

Polare Edition 53

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Editorial

by Katherine Cummings, Polare Editor

Gee, thanks a lot, Elizabeth! "If you have views on this question ... write to Katherine" ... and Elizabeth steps nimbly aside, leaving me to field the dictionary definitions, the sexology thesaurus and the word police who think a) that they can own a word, and b) that by stating a preference for one word over another they will drag the English language with them, not only here but throughout the world. A little more humility out there, if you don't mind. Take your example from me, as humile a person as you will trample on in a long day's march.

In the last issue I mentioned J. Michael Bailey's book *The Man Who Would Be Queen* and promised a review. This has been supplied by Tracie O'Keefe and you will find it on page 12. I have now had time to read the book myself and find it grossly offensive from its title and cover illustration to its final conclusions. I consider Bailey a lightweight; mind with no understanding of transgender, who brings to this work his own prurient views and limited experience, while sheltering behind the half-witted theories of Ray Blanchard. But, as a good editor should, I will keep my views to myself and leave the reviewing to Tracie.

Our cover subject this issue is the well-known norrie mAy-welby. Tireless activist for the transgendered, member of the Gender Centre Management Board and Sex and Gender Education Foundation (S.A.G.E.) Steering Committee, Outreach Team Coordinator and Transgender Support Worker Sex Workers' Outreach Project (S.W.O.P.), she is a woman of boundless energy, enthusiasm and intelligence. She is also a talented cartoonist, as mad as a cut snake and a lot of fun to know ...

Manager's Report

by Elizabeth Riley, Gender Centre Manager

There must be something in the coffee....

The transgender community has certainly not been starved of publicity in recent times. There has, of course, been the usual sensationalist coverage one comes to expect from some of the gutter based American talk shows and that has extended into some of the coverage afforded us by segments of the local press, with two individuals in N.S.W. and one in Victoria finding themselves the unwilling targets of adverse publicity in recent weeks. However, we have also enjoyed some really positive coverage from programs such as *Australian Story* on the A.B.C. and *Mum's the Word* on S.B.S. Even the advertisers are jumping on the bandwagon. I notice that both Moccona Coffee and Jarrah Coffee are running ads featuring either a cross-dresser or a showgirl, and while advertisers can hardly be relied on to deliver the most sensitive coverage, I do believe there are positive benefits to be had from all of this.

Feature Articles



I cannot recall any book on transgender since Janice Raymond's *The Transsexual Empire; the making of the she-male* which has caused such a furore of rage and reaction from transgender activists.

The Bailey Brou-Ha-Ha

Gathered in this article, an evaluation of the research by J. Michael Bailey, and the depth of as his assessments which lead to the publishing of his book, *The Man Who Would Be Queen*, are opinion pieces by Katherine Cummings, Willow Arune, Robyn Williams, and Lynn Conway.

Born Transsexual

norrie had previously come to the conclusion that hir own (trans)gender situation was the result of circumstances of hir early childhood, but ze has recently been swayed to the opinion that it is the result of pre-natal or genetic circumstances, explains norrie.

The Man Who Would Be Queen

Before even having received a review copy of *The Man Who Would Be Queen* by J. Michael Bailey, Tracie O'Keefe had already received many emails from different parts of the world from members of the sex and gender diverse community who were outraged by its publication.

Hysterectomy and the Associated Risks

Most F.T.M. transsexuals don't seem to have a clue about the negative possible after-effects of total or sub-total hysterectomy and the doctors seem to gloss over them rather quickly, preferring to focus on the preventative aspects of this surgical procedure.

Another First

In May 2003 Jessica and Andrew legalised their relationship beginning with a 1999 commitment service at the Wayside Chapel followed by a Nuptial Mass in full Ecumenical Catholic splendour. As far they are aware this may be the first legal wedding between two transsexuals.

She's Not There

Regardless of whether the coverage is positive or negative, we are at least beginning to enjoy a profile in the wider community. We are ceasing to be a hidden community and our increasing visibility, our presence in the consciousness of the wider community, will ultimately lead to fairer and more equitable treatment. Many of us, at one time or another, have been greeted with the shock reaction of a public that is both uninformed and unaware. Most of the time this is not a hostile reaction, it is simply a reaction to a difference that they have not previously encountered. With the increase in public profile, however, these reactions will significantly diminish. While not everyone will necessarily be directly acquainted with someone from our community, most will have developed an awareness of our existence. When we become commonplace in the minds of people we will cease to attract their unwanted attention and curiosity.

She's Not There by Jennifer Finney Boylan brings irreverence and a merrily outrageous sense of humour to this potentially serious business. As James, Boylan felt out of place in a man's body and eventually he felt compelled to investigate his medical options.

I had the privilege recently of attending the opening night of *Becoming Julia* at the Sydney Film Festival. (*Becoming Julia* will feature soon on S.B.S. and is highly recommended viewing). It played to a packed house at the Film Festival and received an incredibly warm welcome from the audience, who were invited to ask questions of the director Ruth Cullen and the film's subject Julia who was featured on the cover of the last edition of *Polare*. The questions were sensible and sensitive and concluded with a highly emotional moment when Julia was reconciled with one of her family members. There were few dry eyes in the house. This is a beautiful film with an extremely positive message and it is works such as this that will blast through the barriers of prejudice and discrimination in the wider community.

Heart felt congratulations to Ruth and Julia and I particularly commend Julia for her courage and openness in exposing her life to the world. You both deserve a good cup of coffee.

The Great Terminology Debate

The debate over terminologies, particularly in relation to transgender, transsexual and intersex, has been evident in community circles now for some months. I made mention of it in the last edition of *Polare*, Katherine has referred to it on occasion and the article by Gina Dumas was dedicated to the topic. In this edition the article by norrie mAy-welby also raises the issue.

