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# F2M by Hazel Edwards and Ryan Kennedy

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Reviewed by Christopher Moss

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Skye is the lead guitar in an all-girl punk band Chronic Cramps, but she knows her days with the band are numbered because, as she is learning to accept, she is a boy. Finn, as the trans-kid chooses to call himself, is now eighteen and finished with school, and he is ready to start presenting his true gender, whatever that takes. He will find opposition from many quarters, including his punk friends, but his persistence and self assuredness are inspiring.

Though I did not act on the same conviction as Finn does until I was 60 years old, I recognized his strategy every step of the way, making this one of the most authentic depictions of transition I have read. Since Finn is perfectly aware of who he is, this is not so much of a coming out story as many others are, but really the narrative of a trans-boy's journey through acting on what he needs to do. The Internet is the resource for him it really is for transgender people now, so he is well versed in what he needs and finds a peer group he can use as mentors to make the best use of what he learns about gender expression, hormones, surgeries, his name, and how to cope with opposition or doubt from others.

Particularly insightful is the portrayal of Finn's feminist friends who in spite of their punk assertion of the value of individuality regard his self-determination as being "duped by patriarchy" as an old friend of mine used to say. The story does not shy away from portraying the pain Finn's mother

experiences having lost the little girl she always wanted but has been thwarted. Another realistic touch is that Finn discovers that no two transmen are alike, that there is not just one way of acting on one's gender identity, and that he might not even like every transman he meets. The thrust of Finn's journey is that he learns and absorbs and is not willing to detour from his path.

From one FTM to another, good on you, Finn. And thanks to authors Hazel Edwards and Ryan Kennedy for such an entertaining exploration of what a transgender young person finds and faces today.

Posted by [Christopher Moss](#)

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