

# **It's a Girl, Finally**

*by Toni Ferelle and Jacki Moss*

*The Moss Hill Group*

Interesting but wordy autobiographical transition memoir. "It's a Girl, Finally" chronicles the life experiences of Tony Ferelle and his ongoing transition to Toni.

The book begins with a rather explicit, detailed but condensed chapter about an actual surgery to convert Tony's male genitalia into Toni's vagina and associated female genitalia. From there, it presents Tony's second generation Sicilian family in 1971 as his mother prepares for his birth. He was the center of attention in his family – considered a very special little boy

Little did they know. Around third grade, this "special little boy" became aware that he truly was different from other little boys. Shortly thereafter, he began cross-dressing in secret, as many young transgender kids do. It wasn't until college years that Toni began to truly emerge.

Much of the first half of the book is devoted to fairly thorough discussions of the Harry Benjamin (now WPATH) requirements for transition treatment. Most importantly, the second half of "It's a Girl, Finally" is devoted to Toni's post-college life trying to accommodate her needs and those of her social environment.

After nearly 10 years as a police officer, several panic attacks and the advice of her partner, her therapist, and her own discomfort with police work led to Toni's return to civilian life – and being just a girl.

"It's a Girl, Finally" joins quite a number of transgender personal memoirs. It is not difficult to read, but seems overly long. As an educator and activist in the transgender community, I was disappointed there weren't more current references with regard to bottom surgery and the WPATH criteria. Also, there are many more current resources available than those included in the text.

*Reviewed by Dave Parker*