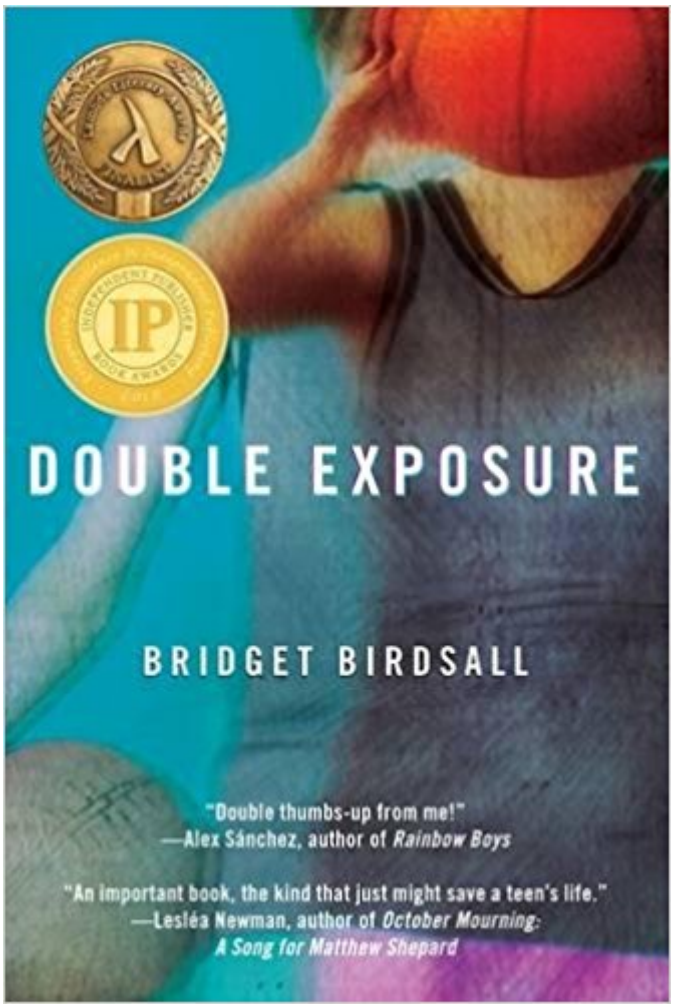
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Double Exposure



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Synopsis

Fifteen-year-old Alyx Atlas was raised as a boy, but she knows something others donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t: sheÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a girl. Born intersex, Alyx has always questioned her gender identity and struggled to fit in. But itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s after her dad dies—and after she sustains a terrible beating from her classmates—that she decides she canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t live as a boy any longer. She and her mother move from California to Wisconsin to start a new life, and Alyx begins again, this time as a girl. Alyx quickly earns a spot on the girlsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ varsity basketball team, and for the first time in her life she feels like she fits in. But as the team racks up one victory after another and the state championships approach, a jealous teammate sets her sights on Alyx. Hotheaded and fiercely competitive, Pepper Pitmani is sure Alyx is keeping a secret, which Pepper is determined to reveal. If she succeeds, the truth could destroy AlyxÃ¢â ¬â„¢s one shot—not just to take home the trophy with her team but to live as her true self. Honest, raw, and uplifting, Double Exposure is for every teen whoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s longed to be seen, struggled to find the courage to be different, or dared to face adversity head-on. Sky Pony Press, with our Good Books, Racehorse and Arcade imprints, is proud to publish a broad range of books for young readers—picture books for small children, chapter books, books for middle grade readers, and novels for young adults. Our list includes bestsellers for children who love to play Minecraft; stories told with LEGO bricks; books that teach lessons about tolerance, patience, and the environment, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 6 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 9 UpÃ¢â ¬â •After Alyx is attacked by the school bully, her mother decides they need a fresh start, and Alyx is ready. Born with ambiguous genitalia, Alyx has lived her life as a boy, but knows that her true identity is a girl. Her parents chose to do nothing when Alyx was a baby, not wanting to choose her identity for her. A move to Wisconsin gives her the opportunity to be her true self, a complicated undertaking. Patti, nicknamed "Pepper" because of her hotheadedness, befriends the young woman and encourages her to join the basketball team but quickly starts bullying the teen. When Alyx’s identity is called into question, her past comes to light and threatens her basketball eligibility. Though the writing sometimes feels stilted and the story not always believable, the protagonist’s feelings and conversations about her identity are poignant. She debates which locker room to use and uses words such as gender fluid, intersex, and genderqueer when she thinks about herself. At her lowest times, she feels neither male nor female or maybe both or like a mutant. Information about doctor’s reports, reconstructive surgery, and the way people have treated her provides a complex look at what Alyx has faced and what is ahead. Though the ending feels too tidy, this is an important addition to the small field of books featuring an intersex character.Ã¢â ¬â •Amanda MacGregor, formerly at Apollo High School Library, St. Cloud, MN --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

