

# Book Club Discussion Guide

## *Once a Boy, Always a Girl* by Jo Ivester

1. What does it mean to be transgender?
2. What were the first signs in early childhood that Jeremy was transgender?
3. How would you feel if your child didn't conform to society's gender stereotypes? Or, for readers whose child or children don't conform to gender stereotypes, when did you first start to notice and what were your feelings?
4. When did you first know your own gender?
5. What might Jo and Jon have done differently as parents if they'd recognized earlier that Jeremy is transgender? What would you have done?
6. How could you explain the differences between sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression to someone new to the vocabulary?
7. Do you believe that transgender individuals should have access to the restrooms of the gender with which they identify? Locker rooms? Sports teams? Dorm rooms?
8. Do you think schools should be able to develop their own rules, or should there be federal guidelines or laws?
9. Why do you think that Jeremy's first experience in a gay bar was so liberating for him?
10. How did Jo's childhood experience of passing as a boy impact her understanding of who Jeremy is?
11. How do we have to change as a society to support the entire spectrum of transgender individuals?

**Invite Jo Ivester to speak at your book club**

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