



The Picture Wall

One Woman's Story of Being ~~His~~ ~~Her~~ Their Mother

by C. A. Gibbs

This is one woman's story of being parent to a transgender child who is autistic and mentally ill, and how that has transformed her perspective, taught her about expecting the unexpected, and reshaped the family's identity. This is a story for anyone who can relate to or is curious about emotional rollercoaster that is motherhood.

In **The Picture Wall: One Woman's Story of Being ~~His~~ ~~Her~~ Their Mother**, author C.A. Gibbs exposes what life is like when you're parent of a child who lives outside societal norms and expectations, and how this shaped her as a mother and a person.

From wanting nothing more than motherhood but having to overcome major health obstacles first, to knowing something wasn't right with her toddler but struggling to get doctors to take her concerns seriously. Gibbs finally comes to terms with her son's atypical development and behavior. Their relationship and family life settle into a rhythm, with peaks and valleys of mood swings, outbursts, bullying, and tradition all carefully chronicled in the pages of scrapbooks and displayed on the family picture wall.

But her son had kept a secret for years. The bombshell, delivered shortly after he left for college, left Gibbs questioning everything she had thought was real. Wrestling with fear, anxiety, faith, loss, and grief, Gibbs finds peace in acceptance, in sharing the bittersweet experience of when her adult child changed sexes, names, and legal identities.

The Picture Wall: One Woman's Story of Being ~~His~~ ~~Her~~ Their Mother takes us on Gibbs' journey as she comes to terms with what it really means to let her child grow up and live their own authentic life.



Hollywood Book Festival Awards 2021
General Nonfiction **Honorable Mention**

Promotion

- Social media campaign including influencer outreach
- Social media advertising for launch and sustaining post-launch
- Targeted keyword ad campaign
- Author-led activities including guest podcast appearances and other interviews.

Audience

- Mothers, mainly, though both parental units in families who have raised autistic, mentally ill, or transgender adult children
- Women who have experienced the wild emotional rollercoaster that is motherhood: joy, fear, and despair as expectation turns into a different reality

Categories

- Parent & Child Relationships
- LGBTQ & Biographies
- LGBTQ & Demographic Studies
- Biographies & Memoirs

"A tale of acceptance, celebration and loving our children just the way they are."

—Sue Robins, *Bird's Eye View: Stories of a Life Lived in Health Care*

"Haunting and breathtaking. A must read."

—Yvonne Caputo, *Flying With Dad: A Daughter, A Father, & the Hidden Gifts in His WWII Stories*



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About C.A. Gibbs

Ms.Gibbs is the proud mother of two adult children.

Motherhood, for her, has largely been defined by the autism, transgenderism, and mental illness experienced by her oldest child.

Ms.Gibbs is also a writer, transcriptionist, former elementary school teacher, wife, daughter, sister, friend, and proud dog-mom to a rambunctious golden retriever. She and her husband are enjoying their experience of having an empty nest, but they joyfully celebrate times when the kids come home and fill the house with noise and laughter.

While Ms. Gibbs takes her work seriously, she relaxes when she camps, plays board games, visits with friends over coffee, and gets to binge-watch crime dramas.

