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*Liam Klenk*

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**Liam Klenk : Paralian: Not Just Transgender** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Paralian: Not Just Transgender:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerA refreshing and bold story.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Hungry Monster Book ReviewBy Literary TitanThe term "Paralian" comes from ancient Greek origins, and it has taken on the meaning of "people who live by the seardquo;. There could be no more apt title for Liam Klenk's autobiography. In Paralian: Not Just Transgender, He recounts the sweeping and nomadic movements of his life via the lens of the rivers, lakes, and oceans by which he periodically makes a home. Water is the element of change and transition. It is also the element at the heart of so many human-nature entanglements; the resource that has always defined and guided the movements of our species. Fittingly for a tale of bodies, travels, transitions, and wandering, Klenk uses bodies of water to parse the sections of his life like chapters in a narrative.The voice and experience of Liam Klenk is tender, vulnerable, and honest. It comes to the reader unassumingly and asks only for a patient ear. As the title would suggest, Paralian: Not Just Transgender tells a tale far wider in scope than Liam's courageous journey through gender confirmation. If anything, the story is about the contexts that occur before, during, and afterwards. It tells the story of a human being finding his place in this world. It opens near the River Enz in Germany, with a young girl named Stefanie and illustrates how a complex and tumultuous family origin, vexes and feeds her inherent confusion over identity. At the end, the reader closes on a confident, middle-aged man named Liam who views the world through hopeful, optimistic eyes from an airplane above Hong Kong. In the intervening pages a transition obviously happens butmdash;to the author's pointmdash;so does a full life. As Stefanie becomes Liam, the reader is taken abroad from Germany to Seattle, from Zurich to Italy to Macao, and all points in between. What makes Klenk's tale so necessary is that we get a story about a transgendered individual that articulates that while a singular aspect of his life was important, it by no means is the sole determinant of identity.Regarding execution and readability, there are some pieces that could give readers trouble. As with many ESL authors, minor line-level similes and metaphors go overboard at times and actually distract the reader from the emotional intensity of scene and moment. The larger issue however is that Paralian: Not Just Transgender isn't just a fascinating book, as it is several fascinating books mashed together. Because Life has no definitive plot, the best works of biography and creative nonfiction tend to follow an A-side/B-side construction in which real world chronologies and events are echoed and digested alongside another more metaphorical through line. Klenk's book is framed around the metaphor of nomadic travels and bodies of water, but the device is often glanced over or abandoned entirely for lengthy sections. This leaves the prose, like its subject, to wander widely. Luckily for Klenk, his book is entertaining enough that its propensity to lose direction is easily forgiven.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A remarkable story told by an exceptional story-

teller. Highly recommendable. By Sue Paralian is one of those books which, after finishing it, you feel at a bit of a loss as to what to read next because you know it will be hard to find something as enthralling! It is one of the best books I have ever read, and definitely the best autobiography (I usually get bored at some point in an autobiography, but certainly didn't with this one). The author tells a very open story of his, at times, jaw-dropping adventures and experiences during his journey, which not only takes him around the world but also leads him to realize, accept and finally embrace the truth of being transgender. I love the witty descriptions and comparisons in this well-written account, which also contains moments of sorrow and happiness, frustration and exuberance but a prevailing joy for life. Liam gets knocked down again and again, but always gets back up — not only for his own good but very often for the good of others too. An extremely motivating, heart-warming story. Liam is a true inspiration to all of us. Paralian: Not Just Transgender

The term "Paralian" comes from ancient Greek origins, meaning "one who lives by the sea". There could be no more apt title for Liam Klenk's memoir. In Paralian - Not Just Transgender, he recounts the sweeping and nomadic movements of his life via the lens of the rivers, lakes and oceans by which he periodically makes a home. Water is the element of change and transition. It is also the element at the heart of so many human-nature entanglements; the resource that has always defined and guided the movements of our species. Fittingly for a tale of bodies, travels, challenges, transitions, and wandering, Liam uses bodies of water to parse the sections of his life like chapters in a narrative. The voice and experience of Liam Klenk is tender, vulnerable, and honest. It comes to the reader unassumingly and asks only for a patient ear. As the title would suggest, Paralian - Not Just Transgender tells a tale far wider in scope than Liam's courageous journey through gender reassignment. If anything, the story is about the events that occur before, during, and afterwards. Paralian tells the story of a human being finding his place in this world against a lifetime of adversity. Written with an engaging sense of humour, this incredibly frank memoir challenges common stereotypes and will find readers still thinking about what they have read long after they finish the book. Paralian has won best debut book at the 2016 Rainbow Awards. It has also been named as "Recommended Read" by several book review platforms including Bookmuse, Bookbag, Readers' Favorite, etc.

Refreshing, enlightening, and a darn good read, Paralian covers difficult life situations with an optimism and grace that will surprise the coldest of readers, and as such is a read I can heartily recommend to all - I imagine, like me, you'll come out of the book uplifted and positive by the read. -- BookBag From the Author It is the coming-of-age story of a man, a transgender man, on an odyssey through several cultures as well as oceans. It's a book that can help and inspire - without being a self-help book. Paralian is a tale of overcoming obstacles, of finding oneself, of friendship, family, and loving life passionately. With a fine sense of humour, Paralian explores what it means to be human. From the Back Cover Paralian [Pa'raacuteli`an - one who lives by the sea] Curious and determined from the very beginning, I left the warm, flowing blanket of my mom's amniotic fluid five weeks too early. There I was. Stranded in a body not quite my own, soon to be taken away from her to be handed over to a young couple who were just as lost in this world. It was the beginning of an incredible journey, which brought me to the surging rivers of my childhood in Germany and later to the deep, glacial lakes of Switzerland. Then, one day, on the shores of Lake Zurich, an epiphany amidst bags of aromatic popcorn helped me to grasp the entire truth about my gender identity. Still searching for a place to truly call home and longing for a deeper understanding of the world and myself, my quest continued. I explored different cultures and oceans through work and travel, continuously fascinated by the inspiring individuals I encountered along the way. Several years of refreshing yet challenging Maldivian island life led me to the Philippine jungle and onward to the South China Sea, to Macau and the largest aquatic show in the world. It was there inspiration struck like never before but passion also brought me to the very limits of my endurance... Paralian: Not Just Transgender is about living life authentically, about independence, compassion, and the beauty of our often-troubled existence. Written with profound honesty and a fine sense of humor, Paralian hopes to touch your heart while leaving you slightly breathless all at the same time.

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