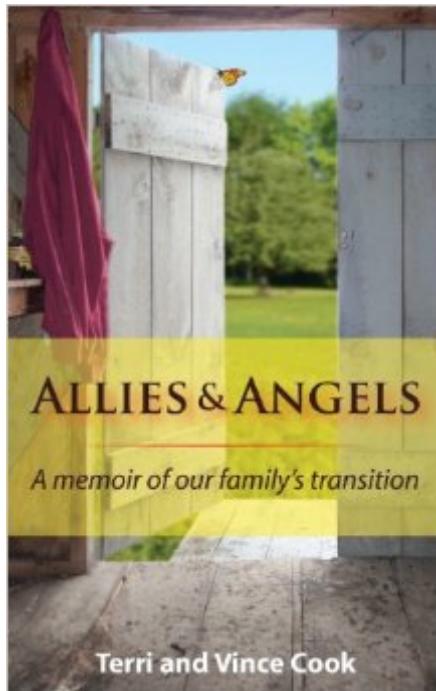


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# Allies & Angels: A Memoir Of Our Family's Transition



## **Synopsis**

The parents of a transgender child reveal how their family transitioned together. For 15 years, the proud parents of two young men believed their younger son was their daughter. *Allies & Angels* is a story of strength, compassion and unconditional love--sharing how these parents supported their son's transition and the lessons learned along the way. Learning their daughter was really their son taught them who they are and who they want to be. This moving story highlights how allies guided and supported them on what they once feared was an unthinkable path. *Allies & Angels* will inspire readers to look at their life differently and embrace their role as an ally. No matter who you are or how you identify, this book will challenge you to find a new acceptance for all and a deeper love for your loved ones. For 15 years, the proud parents of two young men believed their younger son was their daughter. *Allies & Angels* is a story of strength, compassion and unconditional love--sharing how these parents supported their son's transition and the lessons learned along the way. Learning their daughter was really their son taught them who they are and who they want to be. This moving story highlights how allies guided and supported them on what they once feared was an unthinkable path. *Allies & Angels* will inspire readers to look at their life differently and embrace their role as an ally. No matter who you are or how you identify, this book will challenge you to find a new acceptance for all and a deeper love for your loved ones.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

As the parent of a trans teenager, I could relate easily to the struggles they faced as parents. When Vince and Terri were sharing Drew's struggles before the diagnosis, I could have written the same

words myself about my child. Many times I was moved to tears, and I admire them, and their family. The reason I gave four stars is that it got a little slow in the latter half, particularly when discussing their employment. I began to feel frustrated, because they are obviously successful engineers with the resources to make things happen for their child. What do parents like myself do? Many people don't have the type of jobs that allow for flex-time, or the financial security to reduce to 30 hours a week, or better yet, send them to a specialized boarding school. This aside, I would give this book to my friends and family members to better understand the struggle, internally and externally, to live a life full of happiness. We ALL deserve that.

Allies and Angels has an urgent message, but it does not tell you what to think--instead it shows, through the powerful, heart-wrenching narrative of a loving family, what a difference individuals can make in the lives of transgender youth. I hope it becomes the go-to book for the parents of such kids, and that it inspires the same kind of compassion and respect shown by Drew's family. It should be required reading for all who work with children and young adults of any gender. I'm a little older than Drew, but also grew up in the suburbs of Syracuse, New York and also came out as transgender in my teens. I faced many of the same issues, from big things like bullying and suicidal depression to so-called little things like the pain of school dances and old family photos. Although few struggles compare to being a young man in a female body, there still is little guidance available for these boys or their loved ones. I wish such a book had existed for me and my parents during those difficult years and I hope this helps such families realize they aren't alone. It will definitely improve, and most likely save, many young people's lives.--Elliott DeLine, Author of 'Refuse' and 'I Know Very Well How I Got My Name'

"Allies and Angels is about parenting and faith and living authentic lives. It explores the ways in which we can support our children through love, kindness, compassion and acceptance. It highlights what can happen when we have the love and support of family, and others who are open-minded enough to become part of a life changing journey. As a professional advocate for the trans\* and gender non-conforming community I reap rewards beyond any expectation. The Cook's are a significant part of those rewards. They have found a way to share this story, acknowledge all that contributed in some positive way, critique those who wish us harm and highlight significant challenges others face when they don't have support. Read this book if you want to know how to parent your children through any challenge, big or small, significant or fleeting. Come to understand that "suppressing and rejecting" a [transgender] child robs them and adds tremendously to the

already existing burdens that are part of life. This book is a gift that teaches how a change in perspective can have a miraculous impact in ways unimaginable.

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