

Almost Perfect

by Brian Katcher

Delacourt Books

A well-done tale of high school romance with a new twist. Logan is a depressed high school senior in a western Missouri small town. His long-time girlfriend Brenda has recently dumped him. When a new girl at school – Sage – joins Logan and his buddy Tim’s “team” in biology class, Logan quickly is attracted to her. Similarly, Sage is attracted to him. As they get to know one another and spend time together, Logan’s typical male instincts lead him toward making out with Sage – but she resists. Logan is frustrated and angry, but still wants to be with Sage and Sage still wants to be friends with him.

As Logan tries to understand why this beautiful girl is unwilling to make out, with even light petting, Sage finally tells him her secret – she is transgender. Logan freaks out – if this gets out, his buddies will think he is gay!!

This really complicates the customary ups and downs of a teen-age romance. She is still beautiful, she still wants to be friends, and Logan realizes he still likes her. The story follows Logan as Sage tells him about her feelings and needs as well as the realities of transitioning. Their eventual sexual encounter is handled gently, with feeling, but it leads to further complications and confusion in Logan’s mind.

This is a very well done young adult book that brings out the realities of a transgender student’s life and problems and the effect they can have on those who know them. Homophobia/transphobia is well documented through the story, but so is love and understanding. I recommend it highly.