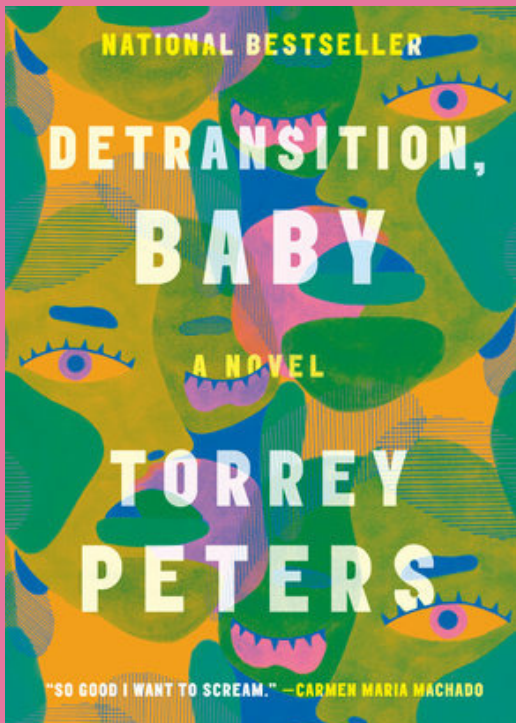


BKLYN BOOK CLUB KIT

# DETRANSITION, BABY

TORREY PETERS



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## BOOK SYNOPSIS

Reese almost had it all: a loving relationship with Amy, an apartment in New York City, a job she didn't hate. She had scraped together what previous generations of trans women could only dream of: a life of mundane, bourgeois comforts. The only thing missing was a child. But then her girlfriend, Amy, detransitioned and became Ames, and everything fell apart. Now Reese is caught in a self-destructive pattern: avoiding her loneliness by sleeping with married men.

Ames isn't happy either. He thought detransitioning to live as a man would make life easier, but that decision cost him his relationship with Reese—and losing her meant losing his only family. Even though their romance is over, he longs to find a way back to her. When Ames's boss and lover, Katrina, reveals that she's pregnant with his baby—and that she's not sure whether she wants to keep it—Ames wonders if this is the chance he's been waiting for. Could the three of them form some kind of unconventional family—and raise the baby together?

This provocative debut is about what happens at the emotional, messy, vulnerable corners of womanhood that platitudes and good intentions can't reach. Torrey Peters brilliantly and fearlessly navigates the most dangerous taboos around gender, sex and relationships, gifting us a thrillingly original, witty and deeply moving novel.

## AUTHOR BIO: TORREY PETERS

Torrey Peters is the author of the novellas *Infect Your Friends and Loved Ones* and *The Masker*, which are available for free on her website. She holds an MFA from the University of Iowa and an MA in Comparative Literature from Dartmouth. She grew up in Chicago and now lives in Brooklyn.



**LEARN MORE ABOUT TORREY AT [TORREYPETERS.COM](http://TORREYPETERS.COM) AND IN SELECT INTERVIEWS:**

**NPR / IT'S BEEN A MINUTE: [Author Torrey Peters on Seeing Through a Trans Lens](#)**

**SLATE: [What Stories of Transition and Divorce Have in Common](#)**

**INTERVIEW: [Torrey Peters's Detransition, Baby Is an Homage to Divorced Women Everywhere](#)**

**REFINERY29: [Torrey Peters Isn't Going To Be Distracted](#)**

# BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WARNING: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS INCLUDE SPOILERS!

- 1 *Detransition, Baby* explores motherhood through several lenses. How do Reese, Katrina and Ames's feelings on motherhood differ and how do they converge?
- 2 What does the novel reveal to you about taboos around sex and gender? What roles do class and race play in the book?
- 3 How does Katrina's grief over her divorce and miscarriage inform her thoughts about pregnancy? Do you see any parallels between divorce narratives and transition narratives? If so, describe them.
- 4 Discuss Reese's relationship with the cowboy. What does their relationship fulfill for one another?
- 5 Discuss Ames's decision to detransition. What factors played into this choice?
- 6 Discuss the concept of dissociation as described in the novel. How do the kinds of "bad feelings" that trans women cope with by dissociating from their bodies and emotions relate to the kinds of "bad feelings" that other women experience about their bodies or in uncomfortable sexual situations?

THESE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS WERE CREATED BY THE PUBLISHER ONE WORLD AND ARE NOT AFFILIATED WITH BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

## BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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How does Ames's relationship with Katrina differ from her relationship with Reese? How are the dynamics of both relationships different, and how are they similar?

8

What was your perspective on the ending? What future do you envision for Reese, Katrina and Ames?

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# LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TRANS COMMUNITY IN NYC

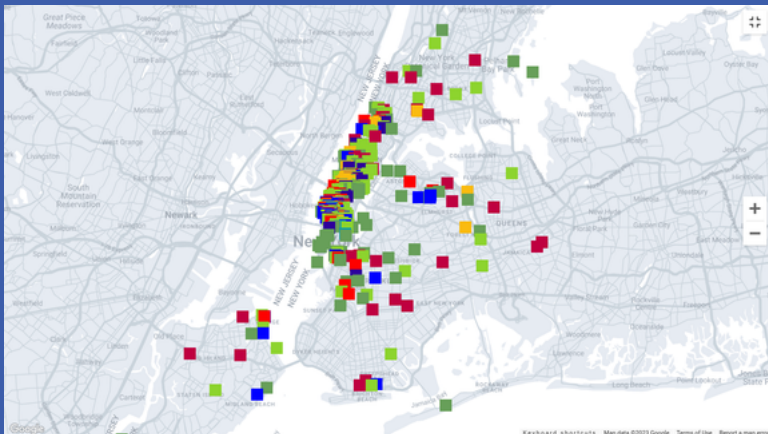


BPL's [LGBTQ+ History Page](#) aids researchers interested in the history of the LGBTQ+ community in Brooklyn.

The [Trans Oral History Project](#) is a community archive devoted to the collection, preservation and sharing of trans histories.

The [Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art](#) is the only dedicated LGBTQIA+ art museum in the world.

Take a [Pride Walking Tour](#) to see notable sites throughout New York City.



*The NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project documents historic places connected to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in New York City.*

# BKLYN BOOKMATCH READALIKES

Did you enjoy *Detransition, Baby*? Want to read something similar? Check out these readalike titles below.

- [Nevada](#) by Imogen Binnie
- [The Witch King](#) by H.E. Edgmon
- [Cemetery Boys](#) by Aiden Thomas
- [Rainbow, Rainbow: Stories](#) by Lydia Conklin
- [The House of Impossible Beauties](#) by Joseph Cassara
- [Redefining Realness: My Path to Womanhood, Identity, Love, & So Much More](#) by Janet Mock
- [Summer Fun](#) by Jeanne Thornton
- [Brown Trans Figurations: Rethinking Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Chicana/Latina Studies](#) by Francisco J. Galarte



**YOU CAN ACCESS THE LIST AND PLACE HOLDS ON THESE TITLES IN MULTIPLE FORMATS THROUGH THE BPL CATALOG: [BORROW.BKLYNLIBRARY.ORG](https://borrow.bklynlibrary.org)**



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