

# Trans Heroes Coloring Book

Illustrations by the wonderful, amazingly talented  
Emmett Stone <3

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# Abby Stein

Abby Chava Stein (she/her) is a white woman of trans experience born on October 1st, 1991 in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. She is known as the first openly trans woman raised in a Hasidic community, in which she does not recall the word transgender being mentioned at all throughout her childhood/young adult life. Abby discusses that this is in large part because it is frowned upon to use the internet, where many folks ask their first questions about themselves/their experience that may differ from society's "norms." I definitely did! I learned a lot about Abby in an interview with her on the *Today* show, which focused on her book *Becoming Eve: My Journey from Ultra-Orthodox Rabbi to Transgender Woman*, published in 2019. Growing up being gendered as a boy, she followed the footsteps of her ancestors by becoming a rabbi and getting married. All her life, she felt she was different, but didn't have the words or examples for it.

Abby started to open up more to herself right after her son was born. In fact, a few days after he was born, Abby took her friend's tablet, went to a mall, found a gender inclusive bathroom, and went on the internet for the first time. She looked up if a boy can turn into a girl in Hebrew because she didn't speak English at the time. She immediately found a Wiki page that used the word transgender. Abby was determined to keep exploring her truth in part because of her son. She asked herself, how could she raise someone else in the world if she didn't know who she was? So over the next few years, Abby spent a lot of time in mall bathrooms and eventually snuck a cellphone into her family's house to connect to the internet at home. When Abby came out to her dad, he tried to argue that trans people didn't exist, but Abby eventually got him to admit that trans people do exist, which ties into one of her first goals as she stepped into trans advocacy: "I want the Hasidic community to become transphobic [because] that would mean they would recognize that we exist."

Abby left home in 2014 to Manhattan, where she found Footsteps, an org that helps people raised in Hasidic communities to integrate into other parts of society. In 2016, Abby had a bat mitzvah-coming out-naming ceremony which can be found on Youtube and is posted on TransTorah.org for other TGNC Jewish folks to reference as an example. In healing with her past, Abby doesn't observe Judaism, but ecstatically celebrates it by participating in all the Jewish holidays, reading/discussing Jewish texts, and eating/making Jewish food. Abby is also a co-founder of Sacred Space, a multifaith forum for women; was an extra in *Unorthodox*; is an advocate for criminal justice reform; and organizes against ICE. You can follow Abby and her work on insta @AbbyChavaStein!



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# Tiq Milan

Tiq Milan (he/him) is a Black trans man born in 1980 who grew up in Buffalo, NY with his mom, dad, and 3 older sisters. Before coming into his current gender identity, he came out as a lesbian at age 14 and got involved with the queer community. During his teens, he dressed more feminine and recalls butch lesbians being attracted to him, and realizing that he wanted his gender expression to move more towards being masculine presenting as well. So after highschool he butched up his look, but still felt that something was off. When Tiq moved to New York City for grad school he met a white trans man at a lesbian bar he worked at called Meow Mix. That interaction pried open the doors of possibilities to transitioning. A couple years later, Tiq started T and a few years after that, he publicly came out as trans after he received top surgery.

Today, Tiq is a media maker, journalist, and adviser who centers his work on trans equality. He travels throughout North America to lead discussions on what is healthy masculinity, inclusive leadership and creating cultures of consent. He has lectured at several universities including Harvard, Stanford and Brown; consulted with HBO, NBC News, Netflix and various other film and television producers; served as the Senior Media Strategist and National Spokesperson for GLAAD; and presented a widely viewed TED Talk in 2016 titled “A Queer Vision of Love and Marriage” with his ex-wife Kim Katrin. It’s so sweet and empowering and full of love!

Tiq is also a father! In an interview with *The Advocate* he shares: “...our path to parenthood is never a pleasant surprise or the result of a reckless passionate night. Ours is a strategic endeavor with lots of moving parts, cautionary tales, and money spent. I am already so invested in the life of this child! ... Our children will always know and respect that gender and sexuality are a spectrum of possibilities. They’ll be loved and supported no matter where on the spectrum they may fall” (June 21, 2015). To learn more about Tiq, you can visit his website at [www.tiqmilan.com](http://www.tiqmilan.com) or follow him on insta @TheMrMilan.



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# Susan Stryker

Susan Stryker (she/her) is a white trans woman who was born in 1961 in Fort Sill, OK. She is a professor, filmmaker, and author/editor of books such as: *Gay by the Bay: A History of Queer Culture in the San Francisco Bay Area* (1996), *The Transgender Studies Reader* (2006) and *Transgender History* (2008). In 2011, Susan became an Associate Professor of Gender and Women's Studies and Director of the Institute for LGBT Studies at the University of Arizona, though she almost took a job at a more prestigious institution instead. The UA asked her what it would take for her to want to stay and she presented them with an argument on implementing a transgender studies initiative. They said yes! Susan's first step was to gather a Transgender Studies Faculty Cluster, which was the first of its kind in the world.

Though the UA was seemingly onboard with this new initiative, Susan understood from the beginning that it was only about the money for them and not about trans advocacy work, documenting TGNC lives, expanding TGNC theory, etc. Which is why Susan tells a *boundary2* interviewer: "I think my deepest challenge in trying to spearhead this initiative lies in resisting the ways that transgender studies can be co-opted for neoliberal uses that fall short of its radical transformative potential" (2014). She also points out the importance to ask: "why, in an era when the teaching of Chicano/a studies is literally being outlawed in Arizona public schools, when xenophobic attitudes inform the state's border politics, attention to transgender identities and practices can appear palatable. How does institutional investment in transgender studies at this particular historical juncture play into a deep logic of 'managing difference' through expert knowledges, or get positioned as less threatening than calls for racial and economic justice?" (2014).

I think in that 2014 interview Susan was cautioning trans studies, and maybe trans advocacy too, from becoming transnormative (overlapping with the concept of homonormativity), which white washes the marginalized trans identity to create an "acceptable" trans person versus the racialized "other" who still isn't "doing trans right," should just assimilate into white cis het culture, and if of low income status, should be able to just "pull themselves up by the bootstraps." These are all the continuous propaganda of the "American Dream" seeping into the type of advocacy work that solely views representation and "inclusive" laws as groundbreaking tools towards liberation.