“Poignant. . . this is an important addition to the small field of books featuring an intersex character.Ã¢â ¬Â• —School Library Journal “Informative without being either dry or sensationalistic . . . . This necessary story is warmly told.Ã¢â ¬Â• —Kirkus Reviews “Birdsall doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t shy away from the complexity of AlyxÃ¢â ¬â„¢s condition . . . creating an unconventional character with whom teens can relate [sic].Ã¢â ¬Â• —Booklist “Birdsall demonstrates a remarkable talent for original storytelling . . . . As thoughtful and thought-provoking as it is solidly entertaining from beginning to end, Double Exposure is very highly recommended.Ã¢â ¬Â• —Midwest Book Review/ReviewerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Bookwatch “[Double Exposure] is as valuable for its portrayal of the effects of bullying as for its insights

into the experience of being intersex. It belongs in any collection that serves teen readers.Ã¢â ¬Â• —ALAÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Round Table/GLBT Reviews “Heart wrenching . . . . the powerful coming-of-age novel reflects the triumph of acceptance and equality with the help of unconditional love and support. A simply stunning yet stimulating work of art.Ã¢â ¬Â• —Planet London “A slam dunkÃ¢â ¬Â• —Wisconsin Gazette “A novel that takes you into the heart of a character and makes you root for her until the very end.Ã¢â ¬Â• —Teaching Tolerance “Double Exposure is a poignant, gut-punch of a novel, timely, and full of flashes of dark wit . . . Highly recommended for LGBTQ teens and allies alike. I adored this book!Ã¢â ¬Â• —Jenn Crowell, author of Necessary Madness “Goes above and beyond the ordinary . . . . recommended for anyone who enjoys well-written, timely YA.Ã¢â ¬Â• —Out in Print "Double Exposure gives the reader double what most novels do, portraying characters that are both bold and tender, raising questions that make you both think and feel deeply, and transporting you into a story that both entertains and inspires. Double thumbs up from me!" —Alex Sanchez, author of Rainbow Boys and Boyfriends with Girlfriends “Told in clear, straightforward prose, this riveting story of Alyx, and the gauntlet she has to run in order to discover who she truly is, shines a brilliant light on the truth that we are all queer in some way. All of us. In Double Exposure, Bridget Birdsall has given us a story that is courageous, intense and full of heart. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a score from the outside, and everyone who reads it wins!Ã¢â ¬Â• —Kathi Appelt, author of the Newberry Honor winner The Underneath, Keeper, and The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp "Double Exposure is an important book, the kind that just might save a teenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s life. Alyx captured my heart on page one and never let it go. All Alyx wants is to be herself. Which is what any teen wants. And all teens deserve. Bridget Birdsall has done a wonderful job of capturing a teenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s longing, anguish, courage, and determination. Read this book. It will break your heart—and heal it." —LeslÃƒÂ©a Newman, author of October Mourning: A song for Matthew Shepard “This powerful coming of age story is refreshingly unique, yet wonderfully universal in its portrayal of what it means to be different. With both realism and sensitivity, Bridget Birdsall depicts the tremendous courage required for Alyx to be true to herself. Double Exposure is a triumphant novel about friendship and self-acceptance.Ã¢â ¬Â• —Yvonne Ventresca, author of Pandemic “Double Exposure is an important story, poignant and compelling. And itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a great basketball story as well, rising out of a deep knowledge of the sport. Bridget Birdsall is a writer to watch!Ã¢â ¬Â• —Marion Dane Bauer, Newbery Honor-winning author of On My Honor “Intersexuality got the highbrow treatment in Jeffrey EugenidesÃ¢â ¬â„¢ Middlesex, but when it comes to educating the masses, some may

want a newer, well-written teenage story — such as . . . Bridget BirdsallÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Double Exposure.Ã¢â ¬Â• —OZY

Double Exposure is an outstanding example of contemporary YA fiction. This book should be in high school classrooms across the country. It tackles issues of gender and sexuality through the eyes of a relatable and life-like 16 year old who was born intersex. No book I have read can better convey how contrived our societies gender boundaries are. The book highlights the damaging effects that gender and sexuality related bullying and assault can have on our youth. It also demonstrates how institutions, assumptions and traditions can be just about as damaging as outright bullying when they try to squash adolescents fragile identities into predetermined moulds. All of this carried within Bridget BirdsallÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s clear, engaging and sometimes witty writing, and within a basketball championship plot that should be appealing to distractable high school youth. Send this book to school board members near you, and buy a copy for the 14 year olds in your life.

