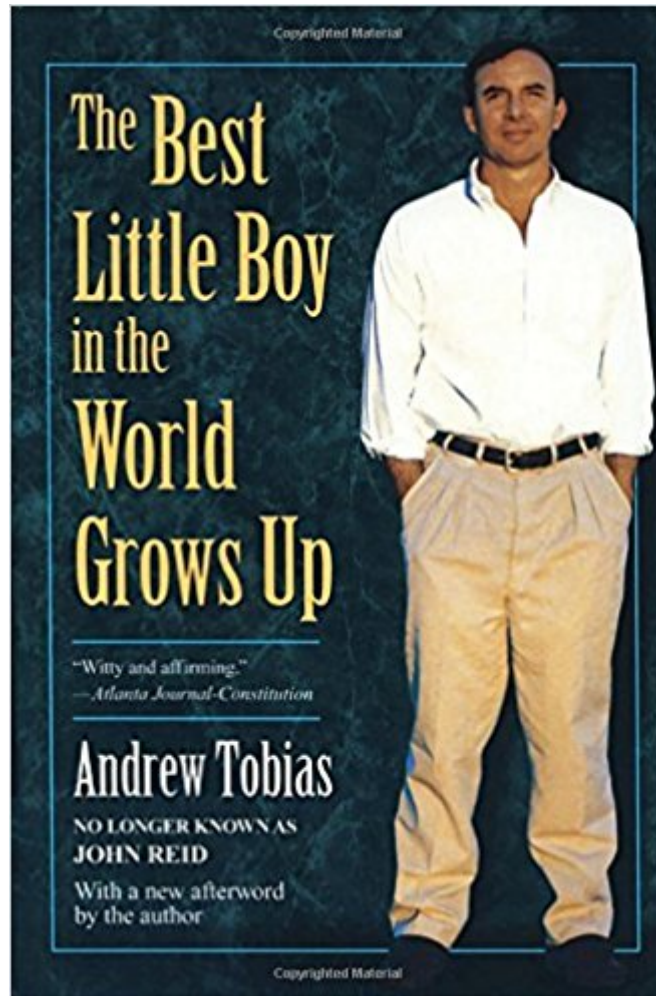




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# The Best Little Boy In The World Grows Up



## Synopsis

John Reid's *The Best Little Boy in the World* was hailed as a classic memoir of growing up gay in a straight world. But "John Reid" didn't write it. Years would pass before the writer could reveal his true identity as Andrew Tobias, America's bestselling financial guru, author of *The Only Investment Guide You'll Ever Need*. Now, twenty-five years later, Tobias, proud to use his real name, brings his remarkable life story up to date. Writing with his customary charm and frank humor, Tobias tells of love affairs and heartbreak, hot New York parties and tough political battles, the excitement of genuine social change and the tragedy of seeing dear friends die young. Here too are the unforgettable scenes of Tobias revealing his sexual orientation not only to his parents but to the president of the United States. The author is an irresistible companion as he shares with us his proud stories, embarrassing confessions, and hilarious musings on "the homosexual lifestyle." Witty, heartfelt, and wonderfully affirming in every sense, this is Andrew Tobias's finest book to date.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In 1973 Andrew Tobias published *The Best Little Boy in the World* under the pseudonym John Reid in order to avoid telling people (including his parents) that he was gay. Since then, he's gone on to become a bestselling finance writer (*The Only Investment Guide You'll Ever Need*) and columnist for *Worth* magazine. "Much of my life," writes Tobias, "the context of this book notwithstanding, has had little to do with being gay...." This may seem like an odd statement to find in the sequel to one of the major gay memoirs of the late 20th century. Yet it's also perhaps the point: as Tobias has "grown up" and fully accepted his sexuality, it has become so natural to him that were it not for other

people's attitudes there would be almost no reason to call attention to it. In this memoir, Tobias avoids discussing his sexuality in detail, and apologizes for even the occasional indirect remarks he makes to get around talking about sex. Instead, he covers his emotional relationships and the significant advances for gays and lesbians in American society that he has both witnessed and experienced since 1973. He writes in a charming, conversational style, frequently following digressions and then forcing himself back on track. Tobias is lavish in his praise of those he admires, including Bill and Hillary Clinton (who have "done more than anyone in the history of the world for gay and lesbian people"), and tries to see the good in those with whom he profoundly disagrees. *The Best Little Boy in the World Grows Up* is a thoughtful, self-assured memoir that shows that one way to start making the world a better place is to become at peace with oneself.

