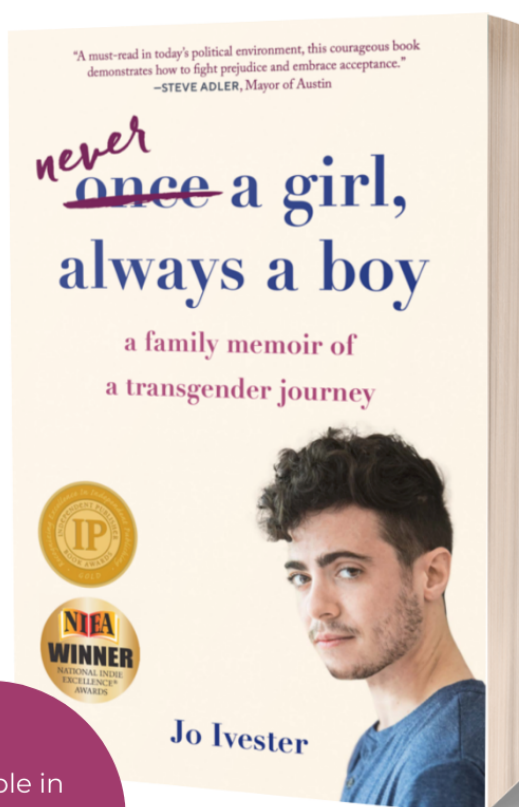


JO IVESTER

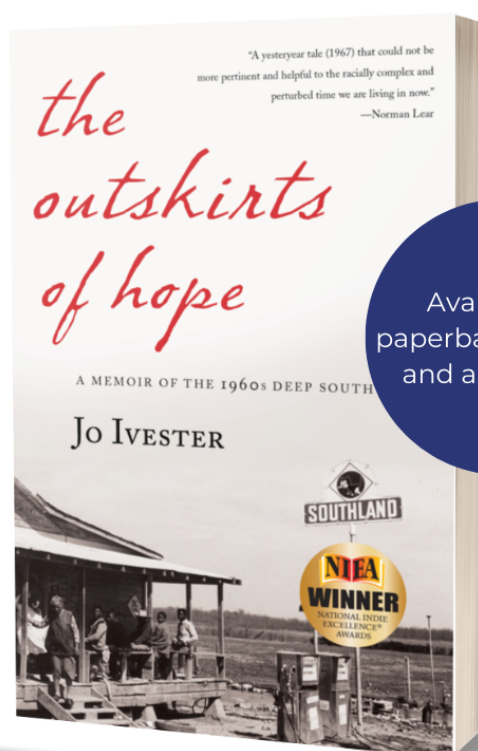
BEST-SELLING, AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR

LGBTQ & CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCATE

Media & Speaker's Kit



Available in
paperback, e-book,
and audiobook



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paperback, e-book,
and audiobook

JO IVESTER

BEST-SELLING, AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR

Bio



Jo Ivester is an LGBTQ and civil rights advocate, sharing her family's story as a way of helping others to step beyond their comfort zones when it comes to relating to those who are different from themselves. Raised in a politically active family, Jo spent two years of her childhood living in an all-Black town in the Mississippi Delta, where her father managed a medical clinic, her mother taught in the local high school, and she was the only white student at her junior high. This experience, captured in Jo's first book — the best-selling, award-winning memoir *The Outskirts of Hope* — led to Jo's lifelong commitment to advocating for equal rights for all.

Prompted by the realization that her son is trans, Jo has recently broadened her focus to raise awareness about what it means to be transgender.

Her second book — the best-selling, award-winning memoir *Never ~~Once~~ a Girl, Always a Boy* — presents Jeremy's journey, told from multiple perspectives, beginning when he was a small child, viewed as a tomboy. Jo is currently adapting *Always a Boy* for the stage.

When not writing, Jo devotes time to her community, serving on the boards of PFLAG Georgetown Equality Texas, the Anti-Defamation League of Central Texas, and the Ground Floor Theater. Even more time is devoted to her growing family, with four grown children and five grandchildren, and a wonderful husband, Jon, to whom she's been married for 41 years. She attended classes at Reed College as a physics major, completed undergraduate work in civil engineering and urban planning at MIT, earned an MBA from Stanford, and now lives in Georgetown, Texas.

