

# **Be Who You Are**

*by Jennifer Carr*

*authorhouse*

This is a delightful little book about Nick; a young child assigned a male gender at birth who sees himself as a girl. His parents tell him they love him anyway he feels. At school he wants to play with the girls, and creates a self-portrait that shows him as a girl. When he tells his parents that the teacher didn't understand, his parents made a point to go to his school and explain. They also work with a gender counselor to help their whole family deal with Nick's need to be a girl.

This book exemplifies how a family and a school should work with a transgender – or potentially transgender – child. Unfortunately, many families and many schools are frightened by a transgender child's self-knowledge and try to force the child into their assigned gender, often with seriously deleterious results.

Be Who You Are is listed on Amazon.com for ages 9 – 12. Nick appears to be younger than that, and I think this story is quite suitable for much younger children even if you must read it to them. I would even like to see it as a coloring book for the kindergarten and grammar school age kids that could be used as a teaching tool about gender diversity.

Dave Parker

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