I bought this book for a teenaged grandchild so I read it before I sent it off in the mail. Once I started reading, I couldn’t put it down. Great characters throughout. The author tackles a difficult subject and makes it accessible, gives just enough information to make the the sexual issue clear without overwhelming the reader. By the end, I so wanted this basketball team to win, so admired the lead character, the mom and the scruffy uncle. I know this is a young adult book but this old adult thought it was great.

Birdsall tackles a tough topic with warmth, honesty and determination. This is a story that needed to be told with compassion and Birdsall has done that. The story is strong, with real character development and a message that is felt not forced.

A great read on a human subject

Very good read for teenagers.

Once I finished the book, I felt like I was going to really miss the characters. That’s the mark of a good book.

On the basis of character alone, this book was worthwhile. Alyx is the first intersex teen I've ever read, and that she has such a genuine voice is a credit to Birdsall's effort. Alyx is facing a struggle I can only begin to imagine: upon reaching puberty, Alyx, who has been living as a boy (thanks to her parents, mostly her late father) despite her protestations that she is a girl, begins to stick out even more than she already did. When her transgender nature is exposed, the bullying drives her to a new town in a new state for a fresh start.This time, Alyx is going to be who she knows she is - a girl. That she is a girl with ambiguous genitalia is only part of her struggle - she continues to feel like a freak (even moreso than a typical teen), wishes she could have the surgery she so desperately wants, but is stymied for another two years before she can do so - though she begins the hormone treatments she needs to even out her puberty. She joins the basketball team, and is soon a star athlete. She worries about boys. She worries about how girls act. Basically, she's a teen.Of course, small towns aren't good places to keep secrets. This was one of the only criticisms I can put forth about the book - Alyx is a smart girl. She's clever, knows what's at stake, and is given information early on about another character that she should really have prepared for. Instead, the big bad moment sneaks up on her and her family and it jarred me a bit out of the narrative to have Alyx seem to actively lose her way for a bit. It speaks to the strength of her characterization otherwise that it bothered me, and soon Alyx is back on track.That small issue aside, I loved the adults in this book as well - they are not perfect, but Alyx does have the support and love of the adults in her life (even if they don't quite "get" her). That was a refreshing change from Queer YA that can sometimes get bogged down in the "everyone is against me" tone. This is not to say that tone is unrealistic, but it can feel as relentless as real life, and sometimes you just want the kid in the story to catch a break with their family. Alyx has a great family, and there's no pulled punches in the reality of how much that means to her.Ultimately, this is a hopeful book, and I'm glad to have read it.

Double Exposure was really great! Alyx is intersex. She was born with ambiguous genitalia, and her parents decided not to have surgery to assign her a gender as a baby. However, Alyx ended up being raised as a boy, even though she was girl. After her father dies, and she gets beat up for being "queer," her mother moves them across the country for a fresh start. Now, Alyx can finally present herself as the girl that she is and live the life she wants. At least until her gender comes into question and puts her basketball team in jeopardy.I really enjoyed Double Exposure. It is quite sad and heavy in the beginning as we learn what Alyx has gone through. It wasn't just the bullying at school, but she felt like her parents (particularly her father) didn't understand how she felt about her incorrect gender assignment. But once Alyx and her mom move in with her grandfather, the story

becomes hopeful. Alyx is just like any other teen starting over in a new school, and trying to fit in. She does worry about her secret coming out, but for the most part, she's enjoying finally being who she is and getting to play on the girls' basketball team.Double Exposure was a wonderful read. I really liked getting to know Alyx, and I also liked learning more about intersexuality. The chapters that discussed the medical aspects of Alyx's gender didn't feel like they were out of a textbook. The human component was very much there as Alyx tells us how she feels about her body parts not matching up with how she feels. It was also interesting (and terrible) to see how the basketball commission dealt with her situation. There is a happy ending though! So don't worry! I do wish there had been a little more toward the end about how Alyx handled everyone knowing about her.

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