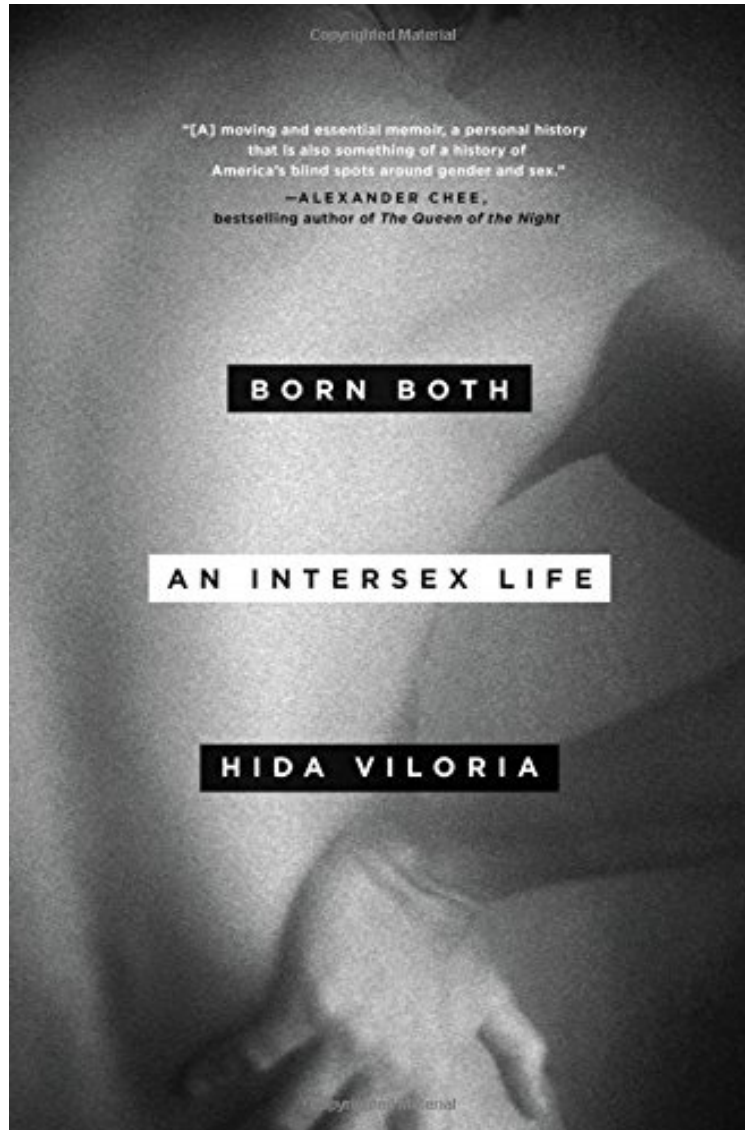


Born Both: An Intersex Life

Hida Vioria

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Hida Vioria : Born Both: An Intersex Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Born Both: An Intersex Life:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant, honest and frank. Should be required reading for health care providers.By QuickbeamI chose this book for one reason. In the late 1980s I was a pediatric nurse at a leading regional pediatric hospital. When reading the census every night, I'd see "ambiguous genitalia" as an admitting diagnosis for the infant floor. And it was not uncommon. When I asked the surgeon why these children were admitted,

he told me it was for surgery "to make them all girls". Now, these babies are 30 or close to it. I have often wondered what happened to these children. This book holds back no detail to let the reader know how they fared. The author was spared surgery due to the nation of her birth. Her cohorts are people who were carved up, often as young children. They have had varying but never easy roads due to those decisions made for them. The author has a very engaging style that draws you in to her experiences. This is an important book for anyone in the position to advocate for children. My eyes are open thanks to Hida. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. very Highly Recommended!! By RRIS I've been involved with community education, organizing and activism around Intersex rights to self-determination for many decades. It is so very good to now have such an articulate, well written, wide-scope yet personal, downright interesting book to Highly Recommend to people asking for more information. The author's writing style makes for very easy reading!! A totally accessible book, while still packed with tremendous amount of information along with the author's personal story. I've been waiting a long time for a book like this, stories, memoirs, autobiographies are such important ways for many people to gain their first real experience/info on other people's lives. I'm looking forward to when we have a long list of such by other Intersex People -- they'll be happily welcome in my personal LGBTUQ library. Until then, this book is a Highly Recommended book to read a very interesting life story!! Thank You. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Well written on a new topic By JordanAsh I worked with Hida in the LGBT movement in the early 90's. At that time I knew her as an intelligent young woman, but never thought she was intersex. I'm so glad she wrote this book as I have heard of the "corrective surgeries" that have been imposed on babies who don't fit into the "typical" male/female anatomy and I'm glad she escaped this. I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the emerging genders that are atypical!

