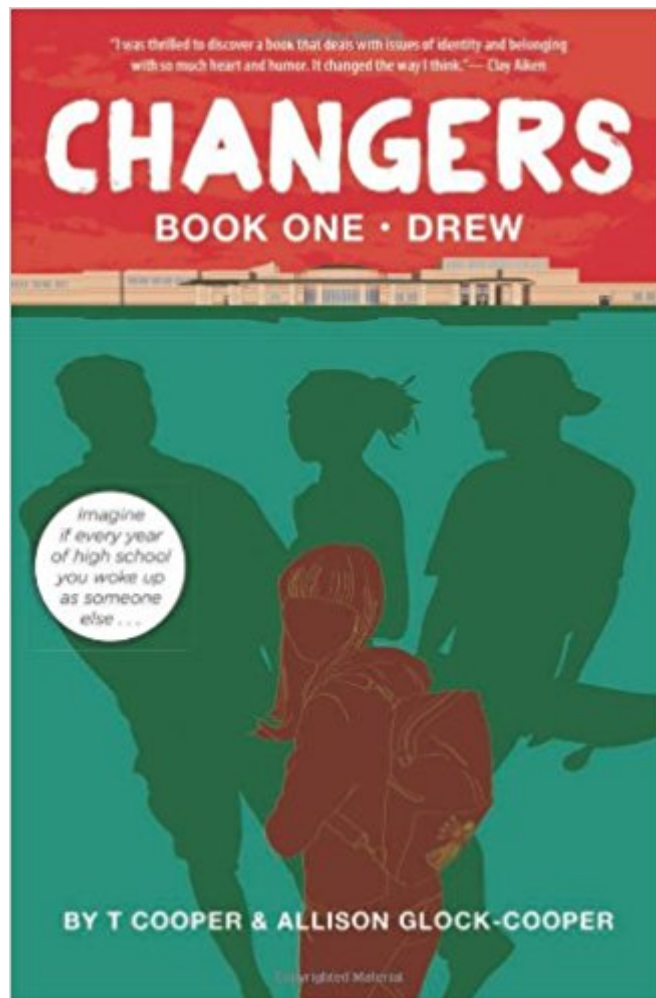


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# Changers Book One: Drew



## Synopsis

Winner of the 2015 Westchester Fiction Award  
Changers Book One: Drew is a New York Public Library summer reading pick!"Changers should appeal to a broad demographic. Teenagers, after all, are the world's leading experts on trying on, and then promptly discarding, new identities."--New York Times Book Review"  
'Selfie' backlash has begun: The Unselfie project wants to help people quit clogging social media with pictures of themselves and start capturing the intriguing world around them."--O, The Oprah Magazine, on the We Are Changers Unselfie project  
"This is more than just a "message" book about how we all need to be more understanding of each other. The imaginative premise is wrapped around a moving story about gender, identity, friendship, bravery, rebellion vs. conformity, and thinking outside the box."--School Library Journal  
"A thought-provoking exploration of identity, gender, and sexuality; an excellent read for any teens questioning their sense of self."--Publishers Weekly (starred review)  
Changers Book One: Drew opens on the eve of Ethan Miller's freshman year of high school in a brand-new town. He's finally sporting a haircut he doesn't hate, has grown two inches since middle school, and can't wait to try out for the soccer team. At last, everything is looking up in life. Until the next morning. When Ethan awakens as a girl. Ethan is a Changer, a little-known, ancient race of humans who live out each of their four years of high school as a different person. After graduation, Changers choose which version of themselves they will be forever--and no, they cannot go back to who they were before the changes began. Ethan must now live as Drew Bohner--a petite blonde with an unfortunate last name--and navigate the treacherous waters of freshman year while also following the rules: Never tell anyone what you are. Never disobey the Changers Council. And never, ever fall in love with another Changer. Oh, and Drew also has to battle a creepy underground syndicate called 'Abiders' (as well as the sadistic school queen bee, Chloe). And she can't even confide in her best friend Audrey, who can never know the real her, without risking both of their lives. Fans of the books of John Green, the Joss Whedonverse--and empathy between humans--will find much to love in this first of a four-part series that tracks the journey of an average suburban boy who becomes an incredible young woman...who becomes a reluctant hero...who becomes the person she was meant to be. Because, while changing the world can kinda suck, it sure beats never knowing who you really are.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 860 (What's this?)

