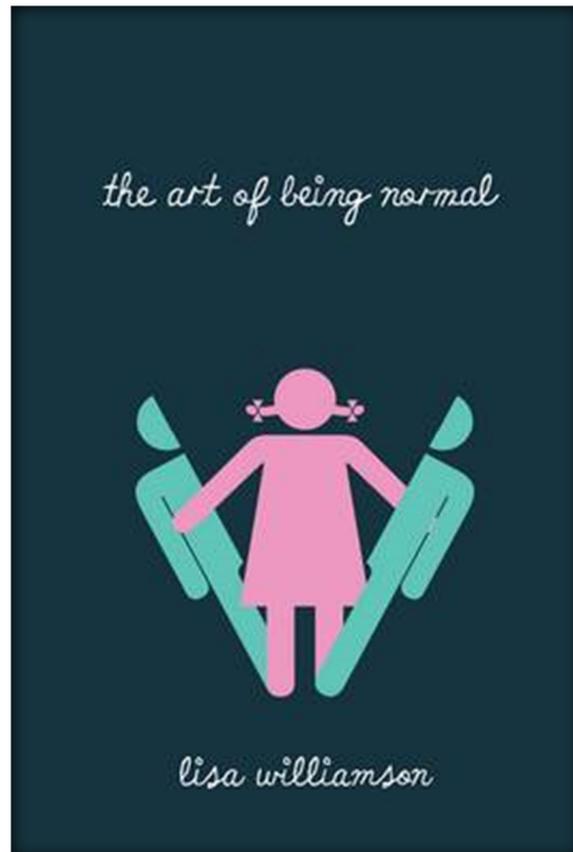


LoveReading Reader reviews of The Art Of Being Normal by Lisa Williamson

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

Phoebe Allan

*'The Art of Being Normal' is **one of the most brilliant books ever written** and I highly recommend it for anyone trying to delve into a new area of reading. The book is about two transsexuals, battling through each school day, escaping bullies and dealing with problematic families, all while trying to find themselves. This book, although sparking a large interest for me, originally struck me as having a strange story line - due to having not seen another book like it. I think this book would be a brilliant read for anyone, opening your eyes not only to the concept of trans-sexuality, but covering bullying, isolation and the daily battles of teenage life. I found the characters both lovable and easy to sympathize with, even without having experience in being trans-gender. **I commend Lisa Williamson on her ability to create such beautiful characters and weave such an incredible storyline. Love it! Thumbs Up!***



Michelle Toy

A perfect, important, stunning beautifully written debut from Lisa Williamson highlighting that different can be the norm and tackling transgender sensitively and honestly.

From the offset this book gave me goose bumps! Straight away I knew it was

going to be something special.

The story is about David Piper, who has always felt like the outsider and has always known that he is a transgender girl and Leo Denton the new boy in school who wants to lay low and get through the rest of school year without friends. The story is told from alternate perspectives. Both voices come across importantly and distinctively making both characters enjoyable and individual.

Lisa Williamson really gets the emotions and feelings of the characters across beautifully and sensitively.

As the story develops further the relationship that is built between David and Leo is touching and endearing.

I also loved how the book explored the rocky relationship Leo has with his mother and in contrast the close relationship he has with his sisters

This book could really help or be a support to transgender boys, girls, men and women as well as people who are trying to support or maybe understand. Or maybe to someone who is feeling confused about their gender.

I loved every single page, every single feeling, every single message. What Is Normal? Maybe everyone is normal in their own unique ways and we should stand proud. We all need to shout this from the rooftops and spread the word!

<http://talesofyesterday.co.uk/2015/01/the-art-of-being-normal-by-lisa-williamson>

Ayesha

*'The Art of Being Normal' was **such a refreshing read, a completely original storyline, raising the awareness of transgenderism in today's society.***

Ever since David was little he's always picked up the doll or the pushchair as opposed a football. His parents think that David is gay, but David is holding a huge secret. He wants to be a girl. This story follows David's journey, the bullying, the loneliness, the discovery of himself as a person, and the friendship between himself and the new boy, Lee Denton after he unexpectedly sticks up for David in a fight.

This novel was a pleasure to read. The storyline was completely new to me, and I hadn't read anything like this before. I found myself getting quite attached to David as a character, as well as David and Lee's friendship. I loved the way the story was told in two points of view, and they came together in such an

unexpected and eye-opening way. Not only does this story open your eyes to new issues, it also gives a realistic representation of teenage life. This is **definitely a must-read for everyone!!**

www.twinsturnpages.wordpress.com

Destiny Maraj

'The Art of Being Normal' was a great novel and I really enjoyed it. It has real life issues which made it even better. I would happily recommend it to all my friends and family as I loved reading it.

Georgina Rowe

A wonderful novel which practically forced me to carry on reading. The words jump off the page, bringing forth with them a brilliantly clear message of acceptance and respect.

The characters come alive on the page, and the themes discussed made me a weepy at certain points.

First of all, the protagonists. David was interesting to read, as he had laid his secrets bare to the reader from the first page. David is the first trans character that I have ever read the perspective of, and from my experience with this book I would say that there should be more novels like this out in the world. His inner mind was fresh and alive, and seeing him come to grips with his gender was heartwarming and inspiring.

Leo was a whole other kettle of fish, and I will not be listing any of the spoilers associated with his character here. After all, he hides so much (even from the reader) that he reads in a completely different way to his counterpart David. I may say, his backstory was one of the parts that made me weepy, so be prepared.

Overall the pacing was quick (I read it in three solid hours) and the dialogue between characters isn't boring or monotonous. Lisa Williamson's words jump off the page, bringing forth with them a brilliantly clear message of acceptance and respect. This book does cover bullying of trans characters, so if this would trigger anything I might hold back from purchasing. However, this book has become one of my instant favourites and I would recommend this to everyone else, especially if you are trying to understand trans folk as I found that hearing David's thoughts was really helpful in explaining his gender identity to me.

www.silverdoe-isobell.tumblr.com

Amelia White

Such an amazing book a really good book for older children and made me laugh at some of the things they do. Would recommend to my friends.

I found this book different to what I thought it would be, I knew about David wanting to be a girl but never really guessed Leo's secret! I found the ending really good as well, I'm so glad both boys got what they wanted because they fought and ignored all the comments like being called 'Freak'. It makes you think about how others feel and question What is normal?! I really loved the story line to this book and how it switched from Leo's point of view to David's it helped you get to know them better because I think if it was just in one perspective then it might be difficult to get to know their characters. Leo and David start of thinking they're different but in fact they are quite similar. I felt really sorry for David especially when the "Bully" steals his book, it really does make you feel sorry for him. Why are people calling him different? After all what is normal? Everyone has their own definition!