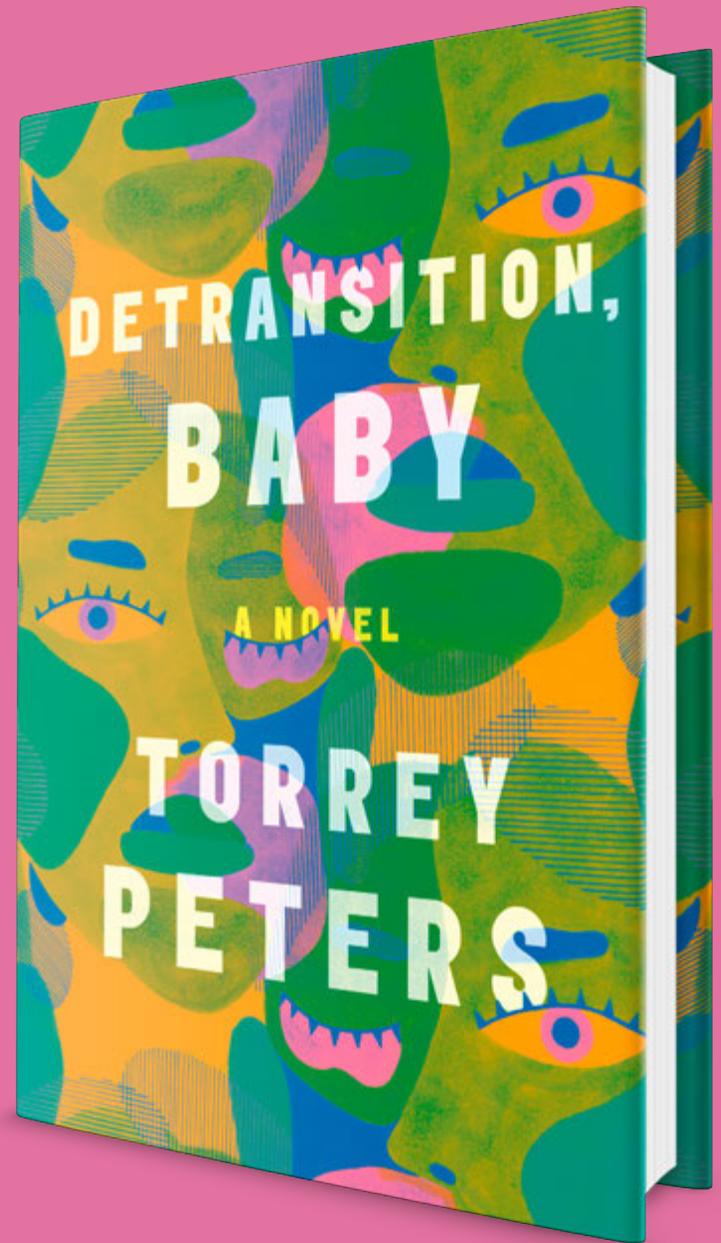


BOOK CLUB KIT

“A vibrant and kaleidoscopic portrait of complicated women and their colliding lives.”

**—Claire Lombardo,
New York Times bestselling author of
*The Most Fun We Ever Had***





A Letter from Torrey Peters

Dear Reader,

I wrote this novel as a kind of test case for myself. A way of trying to live out—in fiction—a solution to a problem before my life circumstances forced me to commit to a path. The problem: how to be a trans woman in my 30s and beyond. My favorite style of fiction has always been stories that rough out new possibilities for ways of living and inhabits those possibilities with characters. Then, depending on how those possibilities play out for those characters . . . I can step into those imagined ways of being in my own life. In short, I wrote this book to teach myself how to live.

Consequently, I needed my characters to solve the problem of family and love and jobs for me. These were urgent problems in my life. I wrote the book during a period when I was increasingly desperate for a change, for a way out of the cramped and static way that I saw trans women around me living. A sort of perpetual-20s lifestyle loomed over my future: bad jobs, a revolving cast of roommates, failures on the romantic front, and a resignation to loneliness as the men I had been dating treated me as disposable. Imagining how Reese and Ames might solve their problems taught me to solve my own. By the time I finished writing the novel, my life looked quite different from the one I had been living when I started. I now have a stepchild and a partner and, professionally, the book you are reading makes me “the first trans woman to publish a novel about trans women at a Big Five publisher.”

It was tempting to see all my problems as trans-related, and therefore my successes would be, too. But I think Reese would say that there is nothing more boring, more commonplace, than being trans and thinking that’s enough to make you interesting. No, it’s how women like me apply trans-ness to living, to the work of being a woman, to fighting and loving and hating that makes one interesting and truly confronts life’s challenges.

In that vein, I think of my novel as another entry in a long tradition of troublesome, difficult women writing for and against other women—especially as regards the status quo of womanhood. The troublesome women in this case just happen to be trans. This is not just a “first trans novel”—it is a trans entry in a storied lineage with a history of precedents. It is a story about pregnancies, about affairs, about sex, about family, and it asks for a conversation between cis women and trans women on those topics. Figuring out my place in that conversation through my characters has allowed me to live and maybe even to thrive. And now, the conversation is yours.

Torrey



DETRANSITION, BABY Playlists

Get into the characters' heads with these personalized playlists.

