



Prayers for Bobby: A Mother's Coming to Terms with the Suicide of Her Gay Son

By Leroy Aarons

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Bobby Griffith was an all-American boy ...and he was gay. Faced with an irresolvable conflict-for both his family and his religion taught him that being gay was "wrong"-Bobby chose to take his own life.

Prayers for Bobby, nominated for a 1996 Lambda Literary Award, is the story of the emotional journey that led Bobby to this tragic conclusion. But it is also the story of Bobby's mother, a fearful churchgoer who first prayed that her son would be "healed," then anguished over his suicide, and ultimately transformed herself into a national crusader for gay and lesbian youth.

As told through Bobby's poignant journal entries and his mother's reminiscences, *Prayers for Bobby* is at once a moving personal story, a true profile in courage, and a call to arms to parents everywhere.

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Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Mary Griffith prayed that her gay son Bobby would be "healed." After his suicide, her anguish led her on a journey from faithful churchgoer to national crusader for gay and lesbian youth.

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From [Booklist](#)

Very painful and personal, this is the story of a mother's struggle to reconcile the tension between her deeply held religious beliefs and the suicide of her gay son. Mary Griffith came from a religious family and raised her four children to believe in God and live a Christian life. Their conservative Presbyterian church was the center of family life for every family member except Mary's husband, Bob. When 17-year-old Bobby confided to older brother Ed that he was gay, the family's life changed. Mary convinced Bobby to pray that God would cure him and to seek solace in church activities. Bobby did it all, but the church's hatred of homosexuality and the obvious pain his gayness was causing his family led him increasingly to loathe himself. Excerpts from a diary he kept, family photos, and letters written by Mary to her dead son make the book intense reading for both high-school and public library patrons. *Charles Harmon*

Review

"This book will become an instant classic. And it will save lives of countless young people..." -- *The Advocate*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Helen Kingsbury:

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make these individuals survives, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a reserve your ability to survive increase then having chance to stand than other is high. For you who want to start reading a book, we give you that Prayers for Bobby: A Mother's Coming to Terms with the Suicide of Her Gay Son book as starter and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

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Playing with family in the park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition info. Even you love Prayers for Bobby: A Mother's Coming to Terms with the Suicide of Her Gay Son, you can enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

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Rena Campbell:

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