Series: Changers

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Black Sheep (February 4, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1617751952

ISBN-13: 978-1617751950

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5.2 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 34 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #545,466 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Literary #268 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Bullying #465 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Contemporary

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 6 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up "Ethan wakes up on his first day of high school to discover that he is no longer the same person he was when he went to sleep" overnight he was transformed into a beautiful girl. His parents inform him that his father was a Changer and that this is the first of four transformations. He will experience each year of high school in a new body, and at the end of his senior year, he will get to choose which body he will live in for the rest of his life. The premise is similar to David Levithan's *Every Day* (Knopf, 2012), except in this universe the character experiences each identity for an entire year. In the body of a girl named Drew, Ethan gets to feel the highs and lows of being a girl, from receiving the kindness of strangers to having her first menstrual cycle during cheerleading tryouts. Luckily, this is more than just a "message" book about how we all need to be more understanding of each other. The imaginative premise is wrapped around a moving story about gender, identity, friendship, bravery, rebellion vs. conformity, and thinking outside the box. By the end of this book, readers will be invested in this character and will want to know what Ethan's future holds and how he will physically and emotionally transform over the next installments. "Andrea Lipinski, New York Public Library

"An excellent read." -Publishers Weekly (STARRED Review)"A fresh and charmingly narrated look at teens and gender." -Kirkus Reviews"A perfect read for a young adult: warm and humorous without being superficial or saccharine, engaging real issues of teenage life with ease and natural

grace, and offering an element of fantasy accurately reflecting the wonder and terror of growing up."

-Knoxville News Sentinel / Chapter 16.org "A fresh and charmingly narrated look at teens and gender."

--Kirkus Reviews "Everyone should read this, regardless of age. The book discusses important topics about growing into your skin (literally and physically), and gender identity...Go get a copy of this right now."

--Huffington Post Part of School Library Journal's "What's Hot in YA" Roundup

"Changing bodies, developing personalities, forays into adult activities; where was this book circa the early 2000s when I needed it? But something tells me my adult self will learn a thing or two from it as well."

• Barnes & Noble Blog/Indie Books Roundup Recommended by June Thomas on Slate Radio

"Double X Gabfest; The Coopers have a strong ear for teenager-isms, and the exploration of Drew's ups and downs is eminently believable . . . the slow build of a strong character; with the lure of something totally new coming up next; will leave readers ready for the next Change in this line-up."

--The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books; A perfect read for a young adult: warm and humorous without being superficial or saccharine, engaging real issues of teenage life with ease and natural grace, and offering an element of fantasy accurately reflecting the wonder and terror of growing up.

--Chapter 16/The Knoxville News Sentinel; An excellent look at gender and identity and the teenage experience.

--Tor.com; A must read for every teen.

--I'd So Rather Be Reading; Changers Book One really stole my heart.

--Bookcharmed "Love it. Love it, love it, love it. Seriously. Read this."

--The Best Books Ever "This is a transcendent book and I absolutely recommend it."

--Heaven to Earth Reviews "This is one of the most creative concepts I have heard about, so I knew I would have to read it right away! I was worried that the execution wouldn't be as good as the concept, but it was amazing; I cannot wait to read the rest of the books in this series."

--Pub Writes "4 huge stars. Maybe even 4.5. I really enjoyed this book, and can't wait to read the rest of the series!"

--The Overstuffed Bookcase "I couldn't put it down. I even read it in the dark. Probably not the best idea since my vision is already bad. But hey! good books deserve sacrifices."

--Paper Boat Sails "Very cool!"

--Twinja Book Reviews "Changers Book One really stole my heart."

--Bookcharmed "This first book in the Changers series explores Ethan/Drew's first steps along the perilous journey to become his/her true self and discover how he's meant to change the world."

--Books YA Love "I was thrilled to discover a book that deals with issues of identity and belonging with so much heart and, more importantly, humor . . . Changers Book One: Drew changed the way I think."

