

# [PDF] Oddly Normal: One Family's Struggle To Help Their Teenage Son Come To Terms With His Sexuality

John Schwartz - pdf download free book

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**Books Details:**

Title: Oddly Normal: One Family's St

Author: John Schwartz

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**Description:**

**From Publishers Weekly** In this moving account of a family's journey to raise and protect their gay son, New York Times correspondent Schwartz begins with his son Joe's suicide attempt, discovering afterwards that his son had come out to his classmates that afternoon. Joe's parents had always suspected the youngest of their three children might be gay, playing with dolls and wearing pink lightup shoes, but he had only coyly revealed his sexuality to his parents a week before his suicide attempt. With an unusual condition therapists variously diagnosed over the years as Asperger's, bi-

polar, ADHD, among others, school was always a challenge for Joe. With the growing awareness of his sexuality, however, came increasing sensitivity to fellow students' homophobic slurs and taunts, as well as a growing realization that he was different and even that there was something possibly wrong with him. Schwartz recounts in sometimes painful detail his and his wife's difficulties in getting Joe the help he so desperately needed, from working with school officials on appropriate ways of dealing with Joe when his condition overwhelmed him, to joining the Youth Enrichment Services at the Gay Center. With the new support, Joe thrived. Equally humorous and heartrending, this memoir reveals just what it takes to raise children who are different in a world still resistant. Agent: Rafe Sagalyn. (Nov.) --This text refers to the edition.

**Review** "Schwartz's frank discussion of a subject many still find taboo will be helpful to parents of LGBT children as one example of how to accept a natural condition with dignity and love. An added bonus is the delightful story written and illustrated by Joe. An honest, earnest, straightforward account of one boy's coming out."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

"[A] moving account of a family's journey to raise and protect their gay son... Equally humorous and heartrending, this memoir reveals just what it takes to raise children who are different in a world still resistant."

—*Publishers Weekly*

"John Schwartz and Jeanne Mixon are the heroes of *Oddly Normal*. Still, the star of the book is Joe. It's impossible not to fall in love with a kid who, even amid his torment, displays such droll humor and fierce intelligence."

—*The New York Times Book Review*

"Schwartz writes a poignant and well-documented account of what it meant to be a father who had tried all he could to make his son feel comfortable, but still came terrifyingly close to losing him."

—*The Daily Texan*

"An inspiring story, and much needed at a time when so many others end tragically."

—ModernTonic.com

"*Oddly Normal* chronicles the Schwartz family's mistakes, heartaches and triumphs in raising a child coming to grips with his sexuality."

—*Mother Jones Magazine*

"*Oddly Normal* is a funny, touching and indispensable book. Moving as well as buoyant, it will give parents of gay children a great deal of hope."

—Gary Shteyngart, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Super Sad True Love Story*

"John Schwartz has written a moving and important memoir about the challenges that even the most enlightened parents face when bringing up a gay son. Combining personal experiences with rigorous reporting, *Oddly Normal* will be tremendously useful to anyone raising a child perceived as different."

—Charles Kaiser, author of *The Gay Metropolis*

"John Schwartz shares his family's bumpy journey with humor, a journalist's eye for detail, and a generous honesty of emotion."

—Jennifer Pizer, Senior Counsel and Director of the Law and Policy Project at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund

*“Oddly Normal* is a book for parents, teachers, and anyone who works with children. Mr. Schwartz illustrates how even the most accepting parents often need assistance staying engaged, to best help a child who is not fitting in—in fact, there is a little bit of Joseph Schwartz in every kid.”

—Joseph Clementi, founder of the Tyler Clementi Foundation

“Jeanne and John Schwartz are inspiring parental role models, and I’m sure I’ll think of them often...”

—*Slate.com*

“Schwartz, an ace reporter for the *New York Times*, peppers his emotional response with vital research and telling anecdotes.”

—*Queerty.com*

“Schwartz's memoir is brave and beautiful, surprising and inspiring, a testament to parents' endless determination to help their children, and the bottomless capacity for love.”

—*CNN.com*

“[A] very personal, touching, funny and frank memoir. Anyone with a teenager, gay or straight, will be able to relate to a parent's struggle when dealing with their troubled child.”

—*USATODAY.com*

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