


Lily and Duncan

 **Lily and Dunkin**
Donna Gephart.

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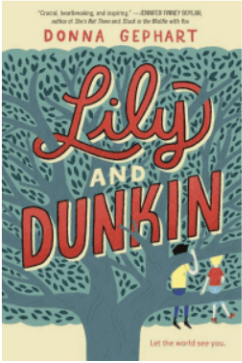
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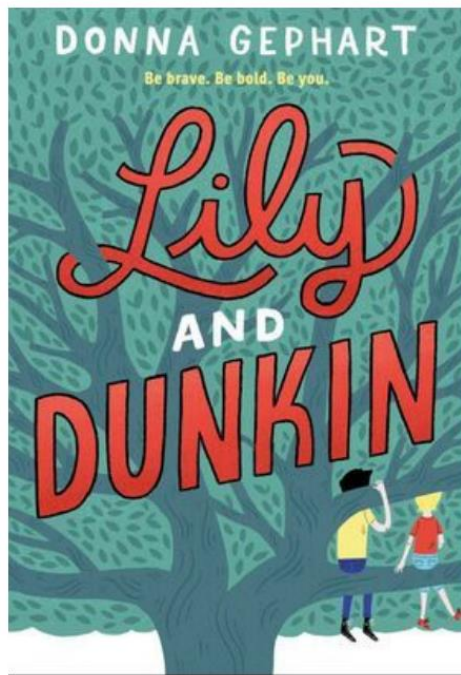


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"Lily Jo McGrother, born Timothy McGrother, is a girl. But being a girl is not so easy when you look like a boy. Especially when you're in the eighth-grade. Norbert Dorfman, nicknamed Dunkin Dorfman, is bipolar and has just moved from the New Jersey town he's called home for the past thirteen years. This would be hard enough, but the fact that he is also hiding from a painful secret makes it even worse. One summer morning, Lily Jo McGrother meets Dunkin Dorfman, and their lives forever change"--Provided by publisher.



Lily & Dunkin-Gephart

Some of the Concerns: discussion of complex, mature topics such as: Transgenderism, mental illnesses, gay attraction/relationships, hormone blockers

OVERVIEW

Lily Jo McGrother, born Timothy McGrother, is a girl. But being a girl is not so easy when you look like a boy. Especially when you're in the eighth-grade. Norbert Dorfman, nicknamed Dunkin Dorfman, is bipolar and has just moved from the New Jersey town he's called home for the past thirteen years. This would be hard enough, but the fact that he is also hiding from a painful secret makes it even worse. One summer morning, Lily Jo

Help Us Improve

Discussion Questions

Lily and Dunkin is a powerful, timely story with tremendous potential for meaningful discussion. Below are some questions to consider as you read:

1. A transgender person is someone who does not identify with the biological gender assigned to him or her at birth. Lily, born Tim, associates as a female and wants to start the hormone therapy that will allow her to begin the physical transition to becoming a girl. When did Lily begin to think of herself as a girl? Why is it best that she begin the hormone

Resources

TRANSGENDER/GENDER VARIANCE ORGANIZATIONS

Gender Diversity (genderdiversity.org): Increases the awareness and understanding of the wide range of gender variations in children, adolescents, and adults by providing family support, building community, increasing societal awareness and improving the well-being for people of all gender identities and expressions.

Gender Spectrum (genderspectrum.org): Provides education, training and support to help create a gender-sensitive and gender-inclusive environment for all children and teens.

GLAAD (glaad.org/transgender/resources): GLAAD rewrites the script for LGBT acceptance. As a dynamic media force, GLAAD tackles tough issues to shape the narrative and provoke dialogue that leads to cultural change. GLAAD protects all that has been accomplished and creates a world where everyone can live the life they love.

PFLAG (community.pflag.org): Parents, Families, Friends and Allies United with LGBTQ People to Move Equality Forward was founded in 1972 with the simple act of a mother publicly supporting her gay son. PFLAG is the nation's largest family and ally organization. Uniting people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) with families, friends and allies, it is committed to advancing equality and full societal affirmation of LGBTQ people through its threefold mission of support, education and advocacy.

