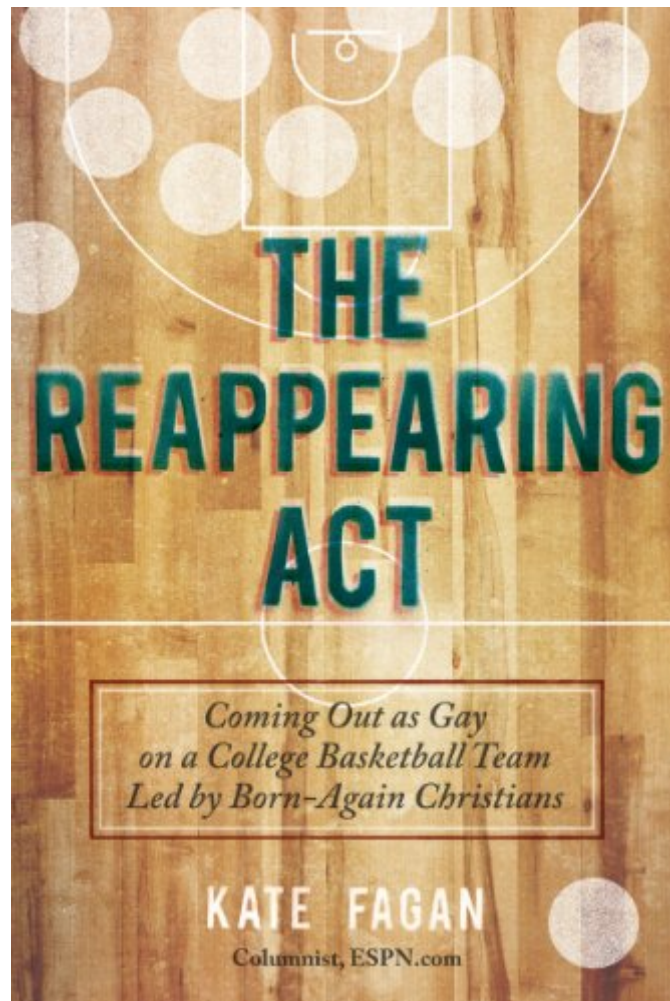


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# The Reappearing Act: Coming Out As Gay On A College Basketball Team Led By Born-Again Christians



## Synopsis

It's hard enough coming out, but playing basketball for a nationally ranked school and trying to figure out your sexual identity in the closeted and paranoid world of big-time college sports—that's a challenge. Kate Fagan's love for basketball and for her religious teammates at the University of Colorado was tested by the gut-wrenching realization that she could no longer ignore the feelings of otherness inside her. In trying to blend in, Kate had created a hilariously incongruous world for herself in Boulder. Her best friends were part of Colorado's Fellowship of Christian Athletes, where they ran weekly Bible studies and attended an Evangelical Free Church. For nearly a year, Kate joined them and learned all she could about Christianity—even holding their hands as they prayed for others living a sinful lifestyle. Each time the issue of homosexuality arose, she felt as if a neon sign appeared over her head, with a giant arrow pointed downward. During these prayer sessions, she would often keep her eyes open, looking around the circle at the closed eyelids of her friends, listening to the earnestness of their words. Kate didn't have a vocabulary for discussing who she really was and what she felt when she was younger; all she knew was that she had a secret. In *The Reappearing Act*, she brings the reader along for the ride as she slowly accepts her new reality and takes the first steps toward embracing her true self.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I've long been fascinated by personal stories of inner struggle and personal conflict, especially if these testimonies flesh out the friction of personhood against the immovable fabric of a rigidly principled environment like religion. Translation: I think that "fish out of water" stories are really compelling. They force us to self-actualize, to examine the complexities of our social contexts, and to relentlessly interrogate the relationships we share with every and anyone of consequence who may hold positions of emotional importance in our lives. The Reappearing Act by ESPN and ESPNW columnist (feature writer, TV sports personality, etc.) Kate Fagan is an immensely engaging memoir that provides the very best in these types of accounts, and while I am certainly not above fawning over a book I just happened to read and enjoy (I finished it in just over two hours and tweeted about it right away), I am reviewing this book because of an immensely important question it presents to the reader almost from the very onset and throughout. If "sin" is an issue of identity or inherent orientation - that is to say something that is not chosen but rather experienced beyond one's ability to control - is it possible to "love the sinner and hate the sin"? Many religions attempt to answer what their respective texts define and identify as a central problem laced throughout the reality of human existence. That problem is described by the Buddhists as suffering (Dukkha), by the Sikhs as weakness or "five inner thieves" (Panj Dosh or Panj Vikar), and by the Christians/Jews/Muslims as sin. These faiths articulate a broad belief that humans are born into this inherent reality, while the holy trinity of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam (see what I did there?)

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