So what is the problem? Fundamentally it is one of identity. Within the intersex community there is a strong voice seeking to make clear distinctions between being intersex and being transsexual; within the transsexual community there is a strong voice seeking to make clear distinctions between transgender and transsexual while also advocating that transsexualism be recognised as an intersex condition and those in the transgender camp continue to be inclusive of all people in the sex and gender diverse community lies.

Certainly there have evolved a cumbersome range of terminologies by which we define ourselves, transgender, transsexual, intersex, tranny, tranny, transman, transwoman, and so on, and this plethora of terminologies is unhelpful when attempting to deal with politicians and legislators in the quest for equality. The need for a single term of reference in this respect is clear, and over the years the Gender Centre and other lobbyists have promoted the term transgender for that purpose. Transgender is now the term used in various state anti-discrimination legislations and is also used in a wide variety of government and non-government organisational policies. Whether or not it should remain so is a valid question that is open to community debate, but if change is sought we need to be clear about the motivation for change and how the community would benefit.

It seems to me, however, that the current debate has more to do with self-interest than with community benefit. The intersex community is engaged in a process of self-determination and I applaud and encourage their efforts in this regard. I am, however, concerned that in the process they seek to exclude transsexualism which is increasingly being recognised as having a biological cause. The right to self-identification has been at the very core of the struggle for equal rights for our communities since that struggle first began. If the intersex community wishes to self-define I fully encourage and support that choice. What I do not support is the premise that in doing so they also have the right to define others. Defining our identity is a matter for each of us alone and is not the province of any other individual or group within the community. The right to self-identification is the single most important right of every one in our community and we should protect that right with unwavering diligence.

The question of making a distinction between transsexual and transgender seems to rest on the premise that transsexualism is a bona fide medical condition and transgender is a lifestyle choice. Each of us will have made our own interpretations of these words in the process of adopting one or the other in respect of identification. In the past, and in environments ranging from legislative change to awareness raising training, I have tended to use the terms interchangeably. However, my personal preference has always been transgender since I believe the term most accurately reflects my experience. Certainly, if we accept the view that our gender is fixed and that the modification of our bodies defines our transition then there is merit in the term transsexual. However, the defining moment in this transformation occurs in a few hours on the operating table during which we are thankfully sound asleep. For most of us the truly harrowing and exhilarating aspect of our transition occurs in that intense and protracted period when we learn to live in our new gender role. This is the time of experimentation with clothing, make up and accessories. With walking, talking, sitting and eating. With the incredibly complex realities of those vast social interactions in our new identities. Our gender may be fixed but we all still need to learn how to live in our new role and this is a transgender process.

More important, however, is the question of what we are seeking to achieve. Surely for the majority of us it is not to define ourselves as transsexual or transgender or indeed intersex. These terms may reflect our experiences but they do not reflect who we are. These are medical terminologies defining a condition and we should avoid defining ourselves as a medical condition. If someone suffers from appendicitis they do not self-define as an appendectomy. If someone suffers from ovarian cancer they do not self-define as a hysterectomy. We should follow suit. There may be a period in our lives where our experience is transgender or transsexual or intersex but for most of us the desired and ultimate self-identity is simply woman or man.

I am reminded of the comment that Katherine once made to me: "I used to be transsexual but my surgeon cured me." It works for me. If you have views on this question that you would like to express I encourage you to write to Katherine and we will publish your thoughts in *Polare*.

The Gender Centre advise that this edition of Polare is not current and as such certain content, including but not limited to persons, contact details and dates may not apply. Where legal authority or medical related matters are cited, responsibility lies with the reader to obtain the most current relevant legal authority and/or medical publication.

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The Gender Centre is committed to developing and providing services and activities, which enhance the ability of people with gender issues to make informed choices. We offer a wide range of services to people with gender issues, their partners, family members and friends in New South Wales. We are an accommodation service and also act as an education, support, training and referral resource centre to other organisations and service providers. The Gender Centre is committed to educating the public and service providers about the needs of people with gender issues. We specifically aim to provide a high quality service, which acknowledges human rights and ensures respect and confidentiality.

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The Bailey Brou-Ha-Ha

Furore of Rage as Controversial Book *The Man Who Would Be Queen* is Published

Articles by Katherine Cummings, Willow Arune, National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (N.T.A.C.), Robyn Williams and Lynn Conway
Article appeared in Polare magazine: August 2003 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015

Editorial Comment: I cannot recall any book on transgender since Janice Raymond's *The Transsexual Empire: the making of the she-male* which has caused such a furore of rage and reaction from transgender activists as has the publication of J. Michael Bailey's *The Man Who Would Be Queen*. There have in the past been essays and events which have brought the warriors out (Germaine Greer's attempt to have Rachael Padman fired from her college teaching position springs to mind) but for a book to create such rage and fury worldwide is truly remarkable. There are a few high profile transgender people who defend Bailey and his peculiar views but I have the feeling they are trying to be more than fair, that they are bending over backwards to show that they are not prejudiced or bigoted, even when they themselves are being attacked. And of course it is difficult in a situation like this not to sound as if one is protesting too much on the one hand, or simply being shrill on the other.

It is to the credit of some of our sisters in academe, notably Lynn Conway & Joan Roughgarden, that they have refuted Bailey's views without resorting to name calling or the kind of vilification which is implicit in Bailey's work.

I have gathered together a number of items, mainly from *Transgender News*, which deal with the Bailey brou-ha-ha, including both pro and con and will let you make up your own minds as to the value of Bailey's research and the depth of as his assessments (which, it must be as noted, did not originate with him, but with Ray Blanchard of the Clarke Institute in Toronto, Ontario).

