



Goblinheart

Brett Axel , Terra Bidlespacher (Illustrator)

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Using "fairy" and "goblin" in lieu of female and male, the author has created a timely allegorical fairy tale. A youngster named Julep, who lives in a forest tribe, insists on growing up to be a goblin rather than a fairy. The tribe learns to accept that Julep is a goblin at heart, eventually coming around to support the physical transition that must be made for Julep to live as a goblin.

Goblinheart Details

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Author : Brett Axel , Terra Bidlespacher (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Goblinheart for online ebook

Laura says

This is a wonderful book for people from 2-100. My kids adore it, heck, our whole family loves it. The message that you can be who you feel you are inside even if those around you tell you that you must be something else because of how you look is beautifully done.

Aaron Dembrowski says

This has been Sandy's most beloved book since the day we brought it home from Fairy Fest. She asks us to read it at least once a week.

Brett Axel says

yes, i rated my own book. i am very proud of it.

Brian says

My 8 year old is Julep from this book for halloween.

Marthese Formosa says

For a kids' book, this book is superb. It makes you wish for more. The artwork is amazing although black and white. The story premiss is excellent and a good message for the kids- they can be whatever they like. If on the inside they feel like someone else, it's ok and they should trust that feeling. Also important to note that it was printed in an exploitation free place.

preview here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymHIUL...>

Jennifer Pym says

This is a great book for helping children to accept and include people who are different from themselves. Because it is about goblins and fairies rather than boys and girls it doesn't ruffle any feathers, but the allagory is obvious even for a small child.

The book is beautifully done and amazingly tactful, making what might otherwise be a contraversial and complex subject plain and simple. There would be a lot less bullying and alienation of non-gender

conforming children if every child read this book at 7 years old.

Wine and Cheese says

This is a sweet, delightful book for boys or girls.

Aleph Bet says

I found this gem at the Augusta Literary Arts Festival and brought it home to my children (6 and 8) they devoured it! They both loved it so much that I took a moment to read it myself and was really impressed. I hope the characters continue in future adventures, even a tv series.

Florence says

I loved "Goblinheart," by Brett Axel. I thought this story was beautifully written. The illustrations were beautiful, and they were relevant to the storyline. What a wonderful and moving story for old and young alike to share. I love this book and plan to share it with friends.

Cheekyglitter Lilly says

I really liked this book. Very cute and as a Kid i would have really needed books like that.

Aurthur says

Best book I've ever seen for instilling good values at an early age: tolerance, acceptance of oneself and others, freedom to be who you are at heart regardless of what people expect of you.

Suzanne says

Wonderful book...my grandson and I both loved it...met Brett at the NY Fairy Festival...very nice :-)

Danny Wright says

I've never read a book before that didn't have gender pronouns in it. You can't apply your preconceived notions about gender to characters if you don't know what gender the characters are.

Its really a wonderful story even without that. One of my favorite books ever.

David Bales says

A poignant and somewhat subversive look at transgenderism using "fairies" and "goblins" in place of male and female; cleverly arranged without any gender-specific pronouns, with a look at an interesting hidden world where goblins and fairies have "species-specific" tasks. Written for children but good for adults, as well.

Amy says

Wonderful illustrations and a terrific story. There's no doubt in my mind that it will be an enduring classic. Reading it so soon after it was released and discovering it before it is huge feels like being a part of history.

Ira says

I am so glad this book exists. I think every 6 year old should read it.

Ami says

At first glance, Goblinheart is just a fairy tale, albeit with fairies and goblins. In the book's fantasy world, the fairies have a certain set of physical characteristics and roles in the community, and the goblins have a different but complimentary set of characteristics and roles. Perhaps that sounds familiar, or perhaps not. Like *The Story of Ferdinand*, part of *Goblinheart*'s brilliance is that it can be discussed as an allegory or simply appreciated as a fairy tale. As such, it is an ideal teaching resource that can open discussion about gender issues without being conspicuously controversial or threatening. Yet to those of us with such awareness, each part of Julep's journey to acceptance as a fairy-bodied goblin is apparent as a metaphor for transgender life events: Julep's realization of inner goblin-ness, despair at growing fairy wings, the awkwardness of first tries at passing, creation & usage of adaptive items of clothing for a more comfortable presentation, and the final glimmer of the hope of community acceptance at the book's end.

Impressively, throughout the book Axel masterfully avoids the use of gendered pronouns. Not only does this enable readers to relate themselves or others to the main character, but the fact that *Goblinheart*'s avoidance of gendered pronouns does not read as clumsy or forced becomes even more appreciated when trying to discuss the book oneself! It's incredibly difficult in the English language to avoid gendered pronouns when speaking in third person, and certainly that is another item to which gender variant readers and their allies can relate.

Goblinheart's artwork is cleverly androgynous and evocative; the illustration of Julep looking back at the growth of wings so dreaded brought this reader to tears. Truly this book takes an important place in the slowly-growing genre of children's literature about transgender issues.

Terran Drake says

My dad wrote this book. He read it to me several times while he was writing it and made changes until I thought it was perfect.

Sweet says

Just a delightful story to read to a child.

Transient Poet says

By chance, I happened to go to a poetry reading at Greenfield Community College where Brett Axel was the featured poet. I was surprised and delighted to discover that as well as several books of poetry he had a children's book that dealt with gender identity and transgender issues simply and not contraversially, for five and six year olds. I read it and it is truly great.

I can't say how great it would have been if the kids I had gone to school with had read this book before they met me. I think I'd have had a much easier time of it because this book, even tho there are no humans in it, completely humanizes people who don't fit the standard molds.