AMES:

“Gold” by Kiiara

“King” by Years & Years

“God Save Our Young Blood” by BØRNS/with Lana Del Rey

“Computer Love” by Kraftwerk

“Nothing’s Gonna Hurt You Baby” by Cigarettes After Sex

KATRINA:

“Cold War” by Janelle Monáe

“Blinding Lights” by The Weeknd

“Khala My Friend” by Amanaz

“Nice For What” by Drake

“Autumn Sweater” by Yo La Tengo

REESE:

“John Wayne” by Lady Gaga

“Hollywood Forever Cemetery Sings” by Father John Misty

“Blue Jeans” by Lana Del Rey

“Eugh” by Porridge Radio

“Hey Moon” by John Maus



Food

KEY LIME PIE

Ingredients

Graham Cracker Crust

- 1 ½ cups graham cracker crumbs
- ⅓ cup granulated sugar
- 6 tbsp. butter, melted

Key Lime Filling

- 28 oz. sweetened condensed milk
- ½ cup light sour cream
- ¾ cup key lime juice
- zest from 2 regular limes or 4 key limes

Whipped Cream Topping

- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- ½ cup powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract

Instructions

Graham Cracker Crust

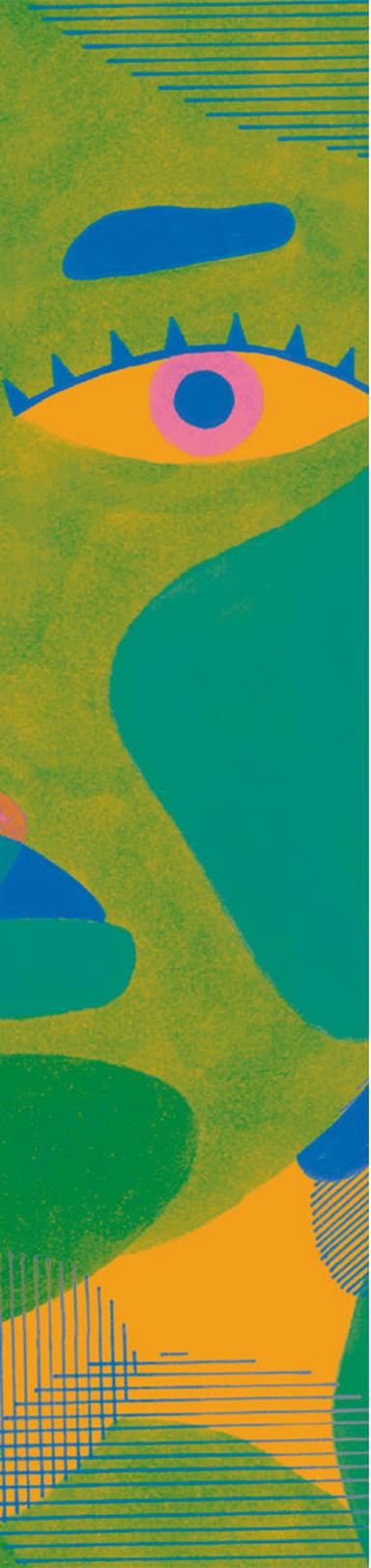
1. Preheat oven to 375°F.
2. Mix graham cracker crumbs, sugar, and butter in a small bowl. Press the crumb mixture into an 8"–9.5" pie pan. Bake for 7 minutes. Cool for at least 30 minutes.

Key Lime Filling

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. Whisk together sweetened condensed milk, sour cream, lime juice, and lime zest in a medium bowl. Pour into prepared graham cracker crust and bake for 10 minutes.
3. Let pie cool slightly before chilling. Chill for at least 3 hours.

Whipped Cream Topping

1. Beat heavy cream and sugar together in a mixer until stiff peaks form.
2. Beat in vanilla.
3. Spread or pipe the whipped cream on top of the cooled pie. Top with additional lime zest if desired.



Drink

Cosmo

Nod to *Detransition, Baby's Sex and the City* influences with this elevated twist on a Cosmo.

Ingredients

- 4 fluid ounces Smirnoff Raspberry vodka, chilled in freezer
- 1 fluid ounce triple sec
- Juice of 1 fresh lime
- 3 fluid ounces cranberry juice
- 2 frozen raspberries
- 2 fresh lime slices

Instructions

1. Put all ingredients into a shaker, add as much ice as you can, and give a good shake.
2. Pour straight up or over ice.
3. Garnish with lime slices and frozen raspberries to help keep it chilled.

Source: [food.com/recipe/cosmopolitan-raspberry-twist-96210](https://www.food.com/recipe/cosmopolitan-raspberry-twist-96210)



Discussion Questions

1. *Detransition, Baby* explores motherhood through several lenses. How do Reese, Katrina, and Ames's feelings on motherhood differ and how do they converge?
2. What does the novel reveal to you about the taboos of sex and gender? What roles do class and race play in the book?
3. How does Katrina's grief over her divorce and miscarriage inform her thoughts about pregnancy? Do you see any parallels between divorce narratives and transition narratives? If so, describe them.
4. Discuss Reese's relationship with the cowboy. What does their relationship fulfill for one another?
5. Discuss Ames's decision to detransition. What factors played into this choice? Do you believe Ames is still a woman, even after the detransition?
6. Discuss the concept of dissociation as described in the novel. How do the kinds of "bad feelings" that trans women cope with by dissociating from their bodies and emotions relate to the kinds of "bad feelings" that other women experience about their bodies or in uncomfortable sexual situations?
7. How does Ames's relationship with Katrina differ from her relationship with Reese? How are the dynamics of both relationships different, and how are they similar?
8. What was your perspective on the ending? What future do you envision for Reese, Katrina, and Ames?