



Super Late Bloomer: My Early Days in Transition

Julia Kaye

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A highly personal collection documenting the early months of artist Julia Kaye's gender transition.

Instead of a traditional written diary, Julia Kaye has always turned to art as a means of self-reflection. So when she began her gender transition in 2016, she decided to use her popular webcomic, *Up and Out*, to process her journey and help others with similar struggles realize they weren't alone.

Julia's poignant, relatable comics honestly depict her personal ups and downs while dealing with the various issues involved in transitioning—from struggling with self-acceptance and challenging societal expectations, to moments of self-love and joy. *Super Late Bloomer* both educates and inspires, as Julia faces her difficulties head-on and commits to being wholly, authentically who she was always meant to be.

Super Late Bloomer: My Early Days in Transition Details

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Author : Julia Kaye

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From Reader Review Super Late Bloomer: My Early Days in Transition for online ebook

Brittany says

This is a very quick, slice-of-life collection of comics the author wrote nearly every day following the start of her transition. I appreciate her raw vulnerability and feel like I have a bit of a grasp on what that must feel like. I'm grateful to have read it.

Stewart Tame says

As the cover promises, this is a diary in comics form about Julia's transition from male to female. She did one cartoon per day. The book is really more about the mental transition than the physical. Despite the physical changes, looking in the mirror and seeing a woman isn't as easy as it sounds. There's a lifetime of conditioning to undo.

Although there is some humor in this book, it's not constant, gag-a-day material. It's more about introducing you to Julia and her life and building moments of shared humanity and detail until you see yourself reflected in the book. Or at least that was my experience. I'm not female or trans, but, last I checked, I am a human being. I may not have had Julia's exact experiences, but I've had enough similar ones to feel a certain level of kinship. Thanks for sharing this bit of your life, Julia! You are an amazing person!

On the downside, the book is short. I was sorry to see it end. With only one strip per page, it looks deceptively thick. Honestly, though, that's the worst I can say about.

So: really short, but really good. Recommended!

Mehsi says

I received this book from Netgalley in exchange of an honest review.

I have been following Julia Kaye for quite some time now, first on Webtoons around 2015 and later on Twitter when she stopped her Webtoon (which I still think is sad, but I can totally understand the whys).

So most of the comic is not new to me as she has been posting them on Twitter regularly, but I still very much wanted to read them all again. See how it all began. See the process of transitioning, changing her name and getting assigned the right gender, make-up, shaving woes, moments of doubt, misgendering (please people... it is not that hard), and much more. At times I was just tearing up, not only during the sadder moments, but also tears of happiness for her.

I still love her art, it is also very fun to see how much they improved. Not saying they were bad, but these days they are even prettier.

I am happy that I had the opportunity to read these comics bundled as an ARC, I will be buying the book when it comes out in May, I need to have this comic on my bookshelves.

I would like to talk more about the book, but I am still worried that I may say something wrong/make a mistake, so I will just keep it to what I have written so far. I would definitely recommend this book to everyone.

Review first posted at <https://twirlingbookprincess.com/>

Rod Brown says

Take keen insight into the emotional rollercoaster of gender transition, mix with humor and grace, and you have a pretty amazing book.

Cameron Van Sant says

A beautiful and vulnerable comic about early days of transition

Sarah Andersen says

Heartfelt and hopeful. I loved it.

Kirsten says

This is an affecting daily chronicle of the first few months of one transgender woman's transition. It's an unvarnished glimpse into the daily triumphs and tragedies of becoming who one is meant to be. Highly recommended to folks who want to better understand transgender lives, as well as those who might be going through something similar.

Laura says

This is a very personal, very cut to the bone series of strips about transitioning from male to female, along with all the good and bad days that go along with it. Julia is writing an autobiographical strip, and does not hold back anything. When she sees herself as still looking like a man, she mentions it. When she thinks that everyone is looking at her because they think she is a man in drag, she writes about it.

It is not easy reading these. It makes you want to be able to reach out and hug her, and tell her it will be ok. But that is the way it is with strips written about your life. You let everyone know your deepest thoughts, no matter how bad they might be.

As I said, it is not a fun journey, but that is not why one reads autobiographic comic strips.

