



# Dragonfly Daughter: The Story of Violet Rose

*Rose Mary Chalk*

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## **Dragonfly Daughter: The Story of Violet Rose** Rose Mary Chaulk

Imagine an unusual life lived in secrecy, on a crash course with tragedy that can only be avoided through courageous action that severs oneself from the past, and dooms one life in order to save another. This unusual tale is the story of Violet Rose whose memoir describes a world marked by all the deprivation and abuse typically associated with parental neglect, alcoholism, and mental illness, but with an added twist - prenatal trauma that produced birth defects and gender identity disorder. As a result, Violet Rose had to live a life of many secrets, hiding them and herself behind a fabricated he-man façade. A personal narrative filled with poignant childhood memories, *Dragonfly Daughter* recounts how sympathetic protagonist Phil overcomes a childhood scarred by rape, deprivation and fear to achieve the appearance of outward adult success as an accomplished engineer, business owner, husband and father. It is also the story of Phil's unraveling, eventual demise and finally the emergence of Violet Rose. The book opens with Violet visiting the father she never knew so she can tell him all about his son, and daughter. Though Violet's tale of an unhappy childhood is dark, it is not all lament and tears. The book also evokes the simple delights and solace to be found in the woods, lakes and snowstorms of rural New England. There are scenes where youthful imagination can turn a highway construction site into an Olympic challenge that tests manly mettle; and where the thick forest provides perfect cover for mischievous boyhood pranks. *Dragonfly Daughter* is an in-depth, firsthand account of the trauma inflicted by gender identity disorder, and an inspirational account of an individual's struggle against the odds toward self-discovery and acceptance. It's a book that will make you weep, laugh and wonder about life's ironies. --- Kay Fitzpatrick, Editor

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