Trans Lifeline (translifeline.org): A hotline staffed by transgender people for transgender people.

Trans Youth and Family Allies (imatyfa.org): TYFA empowers young people and their families through support, education and outreach about gender identity and expression.

The Trevor Project (thetrevorproject.org): The leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth.

World Professional Association for Transgender Health (wpath.org): As an international multidisciplinary professional association, the mission of the World Professional Association for Transgender

BOOK

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Lily and Dunkin

Page 25

... lump in my throat. "The **hormone** blockers. Remember I told you about them? I have to get started on them now or else—" "Goddamn it, Tim..."

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... let me talk about the **hormone** blockers. I need them, Mom!" "Shhh." She strokes my hair. "It's hard for your dad, sweetheart. His mom is so... so..." "It..."

Page 26

... crazy. I need to start **hormone** blockers right now or things are going to happen that can't be reversed. I can't wait any more, and I need one of you to sign ...

Page 27

... happen to my body without **hormone** blockers—the deeper voice, bulging Adam's apple, facial hair and hair down there—what's already beginning t...

Page 35

... for a computer, I research **hormone** blockers again—I need to be certain about the right time to start them. There's something called Tanner Stage II. T...

Page 35

... I'm supposed to start the **hormone** blockers. That means I should be starting them now. It's not like I'm asking for estrogen or surgery. Yet. I just don't wa...

breathing thing is totally ineffective.

"He's making it impossible for me," I say. "I can't go on like this. I can't turn into—"

"Shhh." Mom presses her head even closer to mine.

I want to cry, because it feels like Mom really does understand. I don't know what I'd do without her and Sarah on my side. And of course, Dare, who's ready to fight the whole world on my behalf, or at least the kids at school. I'm lucky to have each of them.

But I need Dad, too.

"He'll come around," Mom says. "It'll just take some more time for him to get used to it."

"I don't have more time." I pull away from Mom. "I'm beginning to change. And it's making me crazy. I need to start hormone blockers right now or things are going to happen that can't be reversed. I can't wait any more, and I need one of you to sign the form so I can get them."

"I'll talk to him," Mom says. "Again. Please be patient a little longer. I want your dad to be on board before we take this next step."

I stand, feeling light-headed. "It's so unfair."

continued... Lily & Dunkin

"Are you?" he asks.

"Yes," I say, taking a deep breath. "I'm definitely going."

"Cool," he says, grabbing a piece of cantaloupe from my bowl and popping it into his mouth. "Then I'll go, too."

I think about what it might be like. "Perfect."

THINKING

I like Tim's family, especially his mom and sister. His dad scares me a little, but I'm not sure why, and I really don't want to think about it. I'm so hungry and the ache in my head tells me I need coffee stat. Lots and lots of coffee loaded with lots and lots of sugar.

While I'm eating and drinking, I think about what Tim told me last night. I don't mean to, but I keep staring at his face, at those electric blue eyes. He kind of looks like a girl, except for the hair—not short, but much shorter than when I first met him. I wonder if this is why Vasquez calls Tim "fag" all the time. Does Vasquez know about Tim being transgender? But if he does, "fag" isn't the right word anyway. One thing has nothing to do with the other. Besides, I hate the word "fag." Kids at my old school used to call me "fag" sometimes or use the word "fag" to mean "weird."

The more I think about it, the more I don't like Vasquez...or the guys on the team. Too bad because I'm going to be playing with them all the way to the state championship, so I'd better get along with them, at least until then.

I know Tim's the real deal because he trusted me enough to share that secret. And he shouted when Coach was reaming me out, and gave me a thumbs-up when everyone else was booing. That's what a real friend does—sticks by you when no one else will.

I'll bet I could trust him with my secret. Secrets.

I look over and watch Tim *not* eating breakfast. I want to do the disappearing saltshaker trick for him—to cheer him up—but I don't have any magic in me today. And Tim probably wouldn't be in the mood anyway. I'm sure seeing his favorite tree get cut down hit him hard. It's tough to lose something you love and know there's nothing you can do about it. It's unbearable to realize you couldn't have stopped it, no matter what—

Stop thinking!