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# Becoming Nicole

Ivana Valencia

Veer Gulia

Robin Williams

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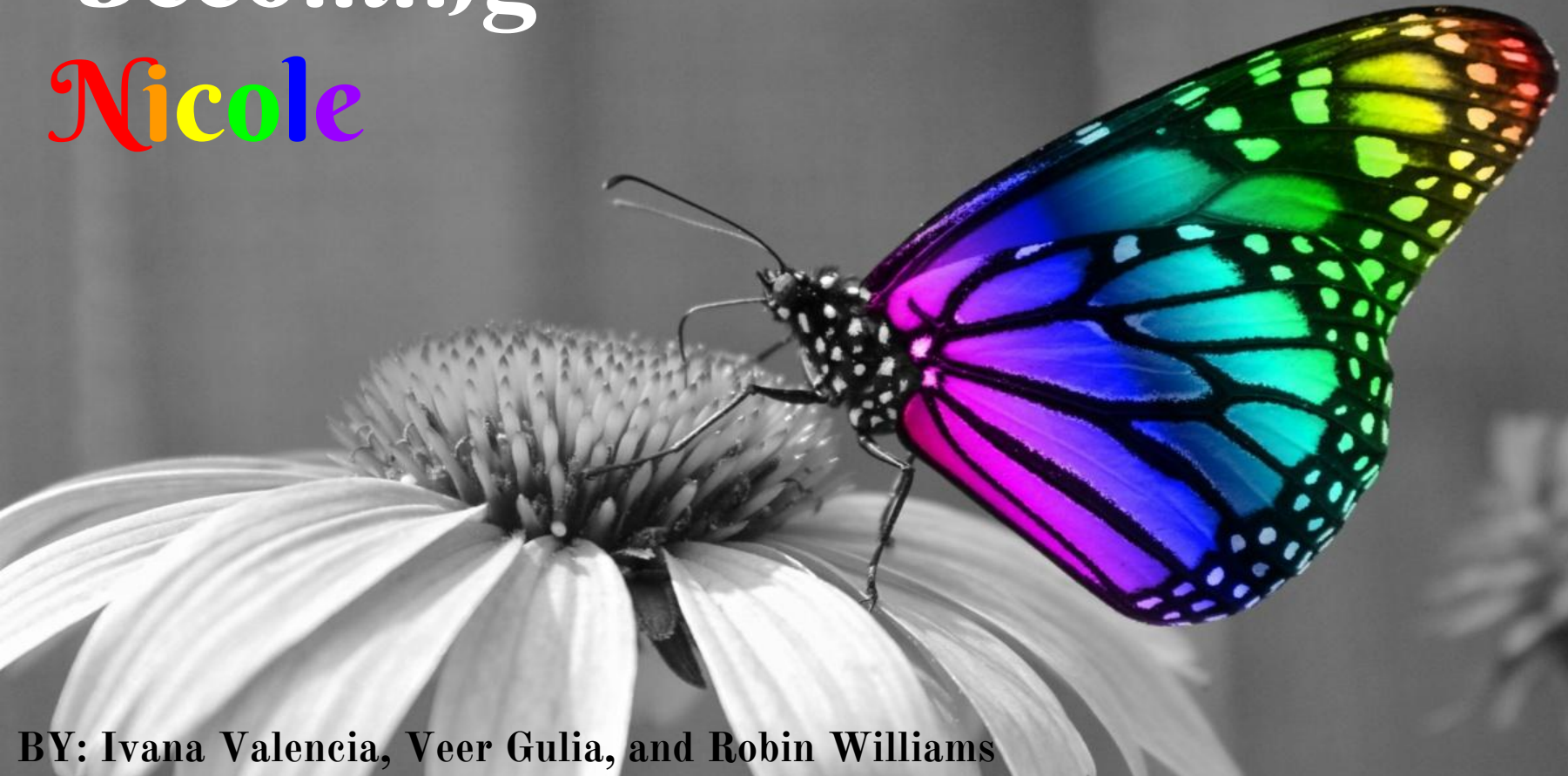
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# Becoming Nicole



**BY: Ivana Valencia, Veer Gulia, and Robin Williams**

# Gender

- What is Gender?
  - It isn't **Biology** but rather a **Social Identity**
- Why is the distinction important?
  - It means that Gender much like Society is defined by **Us**
- Should our **Identity** be dictated by Society?
  - If America is a Society founded on freedom, why do we allow it to **Constrict** our citizens freedom of identity?

