

Raising My Rainbow: Adventures in Raising a Fabulous, Gender Creative Son

By Lori Duron



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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, her 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.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

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.)

Review

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.”

—**Lesléa 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 TM**

“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 ‘other than.’”

—**Jody M. Huckaby, Executive Director, PFLAG National**

About the Author

No Bio

No Bio

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Toni Styer:

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Ellen Garcia:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children right up until adult are different content. As you may know that book is very important for all of us. The book Raising My Rainbow: Adventures in Raising a Fabulous, Gender Creative Son seemed to be making you to know about other expertise and of course you can take more information. It is very advantages for you. The guide Raising My Rainbow: Adventures in Raising a Fabulous, Gender Creative Son is not only giving you much more new information but also for being your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your own personal spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship with all the book Raising My Rainbow: Adventures in Raising a Fabulous, Gender Creative Son. You never experience lose out for everything should you read some books.

Ruth McGrath:

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Harry Blalock:

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