Katherine Cummings



J. Michael Bailey

Controversy Erupts Over Gay and Transsexual Book, N.T.A.C. N.A.S. Review, Independent Research

The gloves have come off, and a scientific brou-ha-ha has developed over J.

Michael Bailey's book, *The Man Who Would be Queen*, published by Joseph Henry Press, imprint for the National Academies, including the National Academy of Science. Respected members of the medical and scientific world as well as transgender activists have decried as worse than junk science a publication that is long on intuition and devoid of original research data.

Such well known and respected transsexual women as Professor Lynn Conway, University of Michigan; Professor Joan Roughgarden; Stanford University Biology Department, Dr. Becky Allison, M.D.; and Christine Burns, Vice President of Britain's Press for Change organisation, decry the simplistic Blanchard theory posited as truth by Bailey based largely on his observations of transsexual prostitutes and others who frequent gay bars in Chicago.

They have expressed concern over the treatment transsexuals could expect if the Blanchard-Bailey position were taught as fact. Conway, Roughgarden and Burns have called on the National Academy of Science to investigate Bailey's work and to remove the book from under the imprimatur of the National Academies.

The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (N.T.A.C.) supports this action and calls for independent research into other potential transsexual taxonomies. Many educated, intelligent, and successful transsexuals disagree that "two sizes fit all". The categories of homosexual and autogynephile do not capture these individuals' experience and ignore their self-description and understanding. Bailey's limited definitions turn all other opinions into "self-deception", which strains credulity.

Even Anjelica Kieltyka, portrayed as "Cher", a major character in Bailey's chapters on autogynephilia has disavowed Bailey and Blanchard's all-inclusive categorizations. She has been quoted as writing, "it is most unfortunate that he [Bailey] used me and my case history as the "poster child for autogynephilia" ... using all of my case study (under the pseudonym of "Cher") to support his chapters on "autogynephiliacs". Unfortunate because here was an opportunity to break away from, rather than [sic] give further support to a dead "Freudian" mixture of onanism, narcissism and paraphilic transvestite fetishism. I refused to join this bandwagon of Bailey, Blanchard

The lack of scholarship and unwillingness to discuss opposing views strongly diminishes the scientific credibility of this book immediately.

and Lawrence, to which I would also add Zucker and Bradley of the Clarke Institute."

In a 3rd May 2003 letter to the presidents of the National Academy of Science and the National Institute of Medicine, Dr. Joan Roughgarden, Stanford University Professor of Population Biology, states the following: "Many are claiming that the Academy has become complicit in publishing junk science ... The situation is actually worse however. Junk-science at least goes through the motions of science. Junk-science books include references, footnotes, data tables, and statistics to create the semblance of science. Only by tracking down the references can junk science be refuted. Bailey, on the other hand, has written a thin book without references, a book that nonetheless makes exceptionally broad and dubious claims in the name of science, and draws legitimacy from appearing under the Academy's imprint and on the Academy's website. The situation is remarkable. There's nothing in Bailey's book to refute other than hot air - no data tables, no statistics, no knowledge of the principles of classification, no experiments, no controls, no out groups, nothing."

Three primary reasons for the opposition of successful transsexual scientists and educators to Bailey's book include a near complete lack of research details or reference; the apparent omission of transsexuals from other than the gay bar, sex worker, and erotic sex scenes; and the insistence that those transsexuals who strongly disavow being homosexual or autogynephilic are simply in a state of self-deception or are lying. In placing all M.T.F. transsexuals in one of two narrowly defined categories that don't match the reported feelings of many transsexuals, Bailey is deemed guilty of faulty research, faulty conclusions, sensationalism, and perhaps, of promoting a homophobic and transphobic approach to treatment.

Bailey, Blanchard and Lawrence contend that transsexuals coming from a heterosexual life who deny eroticism as the primary reason for their transition are not being truthful. Since they consider the feelings of such transsexuals to be false by presumption, then all such transsexuals must be autogynephilic. Q.E.D. No need for further research.

Bailey, an Associate Professor of Psychology at North-Western University, contends that early onset M.T.F.s - those who have known since childhood that they are "women trapped in a man's body" - are extremely feminine homosexual men.

He identifies only one other classification of M.T.F. transsexuals: autogynephiliacs. These, he contends, are men who are so erotically obsessed with the image of themselves as women that they live as women, undergoing sex reassignment surgery, if possible.

Thus, Bailey reiterates the twenty-year-old conclusions of Ray Blanchard at the Clarke Institute in Toronto, who first developed the model of autogynephilia to explain transsexuals who transition later in life, often following a long-term and successful male role.

Blanchard's theory on autogynephilia and his categorization of only two types of transsexual received little lasting notice until resurrected by several articles written by Dr. Anne Lawrence M.D. and PhD. of Seattle a few years ago.

On page 146 of his book, Bailey writes, "The two types of transsexuals who begin life as males are called homosexual and autogynephilic. Once understood, these names are appropriate. Succinctly put, homosexual male-to-female transsexuals are extremely feminine gay men, and autogynephilic transsexuals are men erotically obsessed with the image of themselves as women."

In a recent note to an autogynephilia discussion list, however, Bailey said, "I have never written that transsexuals who transition from men to women are still men. Nor has Ray Blanchard. Nor has Anne Lawrence. The phrase "men trapped in men's bodies", which applies to autogynephilic transsexuals, means simply that they are not naturally feminine in the way that homosexual M.T.F. transsexuals are. It doesn't mean that they do not achieve femininity, and regardless of how feminine they are, once they decide to become women and enter that role (regardless of genital status), they are women, in my opinion."