# Nicole's Experience

## As A Child (Wyatt)

- Immediately knew he was different
- Portrayed Feminine characteristics
- Parents believed he was just being dramatic

## As A Pre-Teen (Wyatt)

- Very Self-conscious about body
- Developed elevated anxiety symptoms
- Frustrated by the fact that he can't be his true self

## Becoming Nicole

- First stage: Adopted the name Nicole
- Second stage: Secured a full female wardrobe
- Final stage: Getting Sex Reassignment Surgery

# Parenting: “Not Ruining Your Kid”

## Wayne

- Expected a son
- Wanted a “normal” relationship
- Distanced himself from the family
- Slowly copped with Wyatt becoming Nicole
- Fought for his daughter
- Proud of the people their kids became

## Kelly

- Had no expectation for her child
- Wanted to keep her child happy
- Did research to understand her child
- Fought for her daughter
- Created a safe environment for her child
- Proud of the people their kids became

# Understanding the Other

## Perceived Other

- “The Crossdresser”
- “They’re just Gay”
- “Bad Parenting”
  - “They wanted a girl/boy”
- “They’re invading our Bathrooms”
- “They are costing us taxpayer money”
- “Infecting our youth”



# Gender roles: Naturally Divisive



## Why they were created:

- Societies define gender therefore...
  - The 2 gender system was created to fit a society
  - Accommodating Intersex complicates the system
- Social Control/Order
  - Gender is largely role based
- Examples

## How they are upheld:

- Religious sentiment
- Legal loopholes
- Lack of education
  - Fear of the other
- Reluctance to change
  - Even on small issues



# The Opposition (In the Book)

- The Grandpa
  - Prejudice is taught
  - Confusing the idea with the person
- The Principal
  - The dangers of inactivity
- Christian Civic League
  - Freedom of speech does not mean freedom to harass

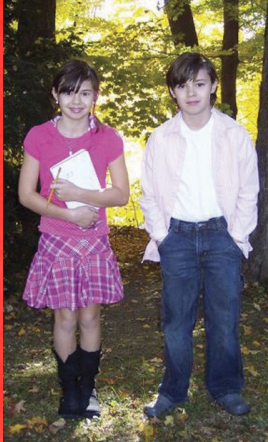


# Jonas' Perspective

- Who is he?
  - The twin brother
  - The Best friend
  - The classmate
- Why is he important?
  - Not all of us can be Nicole



# Pictures of Nicole



# *Trans Community At IWU*

## Meaning of Being Trans

- Being a gender that differs from that was assigned at birth
- Truly being who they really were the whole time
- Taking hormones and socially transitioning due to dysphoria

## Coming Out

- Friends:
  - Were immediately accepting and not surprised
- Family:
  - Experienced confusion & later anger
  - Reject that part of their child's identity
  - Denied legal permission to access medical care

## Discrimination

- Not faced discrimination from IWU Staff
- Peers:
  - A target of many rumors
  - Social rejection
  - Lack of respect for privacy
  - Other issues...



# *What can JWU Do?*



- **More education**
  - Following through with anti-harassment & anti-discrimination policies
  - **Individual students:**
    - Not outing students as transgender
    - Lack of tolerance on students who express transphobia, sexism, or racism
-

# In Summation

- Challenging the idea not the person
- Question why the status quo exists and how long has it been the norm?
- Society should change to fit its citizens not the other way around.