✉ jo@joivester.com |  JolvesterAuthor |  @Jolvester |  Jolvester

www.joivester.com

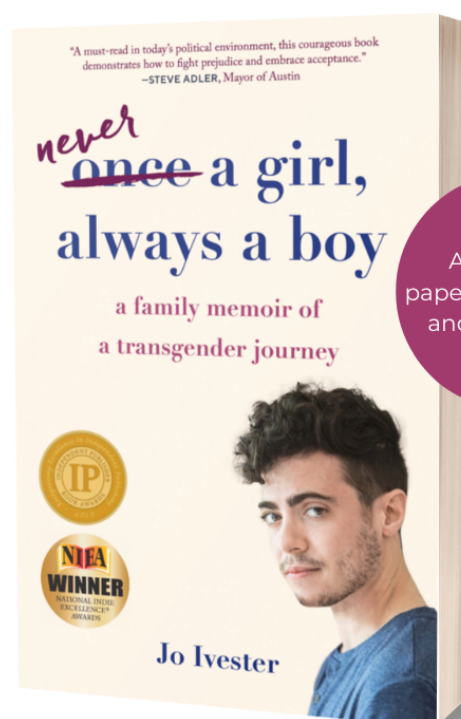
Books

~~never~~ ~~once~~ a girl, always a boy

Jeremy Ivester is a transgender man. More than thirty years ago, his parents welcomed him into the world as what they thought was their daughter. As a child, he preferred the toys and games our society views as masculine. He kept his hair short and wore boys' clothing. They called him a tomboy. That's what he called himself.

By high school, when he showed no interest in flirting, his parents thought he might be lesbian. At twenty, he wondered if he was asexual. At twenty-three, he had top surgery to remove breast tissue. A year later, he began taking the hormones that would lower his voice and give him a beard—and he announced his new name and pronouns.

Never ~~Once~~ a Girl, Always a Boy is Jeremy's journey from childhood through coming out as transgender and eventually emerging as an advocate for the transgender community. This is not only Jeremy's story but also that of his family, told from multiple perspectives—those of the siblings who struggled to understand the brother they once saw as a sister, and of the parents who ultimately joined him in the battle against discrimination. This is a story of acceptance in a world not quite ready to accept.



Available in
paperback, e-book,
and audiobook

Publisher: She Writes Press

Release Date: April 2020

ISBN-13: 978-1631528866

Price (Paperback): \$16.95

Accolades

never
~~once~~

a girl, always a boy

"...a heartwarming story that anyone with a complicated life and identity can relate to. A multifaceted, rich, and moving exploration of the trans experience."

—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

"A must-read in today's political environment, this courageous book demonstrates how to fight prejudice and embrace acceptance."

—Steve Adler, Mayor of Austin

"Beautifully written and vulnerable...a must-read."

—Emmett Schelling, executive director of the Transgender Education Network of Texas

"This is a story of how acceptance happens."

—Mara Keisling, founder and executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality

"This book will save lives...This is the book I wish I could have read when I was on my own journey of self-discovery."

—Sam Slate, member of the National Board of Directors of the Human Rights Campaign

"Told in frank and warm-hearted terms with a touch of humor, this gripping tale will stay with its readers for years to come."

—Forrest Preece, Columnist, *West Austin News*

Critical Recognition

- "LGBTQ Books to Read During Pride Month," *USA Today*
- *Parade Magazine's* "24 of the Best Memoirs to Read this Year"
- 2020 National Indie Excellence Juror's Choice Award
- 2021 IPPY Gold Medal in Parenting
- Jewish Book Council Non-fiction Book of the Month for June 2021
- 2020 Next Generation Indie Book Award for LGBTQ and for Parenting
- *Wall Street Journal* Best-Seller List for non-fiction e-books
- 2021 Readers' Favorite Gold Medal for Audiobook
- 2021 Readers' Favorite Gold Medal in Parenting
- 2020 *Kirkus* List of Top 100 Non-Fiction Books

Books

the outskirts of hope

In 1967, when Jo Ivester was ten years old, her father moved his young family from a suburb of Boston to an all-Black town in the heart of the Mississippi cotton fields, where he became the medical director of a clinic that served the poor population for miles around. Jo's mother taught at the local high school and Jo was the only white student at her junior high.

In *The Outskirts of Hope*, Ivester uses journals left by her mother, as well as writings of her own, to paint a vivid, moving, and inspiring portrait of her family's experiences living and working in an all-Black town during the height of the civil rights movement.



Available in
paperback, e-book,
and audiobook

Accolades for *The Outskirts of Hope*

"An important, riveting history lesson that, unfortunately, is still relevant today."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

"A sensitive and powerful memoir of racial change in the South in the 1960s."