Bailey posits that transsexuals who lived in the role of straight men suffer from sexual aberrations (paraphilias) rather than from the more commonly accepted mismatch between body and the brain's gender-identity. Bailey, Blanchard, and Lawrence seem to discount the role of gender in Gender Identity Disorder (G.I.D.), assigning the role instead to either homosexuality or sexual obsession. Bailey states (page 176), "With luck, the next revision of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders (D.S.M.) will distinguish "homosexual" from "autogynephilic" transsexualism." Outspoken critics hope not. A Pacific Northwest gender counsellor and a post-operative medical doctor recently stated - in private - words to the effect that "this bad idea will die off as it deserves to do if we just don't make a big deal of it"

Dr. Ben Barres, M.D. PhD., professor of Neurobiology and Developmental Biology at Stanford University and a female-to-male transsexual puts it this way. "Bailey truly doesn't get the gender-identity dissonance that transsexuals experience - it really is hard for people to understand what they haven't experienced themselves. I have talked with many M.T.F.s who have contacted me and have listened to the feelings they have gone through their whole lives and it is always an exact mirror of what I have experienced as an F.T.M.. These M.T.F.s have no reason to lie to me, as I have no power over what treatment they receive. For Bailey to say that most M.T.F.s are primarily doing the gender change because of a fetish rather than a true gender-identity issue just doesn't ring true to me or to many other people that have worked in clinics taking care of many M.T.F.s."

The danger of teaching incomplete results as fact can be seen in Bailey's own comments (page 206). "They [my undergraduate students] are especially hesitant to support [sex reassignment] surgery for non-homosexual transsexuals, once they learn about autogynephilia. When I press them, they say something like the following: "But they don't have the wrong body; they are mentally ill." Bailey notes that Paul McHugh, then Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins used a version of that argument to close the John Hopkins gender-identity clinic many years ago.

Thus, Bailey seems to realise that - despite his avowed support of transsexuals and of gay men - he is developing a generation of potential gender counsellors, legislators, and doctors who will see sex reassignment as a bad solution to a sexual aberration rather than as an effective "cure" for matching body and the brain's gender-identity.

Dr. Sarah Fox, who attended graduate school with Bailey at the University of Texas and was briefly a teaching assistant under one of

Bailey's most influential professors says that Bailey's apparent lack of concern comes as little surprise to her. Says Fox, "[The professor under whom she and Bailey studied] was a noted authority on supposed intelligence differences between the races and sexes. Irrespective of whether such differences may exist, I was very uncomfortable with how his teachings might be used and/or abused by those with social and political agendas. I discussed my apprehensions with him on at least two occasions. He stood firm that a scientist's job is to do the research and that it is up to others to sort out the ramifications. Bailey seems like a chip off the old block."

In her opinion concerning Bailey's book, Dr. Julie Maverick, [N.T.A.C. Vice-Chair](#), said, "This book is supported chiefly through "proof by blatant assertion". "The lack of scholarship and unwillingness to discuss opposing views strongly diminishes the scientific credibility of this book immediately. I rather doubt it would have passed rigorous peer review." Dr. Maverick noted, for example, the lack of credence afforded by [Prof. Bailey](#) to valid, peer-reviewed papers published in the 1990s that showed gay men and male-to-female transsexuals to have different brain chemistries and structures from each other (e.g. Zhou, [et al.](#), 1995, Nature). Those studies showed that the brain chemistry and structure of the transsexuals studied were much more like those of women than those of gay men.

Dr. Maverick also noted that studies of intersex biology and behaviour clearly demonstrate a wide range of physiological and psychological conditions within a transgender framework that do not fit the [Prof. Bailey's](#) scheme.

Dr. Robyn Walters, [N.T.A.C. Media Director](#) notes that, following a half dozen or more email exchanges in recent weeks on an international autogynephilia news list that counts Anne Lawrence and Michael Bailey as members, she has yet to receive an answer to the question of why many supporters of Blanchard's theory and Bailey's book are adamantly opposed to even the possibility that there could be another theory. A more comprehensive theory might include gender identity as well as autogynephilia and homosexuality as special cases.

This would be akin to the General Theory of Relativity including the Special Theory of Relativity. "Responses to this line of questioning have merely repeated the mantra that there are only two types of [M.T.F.](#) transsexual and that those who consider other explanations are "self-deceptive liars", Walters reported. "Relying solely on an unproven presumption of massive self-deception does not appear to be good science."

[N.T.A.C.](#) considers the National Academies' imprimatur assigned this book to be misplaced and ultimately harmful. Reliance on Bailey's work will likely hurt our community in terms of health care and in terms of legal, medical, and societal acceptance. [N.T.A.C.](#) considers that questionable science - potentially incomplete science - cannot remain unchallenged and must not alone form the basis on which future generations of transsexuals will be judged and treated. Therefore, [N.T.A.C.](#) urges the National Academies to review the research credibility behind *The Man Who Would Be Queen*. In addition, [N.T.A.C.](#) urges the National Academies and such organisations as the Gill Foundation, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Rikki Swinn Institute, Human Rights Campaign, and others to join forces in organising and funding an independent study to analyse and categorize transsexuals who disavow a history of homosexuality and who disavow eroticism as the reason for making their bodies anatomically congruent with their sense of gender-identity. The results of such a study, coupled with the theory of Ray Blanchard and the anecdotes of Michael Bailey, could well lead to a "Unified Theory of Transsexualism" and better represent and serve the diversity of our community.

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Willow Arune, in Canada, is one of the more articulate transgender people who is supporting the Blanchard/Bailey view. Her piece has been edited to fit the available space, but the gist of her argument has been preserved.