--Ron Hogan --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A quarter of a century ago, shortly after receiving his MBA from Harvard, Tobias wrote *The Best Little Boy in the World*. Already established as a finance writer (*The Only Investment Guide You'll Ever Need*), he decided to write his account of growing up gay under the name John Reid. The book's publication and reception led Tobias to question his closeted life and slowly undertake the careful and selective coming-out process that is the crux of this loosely spun and overly anecdotal memoir. Via accounts of his coming-out experiences with family, friends and colleagues and various trials and tribulations of dating and relationships, Tobias sketches the shifting landscape of homophobia in America. Tobias's journey encompasses the closeted '60s at Harvard to gay Fire Island in the '70s, to AIDS and the rise to power of Bill Clinton (for whom Tobias reserves his greatest accolades). While Tobias writes with a healthy dose of self-deprecating humor and sarcasm, the endless encomiums by supportive liberals or powerful gay men as they broke down the barriers of homophobia becomes tedious. The recurrent message? basically "wow! we've come a long way!" is obvious. And if Tobias's enthusiasm for society's greater tolerance is refreshing, his outlook from the top of the social ladder is somewhat narrow and the tone tends to be self-congratulatory. Tobias is most at home when writing about the intricacies of relationships, wittily depicting the subtleties and nuances of friendship, romance, lust and love for modern gay men.

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, but not what he felt and only his politics for what he thought. I could not believe how detached his reporting was of funerals for his friends during the worst years of AIDS, especially the loss of lovers.

I accepted that he has a big case of HARVARD OVER-IDENTITY SYNDROME. Hardly a page goes by without his crimson references. Nonetheless, I really loved the first half of the book. Something happened when he got around page 120. It is far less personal, and mainly his political manifesto, but stated more as a "fabulous" manifesto, than heart-felt convictions. A great buy if you find it on a remainder table. I would rate the first half four stars, the second half two stars.

I read the Best Little Boy in the World as a teenager. It was published under his pen name then, but I remember feeling just not so alone anymore with regard to the realization that I had same-sex attractions. Later in life, I read Andy's investment books, and when this book came out, and I realized this guy -- was that kid -- wow. What an amazing journey he has had. Smart, poignant and optimistic, it's a great read for anyone (even if you didn't read the original book!). Andy Tobias is a great guy, I see him often in Fire Island or at charity events.

I found "The Best Little Boy in the World Grows Up" well-written, insightful and inspiring. I am a straight female and don't usually read a lot of material about gay men, nor do I read a lot of biographies (boring). So why did I read this in the first place? Actually, because I liked "The Only Investment Guide You'll Ever Need" so much. The investment guide was invaluable to me when I inherited some money and had no clue what to do next. That book transformed me rather rapidly from someone who felt like she needed help but was not even sure where to turn, to feeling that I could handle things just fine on my own, and it's working out very well for me. In addition to being useful, I found that book so well-written and just plain entertaining that I have re-read it several times and started looking for other things he had written. I tried "My Vast Fortune" but it didn't grab me for some reason, and I liked "The Best Little Boy in the World" better. But I felt this follow-up book about his adult life is extraordinary. I have known quite a few gay folks in my life, but I have to admit this book still made me more aware of their issues than I had been. I'm not very political, and if the book were preachy, I would have tossed it. But Tobias makes his points with deft humor and a variety of fascinating anecdotes. It is quite entertaining as well as emotionally gripping. I highly recommend it.

A must read for all young GLBT adults. We read both books his early novel under a pen name is also very good it's nice that he gave us this book and written under his real name.

Tobias again tells us what it was like to walk in his shoes as a young gay man growing up in a

primarily straight world.

Exactly what I was looking for. It was reasonably priced and I got it in a very nice time frame.

I'm surprised I never read the prior book - "The Best Little Boy in the World" - but I will. No longer "John Reid", Andrew Tobias doesn't need a pseudonym. And that's good because it shows how much societies attitudes about homosexuality have changed. And in the ensuing 17 years (this book was published in 1998) the attitudes have changed even more. I appreciated Tobias's calm discussion and personal stories to show those changes. And I appreciate that he tells the tale without a trace of ill will.

4.5 starsI recently read and enjoyed Tobias's first memoir--originally published in the early 1970s under a pseudonym--that dealt with the sublimation of his sexuality through academics and sports (thus, The Best Little Boy in the World) and his eventual coming out as a college-aged adult. This book, written twenty-five years later, hits some important highs and lows in both his life and the country's attitudes toward gays during that time. In the more personal sections of the book, the author discusses relationships, those that worked and those that didn't, continuing the story from his earlier volume. (He does finally meet his long-time partner.) The most poignant aspect of the book was the dramatic change brought about by AIDS. Where, early in the book, Tobias referred to Fire Island summer weekend getaways with elaborate parties, later in the book he gives an accounting of how many of those friends had been lost to the disease. Some readers may be a bit turned off by the sometimes upscale life that Tobias refers to (his life is in finance, his partner was a well-known fashion designer, and they knew other movers and shakers), but it only emphasized to me how important it is for a movement to attract and hold the support of people in positions of power. Part of the early gay rights movement worked at getting those people to know gays as individuals so that those in power would come to understand that there was no basis for discrimination and every reason to aid the push for equality. [I was sorry to read in another source that his longtime partner, Charles, died in January, 2011.]

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