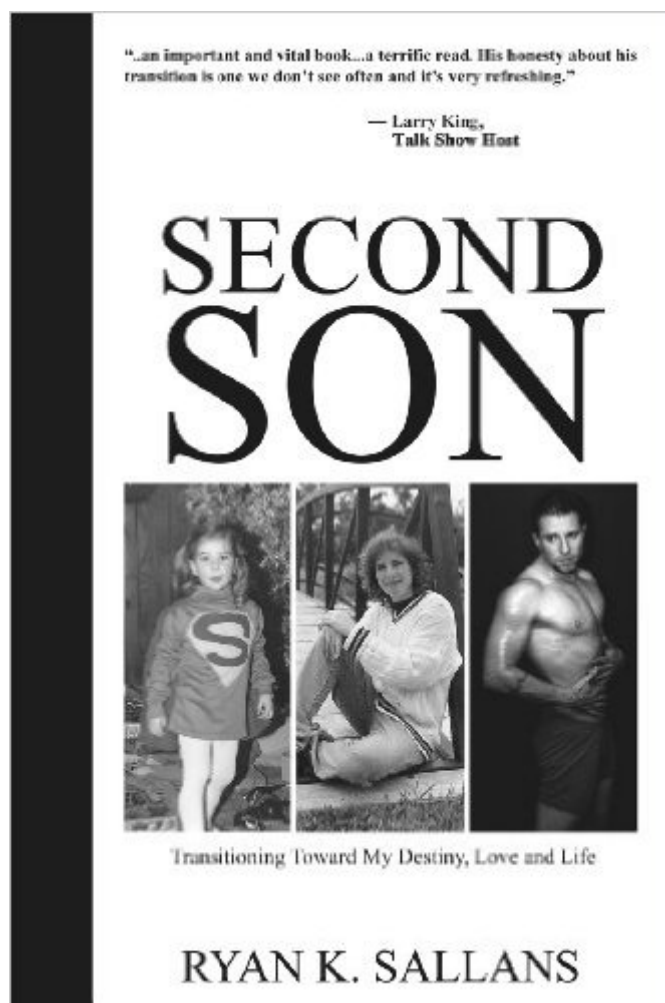


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# Second Son: Transitioning Toward My Destiny, Love And Life



## Synopsis

Second Son is a unique lens on life and love, intimately exploring the transition experience of Ryan Sallans - born Kimberly Ann Sallans. Ride alongside Ryan's transition from a child to a body-obsessed young woman with an eating disorder; from female to male, daughter to son, and finally a beloved partner to a cherished fiance'. Ryan candidly shares his struggle to find love and acceptance; a struggle that transcends through every layer of society. He nearly died from an extreme case of anorexia as an insecure female college student. The only thing that saved him was his inner spirit begging for a chance to live. Second Son chronicles Ryan's battle with his family, his romantic partner, and his body. It is an unblinking focus on self-empowerment tracing Ryan's evolution into manhood as he underwent gender reassignment surgeries. It took twenty-nine years for Ryan to find himself. Second Son is an intimate and honest autobiography that will educate and empower anyone journeying to find their own destiny, love, and life.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #375,424 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > LGBT > Transgender](#) #443 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Mental Health > Eating Disorders](#) #786 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Gender Studies > General](#)

## Customer Reviews

I think the best thing a person can do to help others is simply to tell his or her own story. When I was raped several years ago, I found the most therapeutic thing for me, in terms of the healing process, was simply talking about what I was going through to whomever would listen, as opposed to seeking psychotherapy. I quickly found that telling my story helped not only myself, but also encouraged other rape victims to open up and face their own demons. Now, having read Sallans's book, I see the same thing taking place. Telling his story of transitioning from female to male is very

brave in this day and age, but it allows others like him to realize they are not alone, and that happiness is possible. I feel more encouraged to be true to myself, regardless of what society may have to say, after having read this book. Bravo, Mr. Sallans.

Ryan's story is put down very honestly and unflinchingly, which I appreciate. The writing quality isn't quite where I want it to be -- particularly, there are many points in which it feels very disorganized and disjointed, jumping rapidly from topic to topic and breaking from sections of more linear narrative in a way I found distracting, but it's a story that I'm glad to see out there, so I'll still give it four stars. Something to keep in mind is that it feels like it's geared more toward educating a cisgender audience, with before/after photographs, a lot of description of "the surgeries," and a pretty typical trans narrative. He's very candid about his struggles with his body, partner, and family, but the discussion seems to be set up more for folks who aren't already familiar with transgender issues, and explores things on a very binary level, telling a transition story that will sound very familiar to anyone who has sought out similar material already. Still, I appreciate Ryan's honesty and self-disclosure, as well as the advocacy work in which he is involved.

Fantastic book. Anyone interested in transgender issues should read this. I am not transgender, but I have some friends who are, and the insight in this book really helped me to understand them, and I feel better equipped to support them.

Sallans has been able to capture the complexities of identity, relationships and emotionality in his memoir *Second Son*. His story is a valuable resource for clinicians who work with transgender and eating disorder clients, families and individuals exploring their own identity. In addition to authoring a book(s), Sallans is an excellent Speaker. Link to current edition:

[http://www..com/Second-Son-Transitioning-Toward-Destiny/dp/0989586820/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1460383635&sr=8-1&keywords=Second+Son+Sallans](http://www..com/Second-Son-Transitioning-Toward-Destiny/dp/0989586820/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1460383635&sr=8-1&keywords=Second+Son+Sallans)

As a psychologist and student of contemporary sexuality, I'm fascinated with all aspects of gender, particularly gender play and transitioning. Ryan's story of transitioning from a girl to a boy/man is not particularly unusual, but it's told with such candor and raw emotion that it makes for a captivating read. He made me feel like I was alongside him every step of the way. Only a skillful writer can do that. Treat yourself and get to know the Sallans' *Second Son*.

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