I suppose that I am disappointed. The first obvious error is that Bailey was presenting his own research. I do not know how many times Bailey has to say that he is reporting on Blanchard's research, not his own. He has stated it here, on his web page, and in his book. What Bailey is doing is, in essence, reporting on Blanchard's theory. There is no original research to speak of save for anecdotes. To me, that seems a rather large error to make. To put it another way, and not intending any disrespect, are you critical of the monkey or the organ grinder about the choice in music? According to the [N.T.A.C.](#), you deal with the monkey (no offence to Bailey).

I do not know how many times Bailey has to say that he is reporting on Blanchard's research, not his own. He has stated it here, on his web page, and in his book.

A reference to an email list in the news release refers to posts from Robyn (of [N.T.A.C.](#)) regarding her questions as to further research. The quote reads as follows:

"... following a half dozen or more email exchanges in recent weeks on an international autogynephilia news list that counts Anne Lawrence and Michael Bailey as members, she has yet to receive an answer to the question of why many supporters of Blanchard's theory and Bailey's book are adamantly opposed to even the possibility that there could be another theory ..." - Responses to this line of questioning have merely repeated the mantra that there are only two types of [M.T.F.](#) transsexual and that those who consider other explanations are self-deceptive liars," Walters reported. "Relying solely on an unproven presumption of massive self-deception does not appear to be good science".

Well now, is that really an accurate statement? I do not believe it is. This is not a course, but a voluntary list where members participate as they wish. Not replying to any post is not a positive or negative vote. It simply means that members elected not to respond for whatever reason. Those few that did may not be taken as representative - a large jump in reasoning, I believe. Had I replied to the "many posts of Robyn", I most certainly would have supported further research - as would many the majority - here I suspect. This

implies that we on this list are very close-minded. I do not think that is true. Again, I suggest Robyn do the homework I suggested to another member. Use a false name, go to any other transsexual lists, and say you support the theory 100 percent. See how "open-minded" the "other side" is. These are, in fairness, quibbles. But this press release came from N.T.A.C. and was intended to go national. Should it not be accurate? Further, if these two small points are not accurate, what reliance can be placed on the rest. I like Robyn and am glad she participates here, but each reference to this list was either wrong or used without consent. That says something about the overall release, in my opinion ... (and anything in this post, indeed, is my opinion) Now, several other matters that seemingly confirm the bias I see in these press releases ... "Joan Roughgarden reports on the lecture in San Francisco". She has every right to do so, in public as she did. But there are other views, some referred to on Bailey's web page. It is shading to report only the views you wish to support. I also look to the emotional rants of Ms. Conway. She may well be "well known". As to respect, not on this issue, not after her tirades and not while her own agenda remains undisclosed.

"Devoid of original research data". No question, the book is anecdotal. Bailey affirms this, again and again, and many times states that he is giving his opinion. He has stated again and again that it is not his research, but Blanchard's. This error comes up repeatedly.

As to this list, a jump in logic. If I post to this list, I do not draw any conclusion if nobody replies. This list is not a university course where one has to study and prepare. It is a drop-in kind of place and replies depend upon who is bored enough to participate and the phases of the moon.

All of us have other things to do, and we reply to those posts that catch our eyes and minds. I can write five pages of emotional angst and get no replies at all - that is the manner of lists such as this.

"Well known and respected transsexual women". Perhaps so. And so are several transsexual women who line up on the other side. Anne Lawrence, Maxine Peterson, and more. Granted, if you have a bias, you are entitled to mention only those that support what you are saying. Fair game - and I play it often. But do not leap to the conclusion that you have all the marbles.

"Cher speaks". - and did so first regarding this matter on Conway's webpage. Now, not to be unkind, but even in the book, Cher was not really "my cup of tea". No doubt she has changed after S.R.S., and she does do many good things. She served as an example, not a role model. That simply plays nicer than it really is.

"That don't match the reported feelings of many transsexuals". Indeed. Now, if we gather all those who think they are Napoleon, or God, or St. Michael, or Bill Gates, would those agree with how they are described by the professionals who treat them? The issue of "lying" has been raised over and over again by many writers, including Anne Bolyn. It is not a first with Bailey and indeed is so commonplace that almost any book on transsexuality mentions the concept and at least one is totally concerned with that issue.

"The Academy's imprint". Yes, and I assume they have a selection and peer review policy. A rigid one I suspect. But no, the "Well known and respected" transsexual women differ from that and they should know better. No matter that they come from other disciplines and have the condition or that those transsexual professionals within the field such as Lawrence and Peterson support the theory. "The inmates rule" seems to be the new rule. Only those who have the condition can understand? Unless you support the Raymond school of logic, there is not vast conspiracy at work here, no Matrix.

"little lasting notice". Well, not so fast. Support for Blanchard is present in many places, not just in Anne's office. Not to put too fine a point on it, Galileo's theory and Darwin's both took time to gain support. I am told that the theory has considerable support amongst those that treat us. Perhaps what was meant here was little lasting notice by the patients.

"they are women, in my opinion". I feel badly about this one. Bailey was responding to certain issues that occurred on our support group. Specifically that the Conway's tend to call those of us who accept autogynephilia in our lives "Males" or "men". That was the point being addressed. On another list, I wrote that I was legally a woman and was then accused of distorting the law as I also acknowledge my autogynephilia/transsexuality.

"A Pacific Northwest gender counsellor and a post-operative medical doctor recently stated, in private, words to the effect that "this bad idea will die off as it deserves to do if we just don't make a big deal of it." Had the publisher selected another title and cover art, had Conway restrained her emotions, and had the stampede not started, the concepts might well have been given" little lasting notice".
Reap as ye sow, or words to that effect?

Barnes offered a valuable opinion. He is to be commended.

"who will see sex reassignment as a bad solution to a sexual aberration rather than as an effective "cure". This is the case now and has been since Jorgensen touched back down in New York. To attribute this solely to Bailey is erroneous. The vast majority of medical doctors still see us that way and always have. Take a read through ""How Sex-Changed" or other such histories. It may not be right, but it is true.

