

READ CACTUS COUNTRY AT YOUR NEXT BOOK CLUB!



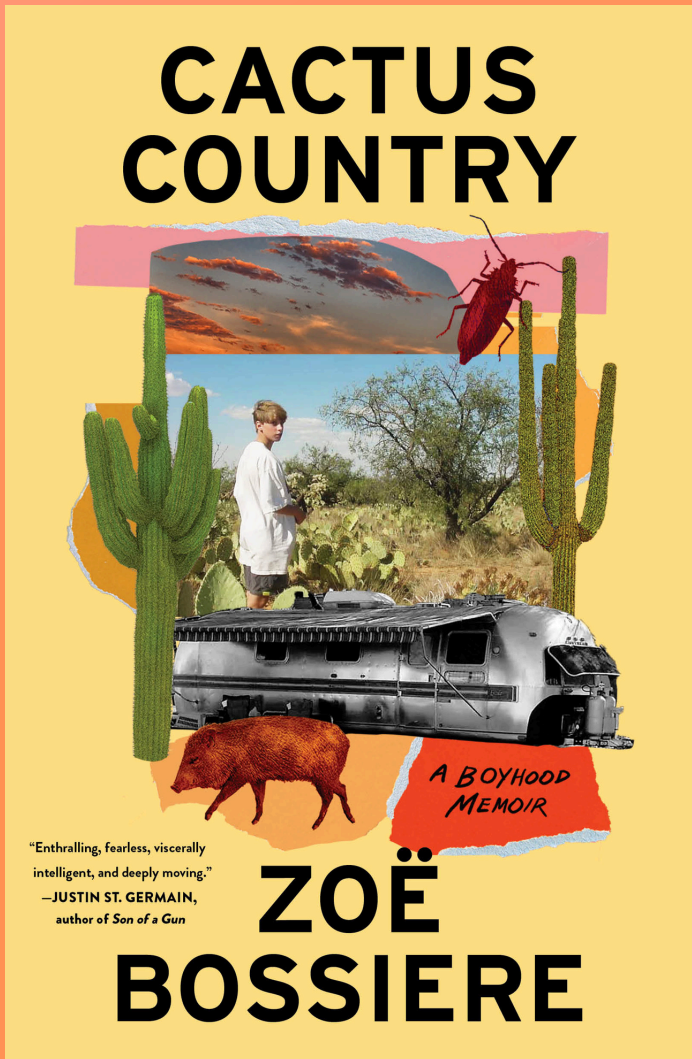
**PUBLISHING DETAILS**

Cactus Country:  
A Boyhood Memoir  
by Zoë Bossiere

**On sale now**

**Eds:** Print, ebook, audio

**ISBN:** 9781419773181



"Enthralling, fearless, viscerally intelligent, and deeply moving."  
—JUSTIN ST. GERMAIN,  
author of *Son of a Gun*

**ZOË  
BOSSIERE**

**A STRIKING MEMOIR OF GENDERFLUIDITY, CLASS, MASCULINITY, AND THE SOUTHWEST**

Newly arrived in the Sonoran Desert, eleven-year-old Zoë's world is one of giant beetles, thundering javelinas, and gnarled paloverde trees. With the family's move to Cactus Country RV Park, Zoë has been given a fresh start and a new, shorter haircut. Although Zoë doesn't have the words to express it, he experiences life as a trans boy—and in Cactus Country, others begin to see him as a boy, too. Here, Zoë spends hot days chasing shade and freight trains with an ever-rotating pack of sunburned desert kids, and nights fending off his own questions about the body underneath his baggy clothes.

Equal parts harsh and tender, Cactus Country is an invitation for readers to consider how we find our place in a world that insists on stark binaries, and a precisely rendered journey of self-determination that will resonate with anyone who's ever had to fight to be themselves.

# BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR CACTUS COUNTRY: A BOYHOOD MEMOIR

- Before reading *Cactus Country*, how did you visualize the American Southwest? Is the Sonoran Desert a place you might like to visit one day? Why or why not?
- The *Cactus Country* boys roamed the park and its surrounding desert without much supervision from adults or parents. In what ways do the boys' adventures remind you of your own childhood mischief, and in what ways is it different?
- Consider your own relationship to gender and/or sexuality. When did you first become aware of your gender/sexuality? How did the way you understood yourself align with or differ from what others in your life expected from you?
- Many of *Cactus Country*'s residents struggle with hardships such as poverty, chronic illness, and addiction, among other issues. Did any of these characters remind you of people or situations from your own life? If so, in what ways?
- Why do you think stories like those of *Cactus Country*'s narrator—that is, those of transgender and gender-expansive individuals—have gone untold for so long? Why might it be important to tell them now?
- What is one new understanding—whether about the gender spectrum, trailer park living, the Southwest, or something else entirely—that you feel you gained from reading *Cactus Country*? Is there anything in the book you'd like to learn more about?
- What other books or media does *Cactus Country* bring to mind? Are there stories about characters with similar experiences that you might recommend to readers who connected with *Cactus Country*?



**Zoë is available to attend book clubs featuring *Cactus Country* for discussions and/or Q&A sessions!**

**To schedule a virtual visit:**  
[cactuscountrybook@gmail.com](mailto:cactuscountrybook@gmail.com)

**To request a free review copy:**  
[cwestermann@abramsbooks.com](mailto:cwestermann@abramsbooks.com)