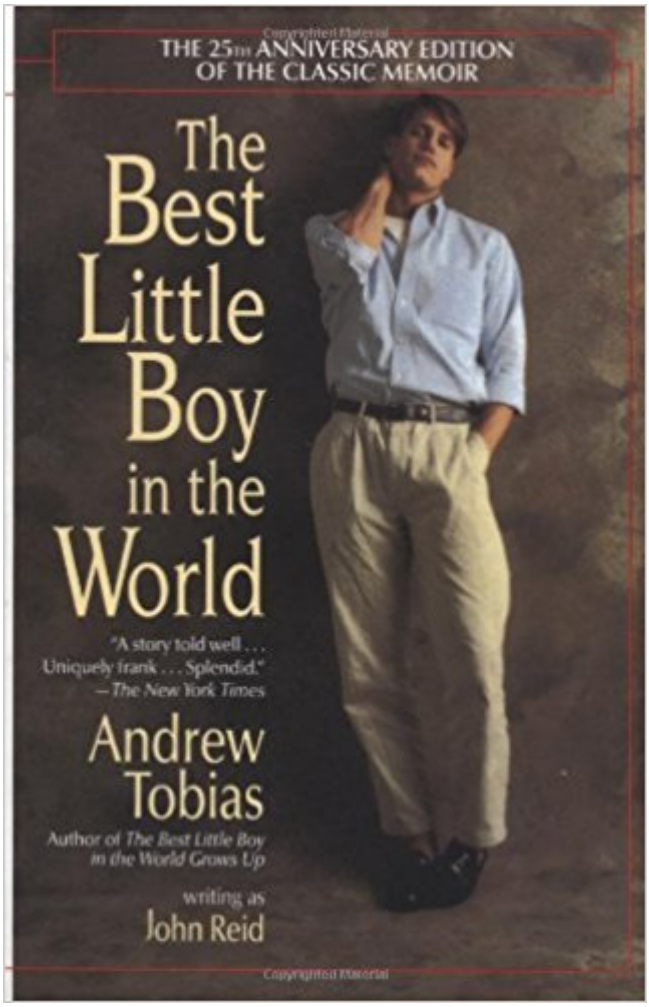
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The Best Little Boy In The World: The 25th Anniversary Edition Of The Classic Memoir



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Synopsis

The classic account of growing up gay in America."The best little boy in the world never had wet dreams or masturbated; he always topped his class, honored mom and dad, deferred to elders and excelled in sports . . . . The best little boy in the world was . . . the model IBM exec . . . The best little boy in the world was a closet case who 'never read anything about homosexuality.' . . . John Reid comes out slowly, hilariously, brilliantly. One reads this utterly honest account with the shock of recognition." The New York Times"The quality of this book is fantastic because it comes of equal parts honesty and logic and humor. It is far from being the story of a Gay crusader, nor is it the story of a closet queen. It is the story of a normal boy growing into maturity without managing to get raped into, or taunted because of, his homosexuality. . . . He is bright enough to be aware of his hangups and the reasons for them. And he writes well enough that he doesn't resort to sensationalism . . . ." San Francisco Bay Area Reporter

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When The Best Little Boy in the World was first published in 1973, Andrew Tobias could write about what it had felt like to begin to accept his homosexuality, but he couldn't bring himself to sign his own name to the book, for fear of embarrassing his parents. And so it was "John Reid" who became a hero to the thousands of gay males who found in this memoir a mirror for their own experiences. Although the book appears rambling at times, Tobias always has a clear sense of where he wants to take readers with the story. He treats his closeted adolescence and college years, and his stumbling first attempts at "doing a thing" with other gay men, with a self-effacing humor that

exposes his pain without descending into self-pity. And if his life seems fairly ordinary, apart from the sexual awakening ... well, that was the whole point. "You like and respect us when you don’t realize we’re gay," he writes in a new introduction, "so now please just continue to like and respect us once you do realize. It’s not that big a deal." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Sensitively told, full of humor, and free of guilt".-- Library Journal

I gave this book four stars largely because of its importance in LGBT history. It was the fist successful book about a gay man coming out in a straight world. At the time it was written in the early 1970s gays were viewed by society as being mentally ill, sick and certainly not normal. This book helped to change that view in that it showed a child growing up in a loving home doing much what all children do and being very successful in school academically and socially. As an adult he realized that the difference he had always felt from other boys was that he was homosexualcontinued. With this insight, he came out to the world and since then has continued to be successful while experiencing a fuller appreciation for who he is.

Andrew Tobias writes a poignant and touching autobiography of his young life as a closeted boy coming of age in the Northeastern US in the 50’s and 60’s. He reflects deeply on the issues and feelings which keep him closeted. He also is very open in reflecting on the dark side of his nature fostered by his self-deprivation and years of denial. His strong intellect, sense of "duty" to his family, as well as other components of his life and personality help him succeed in stiffling his true nature for years. I found myself almost continuously relating to this journey into manhood, self-acknowledgement, and then finally, a degree of self-acceptance. At the book’s closure he has gradually risen out of the closet although he is still a very young man working on the life issues that we gay men still work on today.The book is quick reading and very reflective. It is filled with bits of wisdom, and humor. I would strongly recommend it as core reading material for all gay people in or out of the closet, as well as anyone who might be struggling with acceptance issues regarding gay loved ones.

An account of a respectable young man from a very middle-class family whose struggle with, denial and coming to grips with, in a manner of sorts, his "shameful" lack of interest in "girls" and secret crushes on "boys". This experience was lived during the times that it was outright dangerous to be

openly gay, so "John Reid" was exceedingly successful in that respect. I felt that he could have shared this account with less intimate detail of his sexual experiences and put more emphasis on the social and political climate of the mid to latter 20th century gay experience. Clearly, at the time, it was a break-through book whose subject matter needed to be expressed objectively.

It was honest, enlightning & revealing to myself as a straight woman. I grew up with a gay sister & more than aware of the need to be someone else if your going to succeed in this world. She is a successful business woman & I'm proud of her as well as "the best little boy in the world". The book leaves you smiling because happiness is attainable for everyone.

I read in my youth and I loved this book. One of the first PRO GAY books!

Classic tale, well written, charming and heartfelt.

I had heard about this book, but never got around to reading it until a recent vacation. Andrew Tobias writes with a compelling truth. Those of us his age or older, can relate to many aspects of his story. To those of a younger age, it shows how many of the same struggles continue, yet many things have changed. I've become a fan of Mr. Tobias.

Book was well written, interesting, often funny and very informative regarding the author's life and lifestyle; often very touching as well.

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