *Raising My Rainbow*. While nobody has a blueprint for parenting, Lori's compassionate, insightful, and yes, humorous take of raising a "gender creative" child should be required reading for anyone bringing up or working with children."

•Frank Bua, author of *Lost and Found*, and Board Member, Family Equality Council "I fell in love with this. Lori Duron has written a very important book, and as an author she is extremely generous in sharing the story of her family and in particular her own journey which made her realize that her job regarding her son is to not change him but to love him. Duron and her husband and oldest son beautifully rise to every challenge C.J.'s gender creativity presents to them. As a reader, I felt privileged to witness their journey."

•Leslie A. Newman, author *The Boy Who Cried Fabulous*, *Heather Has Two Mommies*, and *October Mourning* "Lori Duron has painted an exquisite picture of the complex journey that is raising a gender diverse child. In chronicling her family's transformation from confusion, to fear, to acceptance and ultimately fierce pride, she has provided an unwavering celebration of her child's gender self-determination. Not just a book for families with gender nonconforming children, *Raising My Rainbow* is wonderful resource for all parents committed to honoring children for who they are."

•Joel Baum, Director, Education and Training, Gender Spectrum "Laugh-out-loud funny, tug-at-the-heartstrings moving, and thoroughly thought provoking, *Raising My Rainbow* is a must-read for anyone who has ever worried that their child or a child that they know might be perceived as different from, or another than."

•Jody M. Huckaby, Executive Director, PFLAG National

I received the book yesterday and just finished it. The story is more than just the challenges that this family has faced...it is a call to parents everywhere to really allow their children to be who they are. So often as parents, in an effort to minimize social pressures or teasing, we advise our children on how to hide...rather than celebrate...who they are. This goes for me...with embarrassment, I realize the times I may have unknowingly prejudged a child who does not fit a particular mold, or the times I

may not have been as accepting of my own childrens' quirks or differences from me. I do not have gender non-conforming children, but I realize my bias towards my sons when they may want to color something pink or want to get another stuffed animal. Why should I squelch what they embrace? Whether you agree - or not- with the way C.J. Is being raised, you will find an inspirational and sometimes heartbreaking story of raising a child to be who he/she is, regardless of societal expectations. The journey of the family is very touching, and the parental development is as intriguing as they are. Not a hippie book. Definitely one to help us all learn to break through boundaries and accept and love one another, as we were intended.

This book shares the author's personal family stories as two sons grow up from birth to kindergarten and fourth grade. As he grows, and starting very young, the younger boy expresses his choices to play with dolls, wear skirts and go for the pink aisles in toy stores. How they all learn to handle this unexpected situation, and the comments, looks and judgements of almost everyone, makes for fascinating reading and insightful learning. I delayed my plans for my day and just kept reading. I am a mental health counselor and have some specific clients who will benefit from reading this and talking about it with family members and me as well. Teachers, parents, family and friends of gender-creative children will enjoy the presentation of this material, and benefit from the consistent encouragement to be open minded and open hearted. I especially enjoyed reading about Chase, the older brother, and CJ, the younger brother, and the relationship they share as siblings. The author has taken her own experience of being a sibling to a gay brother, and now having two sons dealing in their own unique ways with gender identity issues, and written a great read, fun, informative, and I will be checking out her blog now to continue to wish this little family the best today and as they all grow.

I am not a parent (in my 60's - by choice), but as I read this lovely piece of work - I cried, laughed my butt off, and had every emotion I could imagine a parent would have. I held my breath more than a dozen times, I was scared, terrified, happy, and elated. It made me, revisit, the honest sincerity of children -- no hatred -- just pure love. This book should have made us realize how quickly we lose so much of our innocence. I commend the strength and commitment of this family to recognize this beautiful human being and respect his 'needs'. I am not quite 1/2 way through the book, but felt so compelled to write a quick review - as I see it, at this point. This young boy's story has - resurrected my belief in ones' individuality. We become so hardened as we age. Do not hesitate to load this book (or pick it up), ASAP. You'll not want to put it down. It will hold your attention from the 1st sentence.

This writer is easy and fun to read, at times you inhale a big breath and read 1 sentence that takes up most of a page. She is so funny. You can not go wrong with this lovely, heartwarming read. It is the best read I have had in a few years. I hope she writes another one sharing the next level of her son.

I laughed, I cried and I felt joy and fear right along with Lori as she chronicled her journey through raising a gender-creative child. As a mom of two delightful boys myself, one being gender-creative, many of the situations she wrote about I also experienced myself. It was interesting and extremely helpful to read her point of view - I started making a few changes to my approach as a result of this book. I also appreciate all the in-depth research Lori did on the topic of gender differences and non-conformity, I can only imagine the hours she spent on-line gathering all that info! I'm encouraging my husband, parents and close friends read this book so we can together we can support my rainbow as he grows into a wonderful person.

Lori Duron's *Raising My Rainbow* is an excellent and important read that leaves the reader questioning their way of thinking about tolerance, acceptance, unconditional love, agape. What does a parent do when expectations are shattered, when the nature of their child brings bullying and hateful behavior? Duron walks the reader through the answer with painful poise; she writes intelligently, humorously, with sharp authentic sarcasm that resonates as if one's own inner voice. The words on the page and the spaces between the sentences clearly paint the image of what it is to give birth to a nonconforming child, the anxiety over wanting to keep her children safe, the fear engendered over wanting to protect CJ and his brother Chase from bullying and hatred. Through Duron we see that different is not bad, not evil, but just different. It is the light of her love that shines through on the page and makes this a compelling read. Her story, CJ's life, is our story, what it is to be human, vulnerable, open, raw, and face life without compromise. We suffer along through the consequences of taking on the bullies and hate mongers. Hours after I shut the last page, images of Duron's son, CJ, laughing and romping happily in a skirt, playing with his Barbie doll, still run through my mind and I can't help but think that were it not for the love, the unconditional love, of his mother and father, there may be no laughing at all. Highly recommend this read.

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