

augustana human library

October 6 - 7, 2014



Book Title	Book Topic	Book Abstract
Guy hard	Transgender person	It ain't easy being a guy in today's world, especially when almost every single piece of identification you carry loudly proclaims the opposite. Will trans-identified people cause the downfall of computerized society by creating un-resolvable database errors when 'M' stands not only for 'Male', but also for 'Mother'? These and other fascinating questions for enquiring minds will be weighed, measured, and mocked accordingly.
Healing from childhood sexual abuse	Childhood sexual abuse	I am willing to share my story of childhood sexual abuse and healing. I am also willing to hear and honour your story or the story of someone you know. I can also talk about types of healing therapies, family dynamics as well as suing my abuser for my therapy costs. I am willing to go where your interests take us.
There's no place like home	Making a house a home, post-divorce	When my ex-husband and I began living apart, our children referred to their two homes as "Dad's house" and "Mom's house," but never "home." Would they grow up without feeling they had a home? One sleepless night, I thought of a new living arrangement. We are now neighbours in a duplex, and our kids always have their own bedrooms. Parenting changes hands with the opening and closing of doors in a shared hallway. We have found many benefits and few drawbacks to our family's choice in living postdivorce.
I see	Visually impaired	This book describes the joys and challenges of living life with a visual impairment.
Parades, guns and pick-up trucks	The not so stereotypical gay experience	What exactly is the gay experience? Is there a manual, newsletter or induction? Often what we see of the gay community is what is portrayed on television or the news, we are good designers, have a fashion sense and are downright FABULOUS! Living as a [small c] conservative gay male in Alberta has it's challenges and goes against the stereotype.

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I was a hungry billionaire	Escaping war	Surviving the '93 Serbian hyperinflation is one thing, however to survive March 24, 1999 to June 11, 1999 in Belgrade was more challenging due to NATO bombing. I just happened to be born there and experienced that "thing" along with millions of other peaceful men, women, kids and babies.
How does she do it?	Single mom, full-time student	Ever had more than one job while going to university full-time? Ever had to do that while raising two kids on your own? This book discusses the struggles of a young mom of two and the hardships she has endured while also finding time to study, keep a high GPA, be a mommy and maintain sanity.
Scary on the outside	Autistic teen	I have grown up being a high functioning autistic and will discuss some of my challenges. I also get noticed because of the way I look... but not in the way you would think.
Welcome to your gay life	Gay father "comes out" in small-town Alberta	This is the story of what has been like for a married father of two boys to come out of the closet in a small town. I will tell about the challenges of working at a faith-based college in Ralph Klein's Alberta, and some of the surprising supports I found along the way. Now living in a long-term gay relationship, enjoying great grown-up kids, accepting the support of their lesbian mother and her partner, and feeling the respect of my colleagues, I want to affirm that "it gets better."
Carefree teen to diaper queen	Rebellious teen who had a baby at sixteen	I was what my parents would call a "handful" as a teen: I snuck out at night, experimented with drugs, and shoplifted more than once. Everything changed when I found out that I was pregnant, at fifteen. Raising a baby while finishing high school was not easy, but I wouldn't trade my son for anything.
From Haiti with love	International adoption	Discussing the joys and struggles of International Adoption. Examining the impacts to the child, to the adopting family, to the surrounding community, and the family left behind. Celebrating the openings that International Adoption brings.

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Rebound	Breaking free from the chains of addictions	I became addicted to drugs at an early age, and I used them to block out the pain of my past. My story is about a little boy who grew up thinking he was a failure. I stole, ran from the cops, and turned down sport scholarships because of my secret drug addiction.
My child is disabled?!?	Confronting the myths and realities of "disability"	In a world where two hands are normal and right hands rule, a boy learns to cope with his congenital below-the-elbow amputation. Explore a mother and son's journey from the first in utero discovery, to his early childhood - the confusion, pain, and humour of living without the right hand.
Stoney fights losing battle	Brother died of AIDS	At first Stoney did not accept his sexual tendencies. Leaving behind his farming background, Stoney moved to Edmonton. Stoney's promiscuous lifestyle lead him to become HIV positive.
WoW, it's been how long?!	Internet addiction	In September 2003 I embarked on a journey for which I was not ready for. As a result of this I started floundering and, ultimately, wound up having absolutely nothing for which my time could be spent on (except my addiction). This book is a story of what I did with that time bound to the Internet.
Dancing on the sun	Intersex	My story starts in March 1953. A post-war baby. I would learn many years later that the ONLY time my mother talked to me about my birth she said that the attendant nurse would describe me as a 'hermaphrodite'. Initially assigned male gender, I had that changed to female after an exploratory operation at age one. My parents were given no tools to deal with this reality. They dealt with it by silence and uncomfortable lies. This is my story of a slow and long climb out of that place of deep shame and fear to in my later years finding my voice and body and a comfort to stand very visibly (thanks to modern media) on a world stage.
Tiny but mighty: Inside life with a preemie	Parenting a premature baby	My son was born 3 months early. On the day he was born he weighed 1 pound 2 ounces and was just under a foot long. His four-month stay in the NICU was just the start of his, and our, journey. This Human Book will talk about what actually goes on inside a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, what it's like to parent such a fragile child, and what life looks like now that he is an active, healthy, smart four-year-old who happens to have Autism Spectrum Disorder and Dyspraxia.