

Another face

- a new book on living with a facial difference

To be born with a facial difference can mean experiencing painful operations, anxiety and a constant feeling of being an outsider. It can also mean rather untroubled teenage years, where hair style is a bigger issue than the facial disfigurement. In the book *Another face* you can read five stories on how it is to grow up with a malformed face, stories that reflect different experiences leaving no-one unmoved.

Sandra was born missing major parts of her lower jaw, Tobias with a cleft lip and palate. Linda P was born with a frontonasal dysplasia, which meant the nose was very small and one eye was higher up in the face than the other. Mattias is missing the eye, mouth and ear in the left half of his face. Linda R has grown up without the bony part of her nose.

Anna Lytsy has met them all and asked how it was to grow up in Sweden with a facial disfigurement, about the curious staring from others, about wishes to change their face and about their thoughts on love and the future.

Their experiences are related in the book *Another face*. In five totally different stories, five totally different lives are portrayed.

When one of them tells us about his experiences, it is a story about painful operations, anxiety and tranquilizers. About feeling distorted, like a monster, and stared at. About switching off all feelings in order to survive.

Another story relates a relatively light-hearted time as a teenager where the problems were rather similar to those of her age mates and her self esteem was not affected by her facial appearance.

The book evokes strong feelings in the reader. Compassion and sorrow but also astonishment, admiration, and respect. Above all, the reader is made to reflect over his own values and life experiences. The vivid photographs by Elisabeth Ohlson Wallin give further dimensions to the challenges of living with facial disfigurement.



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