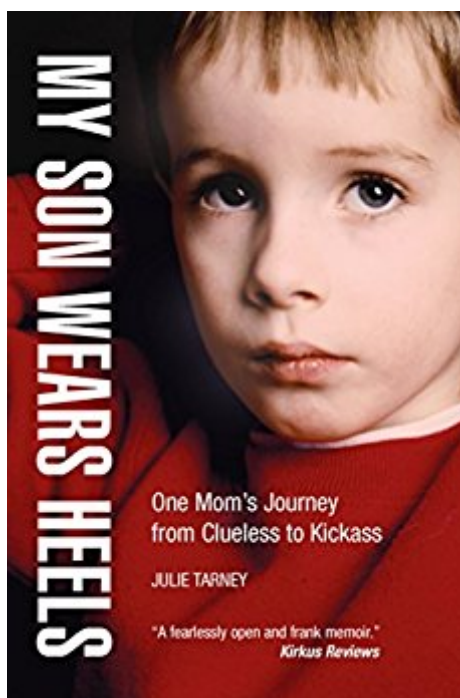


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# My Son Wears Heels: One Mom's Journey From Clueless To Kickass



## Synopsis

In 1992, Julie Tarney's only child, Harry, told her, "Inside my head I'm a girl." He was two years old. Julie had no idea what that meant. She felt disoriented. Wasn't it her role to encourage and support her child? Surely she had to set some limits to his self-expression or did she? Would he be bullied? Could she do the right thing? What was the right thing? The internet was no help, because there was no internet. And there were zero books for a mom scrambling to understand a toddler who had definite ideas about his gender, regardless of how Nature had endowed him. Terms such as transgender, gender nonconforming, and gender creative were rare or nonexistent. There were, however, mainstream experts who theorized that a "sissy" boy was the result of a domineering mother. Julie couldn't believe it. She didn't want to care what her neighbors thought, but she did care. "Domineering mother" meant controlling mother. It meant bad mother. Lacking a positive role model of her own, and fearful of being judged as a mom who was making her son "too feminine," Julie embarked on an unexpected parenting path. Despite some missteps, and with no map to guide her, she learned to rely on her instincts. She listened carefully, kept an open mind, and as long as Harry was happy, she let him lead the way. Julie eventually realized that Harry knew who he was all along. Her job was simply to love and support him unconditionally, allowing him to be his authentic self. This story of a mother embracing her child's uniqueness and her own will resonate with all families. Winner, inaugural BeOUT Award for LGBTQ Visibility, awarded by Milwaukee Pride

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## Customer Reviews

My Son Wears Heels .... what can I say? I laughed...I cried....I couldn't put it down. This book isn't just for parents of gender creative children. This book is for every parent. It reminds us that we are here to help our children be themselves and take on the world. We are not here to make them into what we think the world expects of them. And that is always the toughest road for a parent. Thanks for the reminder and the inspiration, Julie Tarney!!! Well done. Everyone needs a copy. I can't wait for the movie!

I have read several books on transgender children, and this did not meet my expectations. I was left wondering if this child was indeed transgender or perhaps gay. It does not inform as Raising Roland, Being Jazz or the excellent This is How It Always Is. It is a memoir from the mother's point of view on how she let her son be feminine in his choices as a child. He grows more flamboyant as he grows up. The reader never sees any desire to become transgender. A disappointment if you are trying to understand the transgender community, or your child shows desire to be a different gender.

I don't think I ever got through a book so fast and hit every emotion possible. I cried, I laughed, I was angry and I was in awe of both Julie and Harry. I thought Julie did an excellent job of telling her story and telling Harry's story. She clearly had 2 stories to tell which she did beautifully. I came away from this book hoping that I did everything possible to have my children live their true self and that I encouraged them to be spectacular individuals like Julie did for Harry. If you are a mother, you should read this book. Jodi P.

I could not put this book down. From the heart and with incredible detail, the author does a

wonderful job sharing her story about raising a son who does not fit into the average mold, and has the strongest sense of self at a very young age. In this age of slow, but growing understanding of the LGBTQ community, the author, in uncharted territory, breaks new ground and navigates gender identity and expression as a mother, with honesty, humor and love.

Tarney does a wonderful job of sharing how she navigated raising a gender non-comforting child. It is very clear that she cares deeply for her child and did her best to manage difficult situations, from homophobic strangers to junior high bullies. The book is easy to read, humorous, and stays clear of holier-than-thou proselytizing. Tarney simply shares her experiences. I hope that every parent who has a child on the LGBTQ spectrum takes time to read this book.

In full disclosure, I had the pleasure of working with Julie on this book. I love this story so much. I have two small boys and her parenting mishaps and successes have shaped the way I parent. Such an important book! Bravo, Julie.

What an incredibly inspiring book. The author's unmovable commitment to understand and support her nonconforming child, and Harry's phenomenally creative and forthright spirit will move you to tears and laughter. I highly recommend this book to any parent who is trying to honor their child's drive to be their true self. Beautiful.

This is a great read, and a book you won't put down until you finish. It is an authentic, joyous journey. I laughed and cried, but mostly smiled. This is a must read for any and every parent. Julie and her son, Harry, are rare and special birds indeed, and this book would translate beautifully to a movie or TV series!

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