--Clay Aiken, singer/UNICEF ambassador One of the Top 10 2014 Books I am Excited to Read, Plays Well With Books (blog) "Change. It's the one universal thing that everyone goes through, especially in high school. Changers Book One: Drew ratchets that up a

notch and kicks open the door, with both humor and panache. Big questions and equally big highs (laughs) and lows (cries). And you thought high school was awkward before!"--Kimberly Pauley, author of *Sucks to Be Me* More praise for T Cooper and Allison Glock-Cooper: "Allison Glock is a writer of uncommon generosity."--New York Times Book Review "Cooper's storytelling skills are phenomenal."--Time Out New York "Glock's writing is smart and swift. A wise and effortless storyteller."--People "T Cooper is a prodigious talent."--Darin Strauss, author of *Chang & Eng* "Allison Glock has the kind of writing talent that packs worlds into sentences."--Frank McCourt, author of *Angela's Ashes* "T Cooper has an affinity for creative liberties, even in anything-goes 21st-century fiction, liberties of a stunning sort . . ."--Seattle Post-Intelligencer "Allison Glock makes it look easy."--Elizabeth Gilbert, author of *Eat, Pray, Love*

I was led to this series by a very interesting interview with the authors in the "Houston (Texas) Chronicle" newspaper. The books take a "changer" teen-ager through four years of high school, as a physically different person each year (each change, a surprise to the student and his parents... however the condition is inherited from the dad).. It's a challenging proposition, which makes the series good for older readers as well as teens. Each of us remembers those high school years of her/his own. This first book introduces the freshman, Ethan, shortly before and after he changes into a "hot chick". A very good read, and not just for teens.

I applaud the authors for choosing the topic of gender fluidity for their series, but I was disappointed by the level of the writing. The authors used language that seemed inappropriate for the characters. What high school girl would describe herself as feeling "impotent"? Even when Drew was Ethan that seems an unlikely word choice. It just didn't resonate for me.

It's hard enough to be a teenager who's just moved to another part of the country and facing the first day of high school in unfamiliar surroundings. Ethan has an additional problem: he wakes up on the appointed day and finds he's been transformed into a girl named Drew, and that he/she has inherited from his/her father membership in a secret organization whose members lose their original identities when they start high school and are transformed again each year until graduation. Their goal is to change the world. The book is aimed at teens and does a good job of showing how Drew accepts the situation, with the help of her parents, and takes the first steps toward fulfilling the group's goals, although not without some painful conflicts. The book shows its intended audience the need for patience, which can be a problem at any age, and the value of learning to see

situations from more than one viewpoint. Both teen and adult characters create problems by jumping to conclusions, and it's made plain how conflicts involving parents, children and other authorities can often be avoided if people listen to each other. It's a fast read, quite well written, and enjoyable for teens and those who want to try to understand them.

Even though I'm 70 years old, I still occasionally enjoy well written young adult fiction.(allows me to remember how it was to be that age). But, keyword: WELL written. The author did a good job with a decidedly complex and unusual idea: having people wake up as a different sex. AND at an age that is notoriously difficult anyway: early teen years. What a unique way to explore the difference between behavior and mindsets of the sexes : have them change sexes and keep their mind and see how they deal with it. Also, opens the readers mind to seeing both male and female perceptions (the eye of the beholder) which can be very different, even if they are looking at the same thing. The whole world could use a lesson in seeing things from a different viewpoint.

Great premise. I love sc-fi/fantasy that explore in a heightened way the real life experiences that people go through, and this novel does that very well. A little too much on the whole changers cult, which seemed more a distraction than an enhancement of the story, but all in all a great read.

GREAT book & great start to this YA series. Fantastic messages of empathy and thinking beyond our own selves. Also big fan of the author's Empathy Project via their website that acts as a complement to this book series, <http://www.wearechangers.org>.

T Cooper has created a great vehicle for illustrating how boys and girls, men and women, treat one another differently based on their sex, and how the different treatment can cause unnecessary harm. It was insightful, funny, and thought provoking. I'm very interested to know how teens like this book and I hope it sparks conversation among them. I look forward to following the development of the series.

Great dialogue and realistic adolescent voice. The transition from male to female identity was reflected well in speech and thoughts. Very intriguing idea overall, with the potential to really examine empathy in important ways. I hope the focus doesn't shift too much to conflict with the Abiders, as there is plenty of intrigue just in the process of following adolescent identity development.

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