Well, dear hearts, this is what N.T.A.C. has to offer on this matter. This is presumably the best of the best. As a politically motivated piece, it is good, in fact excellent. As a serious attempt to rebut Bailey, it is better than the rants of Conway, nicer than the web pages of Andrea, and about as neutral as Great Britain in the Iraq Invasion.

Yes, there are issues with the theory and Bailey's book. I can tear into those as well, and have. The point I see clearly is the effect this continuing war is having on our community and it's members. Would it not be better to drop the emotion of a Conway and the cleverly disguised bias of the N.T.A.C. and try to address the real issues it raises? Much seems to be made by Bailey's refusal to "come out and play". Andrea James is mad that he did not talk to her, for she lives only blocks away. Much is made of the apparent fact that Bailey did not reply to posts or suggestions for others, the well known and successful types. So? Firstly, Bailey wrote his book, not theirs. Secondly, after the "rabid" (my characterization) attacks he has faced, I would not go near them either!

Now, in closing, I like Robyn and the N.T.A.C.. I have done what I could to support the N.T.A.C. with the development of a new Canadian sister group. I am not attempting to demean anyone. But as I have since this war started, I am urging reflection and civility. Now this is not to say that I disagree with all of this release or agree with all of Blanchard. From the very first of this issue, I suggested different names for the classes and different placement in D.S.M.-IV. Type A and Type B seemed neutral to me, both under the designation of "Transsexual". There are other comments I would add to these. Oh yes, I favour more research into the subject. I also like apple pie.

Willow Arune

Two Transsexual Women Say Professor Didn't Tell Them They Were Research Subjects.

Two Transsexual Women who are featured in a controversial new book by the Chairman of North-Western University's Psychology Department have filed complaints with the University, saying that the Professor did not get their consent as participants. At issue is a book by J. Michael Bailey, *The Man Who Would Be Queen: The Science of Gender-Bending and Transsexualism*, which was published this year by the National Academies Press.

"The book contains numerous observations and reports of interviews with me," Anjelica KIELTYKA, one of the transsexual women, wrote in a letter this month to Bradley Moore, Northwestern's vice president for research. She added: "I did not receive, nor was I asked to sign, an informed-consent document."

In her letter, Ms. KIELTYKA wrote that she unwittingly became a "recruiter for [Mr. Bailey's] research subjects." During the 1990s, she brought several men who wanted to get sex-change operations to Mr. Bailey's office, where he agreed to sign the letters they needed to proceed with sex reassignment surgery.

After their surgeries, Ms. KIELTYKA said in an interview on Tuesday, Mr. Bailey befriended the women, socializing with them at Chicago bars and even attending one of their weddings. Stories about several of the transsexual women then appeared in Mr. Bailey's book, where they were identified by pseudonyms.

"At no time were any of us aware of our status with Dr. Bailey as research subjects," wrote Ms. KIELTYKA, who is called "Cher" in the book and agreed to allow *The Chronicle* to print her real name.

Another transsexual woman who wrote a letter of complaint to North-western this month provided a copy of it to *The Chronicle* on the condition that she remain anonymous. When she visited Mr. Bailey in 1998, she wrote, "my sole purpose ... was to obtain the most important PhD. level letter for my surgery."

Mr. Bailey, she charged, is guilty of misconduct because of his "misuse of the [sex-reassignment] interviews as research."

Many transsexual women have harshly criticised Mr. Bailey's book, saying it mischaracterises their motives for changing their sex. The common medical diagnosis, Gender Identity Disorder, holds that men who want to become women are women trapped in men's bodies. But Mr. Bailey writes that men who become women are really either extremely gay or sexual fetishists.

Under federal law, research universities must have institutional review boards that oversee all research involving human subjects. Even if a professor's work is not financed with federal funds, Northwestern requires all research "involving the collection of data from human subjects" to be submitted for possible I.R.B. scrutiny, according to guidelines posted on the university's website.

The I.R.B. determines whether a professor needs to obtain the informed consent of research subjects. That involves telling the subjects the purpose of the research, as well as its potential risks and benefits to them.

In a telephone interview, Mr. Bailey said he did not want to talk about the two women's assertions. But in an e-mail message to *The Chronicle*, the professor wrote that he had "never considered Anjelica *et al.* research subjects." He added: "I was writing about my own life experiences among transsexual women."

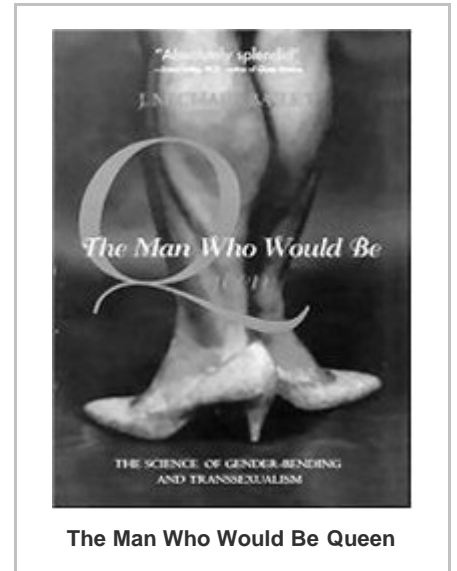
The jacket of Mr. Bailey's book, however, directly contradicts that statement. It says the work is "based on his original research" and is "grounded firmly in the scientific method."

According to federal regulations, a human subject is someone from whom a researcher obtains data through "interaction", which includes "communication or interpersonal contact between investigator and subject." As long as the identity of the subject is known to the researcher - even though the researcher may not make the person's identity public - the participant may be considered a "human subject."

