

Annotated bibliography

Reviewed Work: *Tomorrow Will Be Different: Love, Loss, and the Fight for Trans Equality*

by Sarah McBride

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ABSTRACT

This paper will delve into the book *Tomorrow Will Be Different: Love, Loss, and the Fight for Trans Equality* by Sarah McBride. We will begin by looking at the content of the memoir, then an article about the publication, followed by an extract which illustrates the substance of the book, we will then delve into the link between this thesis and the degree courses as well as the bibliography, followed by more about the author and lastly we will see a similar publication. This work was made with the intention of proposing an annotated bibliography of the memoir, aiming at deepening our understanding of the book and the topics it deals with. There are many documents for the study of trans rights such as reports, press articles, films and books. *Tomorrow Will Be Different: Love, Loss, and the Fight for Trans Equality* was therefore a tool to initiate further investigation on the theme. Even though we couldn't choose which book we were going to focus on, we were quite pleased to concentrate on this one because after our courses on trans rights in American civilisation, we were eager to learn more about those rights and study further its impact on our society and our contemporary world.

Keywords: civil rights, United States of America, trans identity, LGBTQ+ community, fight, equality, coming out.

The book:

This autobiographical memoir aims at pointing out the struggles that transgender people have to face nowadays, whether it be the hard decision of coming out, its reception, or even just the everyday issues concerning their place in society or the look of others. Using her own experience gives McBride's work a very unique subjectivity on the matter, and by tackling civil rights as a whole, she encourages people to keep fighting for equality under the law but also in common situations. Her challenging life experience can impact the readers by showing how thankful most of us should be, and prompt them to act in favour of equality for all.

Article on the publication:

Talusan, Meredith, “*Why ‘Tomorrow Will Be Different’ for the Transgender Community.*” Review of *Tomorrow Will Be Different: Love, Loss, and the Fight for Trans Equality* by Sarah McBride, The New York Times, March 20, 2018

The review emphasises the memoir stating the most stirring moments are those where Sarah McBride is talking about her private moments separated from her public nature. It highlights that there are contradictions and inconsistencies but expresses it as the difficulty to explain the transgender experience. The review mentions that the memoir begins with a more personal characterization of McBride's inner conflict, before moving on to her personal relationship with her husband Cray, and eventually at Cray's death it takes a more political turn. Meredith seems to criticise McBride for using other people's stories, especially children's stories, to raise political and social issues, as well as for her emphasis on statistics.

Illustrative extract:

“The best way I can describe it for myself is a constant feeling of homesickness. An unwavering ache in the pit of my stomach that only goes away when I can be seen and affirmed in the gender I’ve always felt myself to be. And unlike homesickness with location, which eventually diminishes as you get used to the new home, this homesickness only grows with time and separation” My dad, a long time progressive, also said that he didn’t understand how one could feel something like that is a social construct. Wasn’t gender, and all the things associated with it, just a creation of society? Wasn’t that what feminism had taught us? I explained to him that, for me, gender is a lot like language. Language too is a social construct, but one that expresses very real things. The word “happiness” was created by humans, but that doesn’t diminish the fact that happiness is a very real feeling. People can have a deeply held sense of their own gender even if the descriptions, characteristics, attributes, and expressions of that gender are made up by society.

And just as with happiness- for which there are varying words, expressions, and actions that demonstrate that same feeling – gender can have an infinite number of expressions. We can respect that people can have a very real gender identity while also acknowledging that gender is fluid and that gender-based stereotypes are not an accurate representation of the rich diversity within any gender identity”

The excerpt assesses the effect of how by depicting her narrative in a raw and unapologetic manner, a greater understanding of the subject will take place. Sarah pinpoints her emotions and struggles throughout the process and explains in a comprehensible way the concept of gender. By doing this she paves the way for other trans folks to vanish the flicker of doubt to stay true to themselves and most importantly, to erase any attempts of demonising

the diversity within the community. This metaphor frames the work's core, accepting people just as they are, destroying the old prejudices and limitations set by society by building a more compassionate and accepting world.

Connection to the degree courses:

This book can be linked to our course which deals with the LGBTQ+ rights in the United States. Indeed, McBride did like the United States, in her own way she fought for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community. Moreover, she is an important activist for transgender people. Indeed she is the 1st person to be politically included to a convention as a transgender person. Furthermore she impacted America by being part of the activists who were fighting for the wedding of the LGBTQ+ community. Finally this book shows that the confrontation against the inequality towards these people is still persistent, the nation has evolved but still needs to grow.

More from the author:

As the first openly transgender state senator in U.S History, Sarah McBride continues her fight against social injustices and inequalities, especially for LGBTQIA+ rights. After her memoir *Tomorrow Will Be Different : Love, Loss, and The Fight for Trans Equality*, the newly-elected democratic state senator has particularly taken a stand to defend trans youth against the anti-trans sports ban in Delaware.

In the same ideal of fighting injustices, Sarah McBride recently spearheaded a bill that will allow Delaware to be the 11th state to pass paid family and medical leave. Indeed, this bill is in reaction to the Covid-19 pandemic which had weakened the poorest households.

Similar publication:

Kris, Perry. Sandy, Stier. *Love on Trial: Our Supreme Court Fight for the Right to Marry* 2017, paperback, Roaring Forties Press

Perry's and Stier's book gives a different view on the same fight: both books advocate for equality and an increase of awareness towards the struggle of the LGBTQ+ people. Although both books deliver a message of change and hope, the books also differ in their content. In McBride's work we are witnesses to a continuation of legacy, whereas in Perry's and Stier's memoir, we can read about legal struggles and taking strength in one another allowing us to gain a wider understanding of the difficulties of being part of the LGBTQ+ community.

SOURCES:

- McBride, Sarah, *Tomorrow Will Be Different: Love, Loss, and the Fight for Trans Equality*, New York: Crown Archetype, 2018
- Talusan, Meredith, “*Why ‘Tomorrow Will Be Different’ for the Transgender Community.*”, review of *Tomorrow Will Be Different: Love, Loss, and the Fight for Trans Equality* by Sarah McBride, The New York Times, March 20, 2018
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