

P. Pooja Devi

II MA English Literature

Dr. SNS Rajalakshmi CAS

Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

venugopalsrit@gmail.com

Mr. N. Moses Sunderraj

Assistant Professor in English,

Dr. SNS Rajalakshmi CAS

Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

### Life of Amanda as a Transwoman in Meredith Russo's *if I was Your Girl*

#### Abstract

Meredith Russo is a novelist and public speaker from Chattanooga, Tennessee. Where she received her degree in creative writing and women's studies from the University of Tennessee. Her award winning debut novel, "If I was Your Girl" was released in 2016. This paper entitled, "Amanda's early Life as A transwoman from IF I Was Your Girl BY Meredith Russo" attempts to explain the early life of the protagonist Amanda as a transwoman. It projects the scars, agony, sufferings, support, love, Identity, significance of education and success in life of Amanda

Keywords: Transwoman, scars, agony, sufferings, support, love, significance of education, success in Life.

## Introduction

Meredith Russo is one of the prominent transgender women speaking boldly about the Transgender art. Her award winning debut novel, "If I Was Your Girl" was released in 2016. "If I Was Your Girl" was written after being inspired by her own experiences as a transwoman.

## Amanda's Life

Amanda is surrounded by unbelievably accepting people, despite being in a small town

Tennessee, where everyone are Baptist and many of them have homophobic bumper stickers. The Biggest challenge is her life was maintain a good relationship with her father, and it's clear that even he is trying very hard to accept Amanda. Not only did she succeed in having her surgery and medication. Looking 100% like a woman, but she also had the luxury of being an attractive woman.

When Amanda arrives in Lambertville, she has already transformed into a complete woman. She starts a new high school and boyfriends a group of popular girls, like Anna, Layala, and Chloe and Bee (an openly bisexual student at the school). Amanda and Bee developed a close bond, and Bee is the first person from new school. With whom Amanda shares all about her past.

Amanda even begins to date with Grant, a popular football player. The both of them gradually fall in love, and Grant also invited her to meet his Family and wished to take their relationship to next levels. Amanda was the first girl, Grant has invited to his home. Embarrassed about His family's financially poor status, Grant worked in multiple places in

order to help his family as a sole - Bread-winner. As Amanda and Grant became closer and closer, she decides to tell Grant about her past.

She tried telling him face to face and she failed. All her repeated attempts were just in vain. So, she cleverly decided to write all about her in a letter and hand it over to Grant. When Amanda gave letter to the Grant and her that nothing she could tell him about her will change the way he feels about her. He ended up with burning the letter into ashes. While Amanda's father repeatedly cautioned her about trusting people, especially boys, Amanda defined her relationship with Grant and assures her father that nothing can possibly go wrong between them. When Grant asked Amanda to come home, she is extremely delighted and readily agree Amanda and her friends had fun going for shopping's and enjoying their days together. The night arrives where Grant and Amanda had a lovely time in Grant's house.

Once when Amanda encounters Bee in the ladies' room, Bee drank. Unfortunately Bee confessed the feelings for Amanda and tried kissing her. When Bee advances were rejected, Bee reveals to the school that Amanda was actually born a boy. Completely shattered and devastated, Amanda leaves. Though Grant went after her, he didn't know what to say or do. Amanda walked to home alone, taunted by Parker, one of the football players. Parker knocks her down in the brush and attempts to sexually assault Amanda. It was fortunately interrupter and stopped by Chloe and Layla, who took Amanda to her home.

Amanda's dad saw her black eyes and rage fully went after Grant, thinking that it is he who hurt his daughter. Amanda and her friends follow Amanda's dad to Grant's house and witness the confrontation between them. Grant's mother threatens to call the police. Amanda initiates to solve the dispute, to console her father and left with her dad and friends to her home. Amanda was sent to her home. Amanda was sent to her mother's house in Atlanta where she courageously decides to finish her schooling and went back to the school Lambertville. Her parents readily agreed and Amanda returned to her school to continue her

studies. To her pleasant surprise, she was warmly welcomed by her friends. When Amanda got a chance to speak to Grant in private, she decided to tell him all about her past. When Sweet and easy-going Grant listen to her patiently and were ready to accept her, they spent quality time together and Amanda was extremely joyful about it.

## Conclusion

This article is successful in explaining life of the protagonist Amanda in the novel, “If I Was Your Girl” by Meredith Russo. Though Amanda had faced lots of turmoil, she ends the most Blessed life because of the moral support from her family and the ready acceptance of her friends. Only by understanding the significance of education, inspire of being trans-woman, Amanda was able to strive towards the path of success. To reach greater heights, trans-people must know the value of education and the Parents with trans-kids must know how to support and guide them towards their fields of interest.

### Works Cited

Russo, Meredith. *If I Was Your Girl*. UK: Us borne publishing Ltd.,2016.print

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meredith\\_Russo](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meredith_Russo)

<https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transgender>