Here are some sample strips.

Thanks to Netgalley for making this book available for an honest review.

Rebekah Gordon says

Really lovely! Straightforward, deceptively simple (all in the same 3-panel structure) and honest. A great combination of being truthful about the hard things and hopeful.

Shaun says

I've been following Julia's work when I found her gag comics online before she came out publicly. What came next were these highly personal strips about her experiences transition. The simple black and white doodles really carry a lot of weight and make something that seems so foreign to many, cis people like me, come across as relatable in a way. I have no doubt. This comic dictionary is valuable not for those who know all too well what she has been going through but also to those who are clueless as to what trans people go through. There are ups and downs, good days and bad. This is a powerful piece that I would recommend to anyone.

Molly says

This is a nice collection of brief, autobiographical comics documenting Julia Kaye's thoughts and feelings as she transitions to living full-time as a woman. Some of the comics are happy and hopeful, while others deal with the more complicated feelings around transitioning and passing (or not passing) as female - and a small subplot addresses the hurt she feels when a family member pretends to be okay with the transition and then proceeds to shut her out almost completely.

It's a great collection that I can imagine will reflect the experiences of many trans folks and can serve as a friendly introduction to the trans journey for people who might not otherwise be inclined to read about it.

I received access to this title via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Cassandra says

A touching non-fiction graphic novel/comic book about the day to day realities of a recently out trans woman. I found this to be emotional yet beautifully written. This will help so many transgenders realize that they're not alone in how they're feeling. It's hard at first, but it will get better. This is such an important book, and I hope it gets the recognition it deserves. Beautiful!

A huge thank you to NetGalley and the publisher for sending me a digital copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. I truly appreciate it!

Yaritza says

A powerful comic that lets us experience all Julia went through with her gender transition through out a year. This comic collection gives you first hand account of how a transgender view themselves, struggle, worry but through it all they stand strong and help others see they can to. You see the happy moments and the sad moments that can bring you down. Julia is a strong women who stood tall and did what makes her happy. Thank you for sharing you story and please continue to share it.

Rebekah says

Book provided by Net Galley in exchange for my honest review.

My partner found Julia's comics on Instagram during her transition. We both started following Julia and would often discuss the daily comic and how it related to what my partner was feeling. Julia was often a few months ahead of my partner's transition so it was helpful to see the future reflected in her art, so to speak.

This book is a compilation of daily diary entries in three-panel comic form as Julia goes through her mtf transition. The simple panels so clearly relate the everyday feelings a trans person experiences—body dysmorphia, hormonal changes, misgendering, coming out, and slowly seeing how the outside of the body begins to match the inward feelings.

I'd recommend this book to anyone looking to understand more about life as a trans person, for anyone who loves a trans person and wants to begin to understand a bit of what it feels like to be trans, and to any trans person who doesn't want to feel alone during the transition.

Passenger B. says

These comic strips depict the the ups and downs, triumphs and setbacks of the author's transitioning from having been born a woman in a male body to making her outside match her inside.

While I realize that the individual as well as collective experiences of trans-women are theirs alone and incomparable I must admit that I could relate to several of the issues brought up in this book; from experiences that were of course different and yet the same on an emotional level:

Whereas I luckily don't have to handle being misgendered on a daily basis, I can on some level understand the pain, frustration and helplessness of it because as a fellow woman I know what it is like not to be taken seriously and having labels put on you that you are desperate to shed.

I can only imagine how much harder it is for (trans-)women!

(I appreciate that - as I was told - for some (trans-)women the added "trans" is very important to them and their personal history while others feel slightly offended by this addition, hence the "trans" in parentheses. :-)
)

I love about this book that it leaves absolutely nothing out and takes you through **Julia Kaye's** transition step by step, addressing obvious problems with sexism, bigotry or just your "average everyday" problems of body image issues and societal pressure on what a woman should look and be like etc. But at the same time it always remains hopeful and determined.

On top of this it also showed me once more how important it is to stand against the growing trend of transphobia in feminism (TERF). If your feminism isn't inclusive then, honestly? - It is diametrically opposed to what feminism has always stood for and continues to stand for.

