

Children's literature



Five headbands for Matilda

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Chrysallis. Asociación de Familias de Menores Transexuales
Chrysallis. Association of minors transgender's families

Matilda is playing in her room with *Tucca*, her fluffy stuffed kitten. She dresses it with a small piece of silk and puts a purple bow on its soft ears.

And sometimes, when she is alone, she puts on her mother's shoes and looks in the mirror, sees herself... and smiles.



Only *Tucca* and the mirror know that she is a girl.

Matilda gets angry when her mum says she is a boy, and it makes her sad that her dad always tells her off when she asks for a headband for her birthday. Her parents are very nice, but they don't understand her.

And to be her true self, she always dresses up.



She likes 'Matilda'. Her name, the one she chose and the one she always dreamt of. But her family and friends call her by a name that she doesn't like.

The same happens at school. She wishes she could magically make everyone see the girl inside her. During break time, her teacher tells her to go have fun with the boys, but she prefers to stay with girls, playing catch or drawing with chalks.



She daydreams about her friends' mesmerising whirling skirts, and multi-coloured hair bands and bracelets are her true desire.

Matilda doesn't understand why nobody sees her. She is clear and spontaneous, and always says who she is, what she wants and how she feels. But they don't listen to her.

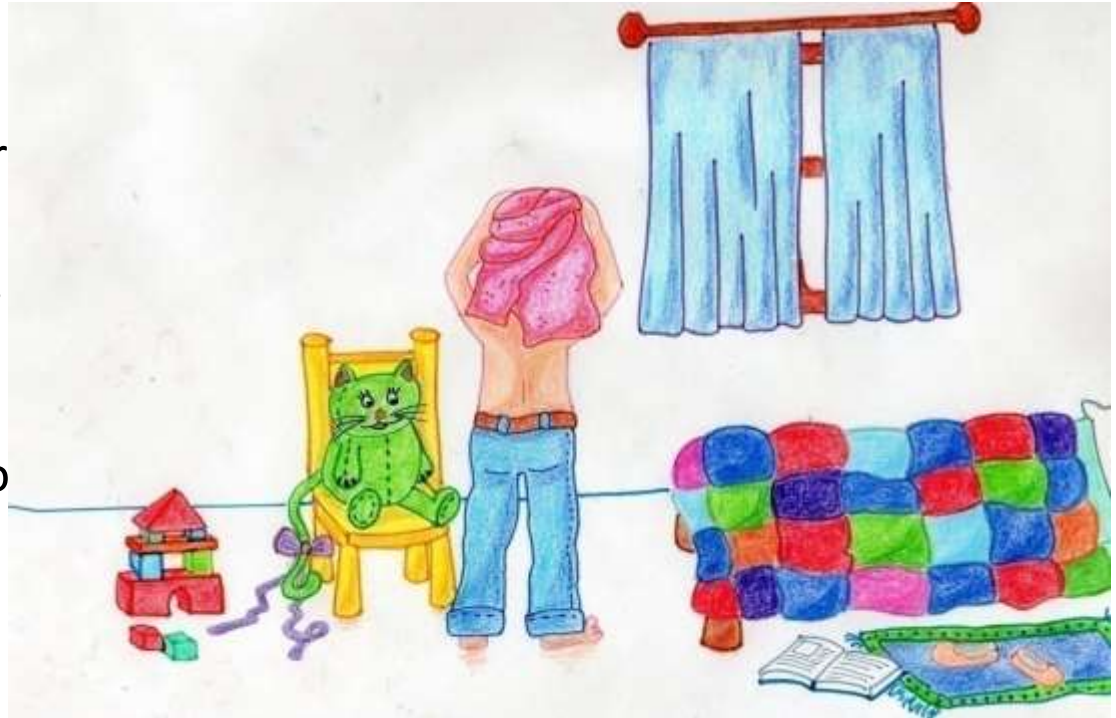
She knows they love her and take care of her... but she feels sad a lot because it seems that she doesn't exist.

She doesn't understand why everyone is wrong!



But...it seems that her parents woke up a few days ago. A lot has been going on at home, and the atmosphere feels different. Matilda has noticed it and is hopeful about the future.

Today, after having her snack, she picks up *Tucca* in her arms and, as always, she goes to her room to look at herself in the mirror to feel better.



She wraps a cherry coloured scarf around her head. Her imaginary mane shines a lot.

Matilda quickly puts on her shirt, because her father is home and is now in the kitchen. What a surprise! He has brought a colourfully wrapped box with him. And her mum has a sparkle in her eyes.



They give her the box, which she opens in a hurry. She is filled with emotion! She excitedly tears the cellophane.

Five headbands!



Matilda is happy... They see her now! At last they realise that she is a girl! And for her fifth birthday they have given her the five headbands that they refuse to give her before.

Some days pass and everything has changed for Matilda. Her classmates, her friends at the park and her whole family call her by her name. She goes to school with a glittery backpack, and to ballet class with a fancy tutu.



She can finally wear the clothes she's always wanted to wear, no one corrects her and everybody says she's pretty. And now, when she looks in the mirror she leaves her door open.

Let's learn new words!

1. Transalpine: Passing or extending across or through the Alps.
2. Transandine: Passing or extending across or through the Andes.
3. Transatlantic: Passing or extending across or through the Atlantic.
4. Tranship: To transfer people or objects from one ship to another.
5. Transcontinental: Extending or going across a continent.
6. Transcription: To make a written copy of something.)
7. Transgender: A person whose gender identity differs from the sex the person had or was identified as having at birth. (Matilda is a transgender girl).
8. Transfer: To move something from one place to another.
9. Transfigure: To change the appearance of someone or something.
10. Transform: Change the shape of someone or something.
11. Transfusion: To pass a liquid, such as blood, from one place to another.
12. Transgress: To break a law or rule.
13. Trans-Siberian: Passing or extending across or through Siberia.
14. Transit: To pass across or through an area.
15. Trans-Mediterranean: Passing or extending across or through the Mediterranean.
16. Transmission: Sending information.
17. Trans-Oceanic: Passing or extending across or through the ocean.
18. Transparent: Having the property of transmitting light without appreciable scattering so that bodies lying beyond are seen clearly.
19. Transport: To carry someone or something from one place to another.
20. Transpose: To put someone or something in a different place.
21. Transverse: Placed across something.

Dedicated to the girls of today and to those who were girls
in the past. To those who wear their headbands, but
especially to those who never had them.

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**MENORES
TRANS**

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