"Fierce, brave, and a clarion call to celebrate our differences."---People From one of the world's foremost intersex activists, a candid, provocative, and eye-opening memoir of gender identity, self-acceptance, and love. My name is Hida Vioria. I was raised as a girl but discovered at a young age that my body looked different. Having endured an often turbulent home life as a kid, there were many times when I felt scared and alone, especially given my attraction to girls. But unlike most people in the first world who are born intersex--meaning they have genitals, reproductive organs, hormones, and/or chromosomal patterns that do not fit standard definitions of male or female--I grew up in the body I was born with because my parents did not have my sex characteristics surgically altered at birth. It wasn't until I was twenty-six and encountered the term intersex in a San Francisco newspaper that I finally had a name for my difference. That's when I began to explore what it means to live in the space between genders--to be both and neither. I tried living as a feminine woman, an androgynous person, and even for a brief period of time as a man. Good friends would not recognize me, and gay men would hit on me. My gender fluidity was exciting, and in many ways freeing--but it could also be isolating. I had to know if there were other intersex people like me, but when I finally found an intersex community to connect with I was shocked, and then deeply upset, to learn that most of the people I met had been scarred, both physically and psychologically, by infant surgeries and hormone treatments meant to "correct" their bodies. Realizing that the invisibility of intersex people in society facilitated these practices, I made it my mission to bring an end to it--and became one of the first people to voluntarily come out as intersex at a national and then international level. *Born Both* is the story of my lifelong journey toward finding love and embracing my authentic identity in a world that insists on categorizing people into either/or, and of my decades-long fight for human rights and equality for intersex people everywhere.

"Vioria does us the even greater service (it's more of a gift, really) of showing us what it means to live not just as both a man and a woman but also as a third gender that eventually emerges as the right one." *New York Times Book Review* "Intersex babies often have their dual gender surgically 'corrected,' but trailblazing activist Vioria didn't. Her book is fierce, brave, and a clarion call to celebrate our differences." *People* "[A] poignant and powerful story." *The Washington Post* "How do you discover who you are when you are born outside of what culture has decided is possible? Hida Vioria answers this question with this moving and essential memoir, a personal history that is also something of a history of America's blind spots around gender and sex." Alexander Chee, bestselling author of *The Queen of the Night* "Intelligent and courageous, [*Born Both*] chronicles one intersex person's path to wholeness, but it also affirms the right of all intersex and nonbinary people to receive dignity and respect. A relentlessly honest and revealing memoir." Kirkus "Groundbreaking.... This brave and empowering book deserves a wide audience." *Library Journal* "*Born Both* is a courageous and compelling personal story that helps give us the necessary knowledge and understanding of the complex topics of intersexuality and gender fluidity. Hida Vioria has boldly brought us along on this journey of understanding and pushes us forward to become a more inclusive culture where we value everyone--not in spite of our differences, but rather because they make us perfectly and uniquely us. A must read." Jane Clementi, co-founder of the Tyler Clementi Foundation "Hida Vioria's touching and generous memoir shines a beautiful light of understanding not only on what it's like to discover, explore, and own one's identity as an intersex person, but also on what it means to be human. Through heartbreak and humor, Vioria writes with welcome candor and insight--and shows us that there is so much more beauty, brilliance, and complexity than can ever be contained in the categories

'male' or 'female.'"Sam McConnell, producer of HBO's The Out List and The Trans List"Words come alive in Born Both, which Hida Vioria has written with intellectual sophistication as well as passion for intersex activism. In this memoir, Vioria eloquently tells a deeply personal story within larger structural narratives of race/ethnicity, gender, and class, making for a simultaneously pleasurable and informative read. This book will not only captivate those interested in intersex activism and gender revolution but also those who enjoy skillful storytelling."Georgiann Davis, PhD, Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and author of Contesting Intersex: The Dubious Diagnosis"Vioria's personal, positive, vibrant, and emotional work of advocacy will educate and affirm."Booklist"A valuable resource for those seeking first-person narratives by intersex people."Publishers Weekly

About the AuthorHida Vioria is a writer and intersex activist, chairperson of the Organization Intersex International (OII), and founding director of its American affiliate the Intersex Campaign for Equality, also known as OII-USA. Hida's mission is to obtain equality for intersex and nonbinary people as part of a broader vision for a world that accepts and values difference of every kind.