William J. Skane, a spokesman for the National Academy of Sciences, which directs the National Academies Press, would not comment on the complaints.

A Northwestern spokesman said the university would "respond to the complaints using its established policies and procedures."

Many scholars believe that I.R.B.s, which were originally established to oversee medical research, have overstepped their bounds. "My



concern is the mission creep of I.R.B.s into the social sciences and even the humanities," says Matthew Finkin, a professor of law at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Mr. Finkin says that applying a biomedical model to other disciplines creates problems.

Joan C. Sieber, a professor of psychology at California State University at Hayward and an expert on how I.R.B.s operate, shares Mr. Finkin's concerns. She says it sounds as if Mr. Bailey's critics are using I.R.B. regulations "as a tool" to attack him.

But, she says, Mr. Bailey should have let Northwestern decide whether his work constituted research, whether people like Ms. Kieltyka should have been considered "human subjects," and whether he needed subjects' consent. If he did not inform the I.R.B.s members of his project, the professor "is on very shaky ground."

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Still more on the Barnum, Bailey and Blanchard Show!

In intellectual and paradigmatic battles, as in all wars, a moment can occur when the tides shift and the ultimate victors become apparent to those in the struggle. Such a moment occurred on 19th July 2003 in the struggle of transgender women to defeat "Baileyism", as reported by a source who came forward and sent the e-mail below.

The pivotal moment occurred when John Bancroft, the Director of the Kinsey Institute, confronted J. Michael Bailey in front of the entire International Academy of Sex Research (I.A.S.R.) conference audience and threw down the gauntlet: "Michael, I would caution you against calling this book "science" because I have read it ... and I can tell you it is NOT science."

This moment was eerily reminiscent of a similar moment back in 1954 when Joseph Welch faced Senator Joseph McCarthy and threw down the gauntlet with the statement: "Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last? Have you no sense of decency?"

The moment occurred at the high-water mark of Bailey's career as an academic psychologist. He had just been promoted as Chairman of the Psychology Department at Northwestern University. He had just had a book published by the National Academy Press, and was achieving considerable fame and notoriety due to the book being called the "latest science on transsexualism" by the National Academies. He was newly elevated to Secretary/Treasurer of the I.A.S.R., a major research community of sexologists. And he was the I.A.S.R. Conference Chairman on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Kinsey Institute in Bloomington, Indiana.

And yet, at the moment of his confrontation by John Bancroft described in the message below, Bailey was toppled from this peak. His fate was sealed. As our inside source tells us in a later e-mail, the similarity of Bailey to McCarthy is striking:

Lynn, I'm serious ... the rhetoric Bailey used in his presentation was almost McCarthyistic ... as in, "if you are a sexologist and you do not agree with my "science" then you are siding with the "identity radicals" and you are not "really" a sexologist." As Bancroft so eloquently noted, though, where is the science?

As is the case of all bullies, once openly challenged such McCarthyist types crumble. Anjelica Kieltyka had predicted this fate for J. Michael Bailey in her recent essay "The Sinking of the Queen". And now Bailey's colleagues, many of whom he has dissed over the years, will take him down for us. They are no longer afraid of him. In time he will fall as McCarthy fell, into ignominy.

The same fate will also inevitably befall the Blanchard-Lawrence-Zucker clique of sexologists who spawned the despicably homophobic and transphobic scientific virus that Bailey was trying to spread, with the help of his homophobic collaborator John Derbyshire, actively assisted by the publicist Robin Pinnel at the National Academies.

We owe a lot to Anjelica Kieltyka for having the courage to travel to Bloomington and valiantly attempt to alert I.A.S.R. attendees to the controversy surrounding Bailey's work. Although Bailey called the police and prevented Angie from giving our materials to all but a tiny handful of attendees, our words nevertheless got out, leading to John Bancroft's confrontation of Bailey.

We also owe a lot to our "I.A.S.R. friend" who courageously tells the story below of the inside events at the conference. Her message will undoubtedly open many minds among the scientists who have been standing at the sidelines as the news of these events now spreads, thanks to her.

Many scientists have been mesmerized up to now by the one sided war of institutionalized National Academy science used as terror against transgender women, uncertain of what to do to stop the obviously unfair assault on our very humanity. We predict that many more scientists will now come forward to confront Bailey, to confront the Blanchard-Lawrence-Zucker clique of sexologists, and indeed to confront the National Academies - declaring themselves instead for honesty and fairness in science, and insisting on honourable behaviour among the community of research scientists.

Lynn Conway 28th July 2003

Email Subject: I.A.S.R. Agrees ... "NOT science"
To: Lynn Conway

Dear Dr. Conway,

I am writing to you as a member of the International Academy of Sex Research, as a woman, and as a friend. Due to the volatile political situation in my field at this moment, I cannot reveal my identity. I can, however, offer my support to you in your ongoing effort to reveal the "truth" behind J. Michael Bailey's recent book, *The Man Who Would Be Queen*. Please understand that the following observations are my own personal ones, and are not meant to be on behalf of I.A.S.R.:

First and foremost, I wish to thank you for all the time and energy you have spent in your investigation. I promise you that we, as sex researchers, are also taking this issue very seriously. I wish to thank Anjelica for her attempt to distribute information at the recent I.A.S.R. conference in Bloomington. Unfortunately, I was not able to get a hold of her materials as I understand she was impolitely removed from the building before I had a chance to meet her. However, I can tell you what ensued behind closed doors at the conference during Bailey's "scientific" presentation "Identity Politics as a hindrance to Scientific Truth" on Saturday afternoon.

Obviously shaken from the recent events, Bailey offered a nearly unintelligible thirty minute outline of Blanchard's theory of transsexualism. He then briefly mentioned the transgender "attack" on science. He also tried to get sympathy from the audience by showing pictures of his children. Bailey ended his talk abruptly by walking away from the podium, stating there was not time for the scheduled "question and answer" period. The audience, however, was not in agreement with him.

