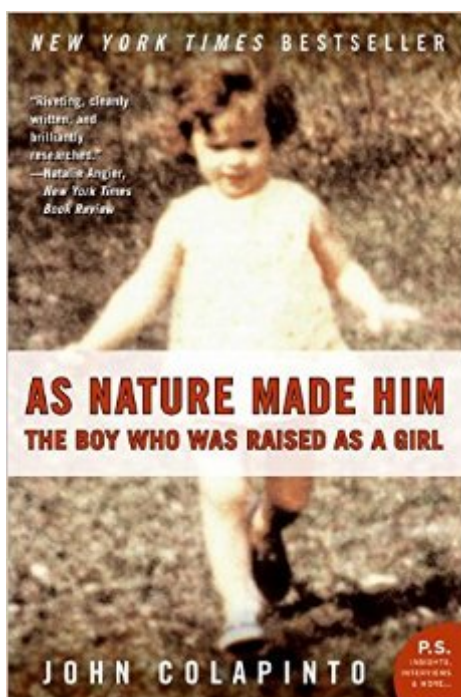


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# As Nature Made Him: The Boy Who Was Raised As A Girl



## Synopsis

In 1967, after a twin baby boy suffered a botched circumcision, his family agreed to a radical treatment that would alter his gender. The case would become one of the most famous in modern medicine—and a total failure. *As Nature Made Him* tells the extraordinary story of David Reimer, who, when finally informed of his medical history, made the decision to live as a male. A macabre tale of medical arrogance, it is first and foremost a human drama of one man's—and one family's—amazing survival in the face of terrible odds.

## Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Harper Perennial; 2 edition (August 8, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061120561

ISBN-13: 978-0061120565

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #109,794 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > LGBT > Transgender](#) #37 in [Books > Gay & Lesbian > Nonfiction > Transgender](#) #109 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > Special Needs](#)

## Customer Reviews

This is a wonderfully written book and a fascinating look into the debate of nature versus nurture in the area of gender assignment. Intelligent and insightful, the author draws a compassionate portrait of a family who, faced with a decision in the wake of a tragedy, relies upon the advice of a well-respected doctor, which reliance turned out to be misplaced. The book details the aftermath of the family's fateful decision and the impact it was to have on them all. In August 1965, Canadians Janet and Ron Reimer gave birth to identical twin boys, whom they named Brian and Bruce. When they were about eight months old, they arranged to have them circumcised due to a medical condition that caused them pain during urination. Circumcision was to remedy the problem. Little did they know that the circumcision for Bruce would be botched, resulting in the loss of his penis. A plastic surgeon with whom the Reimers had consulted in connection with the catastrophe that had struck Bruce had spoken to a sex researcher who had recommended that they raise Bruce as a girl. Doctors at the Mayo Clinic had suggested that they ought to get a second opinion with regards to

that suggestion. The parents then consulted with a doctor affiliated with John Hopkins Hospital, Dr. John Money, a renowned doctor in the area of gender transformation, who had been the driving force behind the then controversial surgical gender re-assignment procedure for which the hospital was becoming known. In 1967, the distraught parents met with Dr. Money and shortly after, Bruce became Brenda and clinical castration followed. Thus, their child, who genetically and anatomically had been born a boy, was for all extent and purposes now deemed to be a girl.

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