—*Booklist*

Publisher: She Writes Press

Release Date: April 2015

ISBN-13: 978-1631529641

Price (Paperback): \$17.95

Critical Recognition

- Wall Street Journal Best-Seller List; non-fiction e-books
- Writers' League of Texas Best Non-fiction for 2015
- 2015 National Indie Excellence Award for Autobiography
- Jewish Book Council Non-fiction Book of the Week in December 2016
- 2015-2016 Sarton Women's Book Award; silver medal for memoirs

Speaking & Advocacy



Jo Ivester addresses a wide range of audiences, from small book clubs to entire schools, sharing her personal stories about both her transgender son, Jeremy, and her own childhood experiences in the Mississippi Delta.

By making people more comfortable with those who are different from them, Jo equips her audiences with tools to consciously navigate help them navigate the world with acceptance in regard to race, religion, sexual orientation, and gender identification.

Speaking Topics

Never ~~Once~~ a Girl, Always a Boy

A look at what it is like to have a transgender son in a world not quite ready for people like him. Jo describes her son's experiences going back to early childhood when he first showed signs of being transgender. By sharing these stories, Jo aims to help her audience become more comfortable with transgender individuals and challenges them to recognize the discrimination this community faces.

Speaking topics for *Always a Boy*

- Parenting a Transgender Child
- Political Challenges Facing the Transgender Community
- Transgender Athletes & Where They Should Play

The Outskirts of Hope

Jo reflects on the two years her family spent in an all-black town in the Mississippi Delta during the turbulent 1960s and her family's experience of anti-Semitism as the only Jewish family in town. Through sharing highly personal stories about their experiences, Jo makes the civil-rights movement come alive and inspires her audiences to make a difference.

Speaking topics for *Outskirts of Hope*

- Growing Up in the Civil Rights Movement
- How to be a Social Justice Advocate
- Growing Up White & Jewish in an All-Black Town

Jo can modify these topics to match a wide variety of audiences.

Speaking & Advocacy

Acclaim for Jo Ivester's Presentations

"Ivester's love for her son, her passion for civil rights, and her optimism in the face of bigotry came through palpably, uniting her listeners behind her son's simple search for dignity."

—Tom Phillips, Co-Founder of *Spy Magazine*

"Jo is an engaging, eloquent speaker, a natural storyteller with an important message. Bookstore patrons talked about her presentation for days."

—Emily Katzman, Off the Beaten Path Bookstore

"Jo is a warm and engaging speaker."

—Jenna Magnuski, Co-Founder of Love Wins Little Compton

"An excellent speaker, Jo inspired us and gave us hope for a better future."

—Peggy Greenawalt, Librarian and Book Club Facilitator,
Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church

"Hadassah's Pride Nite with Jo and Jeremy Ivester was a mega success. They touched the hearts and souls of those in attendance and taught us that it's never too late to become advocates."

—Linda Brown, Newtown Hadassah

"Jo and Jeremy Ivester are incredible, dynamic speakers, demonstrating their warmth and dedication to connecting communities and creating safer, more inclusive spaces within our world."

—Kim Salvaggio (she/her) and Alex Vaughan (they/them),
"How to be Queer! Podcast"

Press

JO IVESTER HAS BEEN FEATURED IN

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

Austin American-Statesman

 **THINK**

SLICE  **MIT**

 **TODAY**

Parade

KIRKUS

CHICAGO SUN★TIMES

Ms.

 **USA
TODAY**

 she
writes

Texas
TOPAZ
nonfiction
gems

**TRAVEL+
LEISURE**

Booklist

Chicago Tribune

 **HUFFPOST**

 **Los Altos
Town Crier**

 **CBS**
AUSTIN

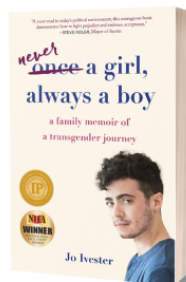
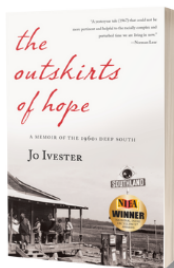
 **The
Author's
Corner**
ON PUBLIC RADIO

Contact

For media inquiries, interview requests, or speaking engagements, please contact Jo Ivester at:

jo@joivester.com
512.497.9469

HIGH-RES PHOTO ASSETS



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www.joivester.com |  JolvesterAuthor |  @Jolvester |  Jolvester