John Bancroft, director of The Kinsey Institute and one of the most respected sexologists in the world, was the first to cross-examine Bailey. His words (which I directly quote) were: "Michael, I would caution you against calling this book "science" because I have read it ... and I can tell you it is NOT science."

Complete silence fell over the room. It was obvious that, indeed, a new era has finally dawned on sexual science and the study of transsexualism. While several people in the room at the meeting, including Ken Zucker, support Bailey and his "scientific" speculations, I can tell you that the vast majority of the scientific community does not. In fact, at the end of the meeting in Bloomington, it was mysteriously announced that Bailey has "vacated" (?) his position as Secretary of I.A.S.R. The new incoming Secretary will be renowned psychologist Lucia O'Sullivan who specializes in adolescent sexuality, including L.G.B.T. Is this a sign that the "good old boys" days in academe are numbered? You tell me.


In short, Lynn, I want you to know that many - if not most - current sexologists support a move away from the archaic views of transsexualism that Bailey represents. Please know that we are with you in your quest for the truth. I hope to someday be able to thank you in person for everything you have done but, in the meantime, please accept my silent and sincere support until that day comes. Thank you sister.

Footnote:

Several of the subjects referred to in "*The Man Who Would Be Queen*" are suing J. Michael Bailey for having used them as subjects for research without informing them of his intention to do so. Use of human subjects for research in this way is a serious breach of academic and research ethics.

One of the subjects who is taking action is the one referred to in the book as "Cher".

The Man Who Would Be Queen Controversy

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Further Information

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Born Transsexual

norrie's ever evolving understanding of hir gender identity

by norrie mAy-welby

Article appeared in Polare magazine: August 2003 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015



norrie mAy-welby

At one time I had come to the conclusion that my own (trans)gender situation was most likely the result of the circumstances of my early childhood, but I have recently been swayed to the opinion that it is most likely the result of pre-natal or genetic circumstances.

... I identified solely as female, until an unfortunate incident where I was targeted as a female, and that ended only when I was identified by my attackers as trans.

Years ago, following sex-change surgery, I identified solely as female, until an unfortunate incident where I was targeted as a female, and that ended only when I was identified by my attackers as trans. I made a lot of personal changes following this incident, and only recently have I been able to revisit and

re-address the changes I had made. One of those changes was that I had shifted my identity from being a normal female to being assertively transgender. Yet, once I was able to process the moment of trauma from a safe perspective, it did seem that I had a 'core' gender, which if not exclusively feminine, was very strongly biased to being more female than male.

The other thing that prompted my reassessment was an article in *New Scientist*, which indicated that gender is influenced not only pre-natally, but even before the formation of gonads (testes or ovaries) in the developing mammalian embryo.

And the more I thought about it, the more I realised that while I could explain the formation of my female gender identity (and/or a strong early identification of my mother as the appropriate role model for me) as a response to certain circumstances, the fact remains that most other children with typical male chromosomes did not choose the response I did, indicating a strong possibility of predisposing factors.

I was thinking about these things on the flight to Perth for the International Congress on Sex and Gender, hosted by the International Foundation for Androgynous Studies. By the time I reached Perth, I had reached the conclusion that there was a 99.9 percent probability that I had a congenital intersex condition of the brain that resulted in my being born with a predisposition to assume a female gender, despite having male genitals.

This line of thought has been reached by many other transsexuals long before me. Yet when I arrived in Perth, I found in the conference program a diatribe from an Intersex activist strongly opposed to such a point of view. This person apparently wants to claim 'Intersex' solely for people with a discrete range of conditions which excludes transsexuals by definition.

There are, of course, political considerations for including or excluding transsexuality from intersexuality. Intersex people may find it easier to gain public support and sympathy if it is believed that their condition is one they were born with (that is, a brain with an intersex condition), rather than one they chose.

I have no wish to colonise any other group, or to claim their experience as my own. I was not born with ambiguous genitalia, nor did I suffer any infant genital mutilation or other non-consensual gender treatment (apart from the discomfort of having my gender expression policed to act male and not female). However, having assessed the likelihood of my having been born with an intersex condition as extremely probable, it is not unreasonable for me to identify as intersex.

Activist Tony Briffa disagrees with this point of view, and said so clearly in his abstract for the conference. Having only recently come to a strong identity as intersex, and perhaps still vulnerable from processing the trauma that had led me to reject a congenital gender condition, I wasn't yet ready to confront him when I first saw him at the congress.

There was a photo organised for all the intersex people attending the conference. Feeling like I really belonged to this group, but unwilling yet to confront the anger of those who wanted me excluded, I simply stood on my head, a short distance from the group being photographed. It simply seemed like a way to make the world make more sense for me.


(As a child I often felt more at ease in inverted postures, imagining myself walking on the clouds or the ceiling, The upside down world was one of my favourite havens.)

I was reassured later during the conference when Mickey Diamond, a leading medical authority in the sex and gender field, told me that it seemed 'most likely' that it will soon be scientifically found that transsexuality is caused by a physical pre-natal intersex condition.

Well, either we (transsexuals) are all born with a condition that causes (or strongly influences) our gender, or else we're all just very naughty children (being contrary for the sake of it). And, frankly, I don't think that's very likely, do you?

And no one, not even a hard working and high achieving activist, has the right to say what identity other people may or may not have. The community of gender or sex diverse people has suffered a great deal of trauma collectively on the grounds of identity, and understandable though it is for many of us to act out that trauma, it is neither helpful nor acceptable for us to perpetuate it by doing so.


norrie mAy-welby

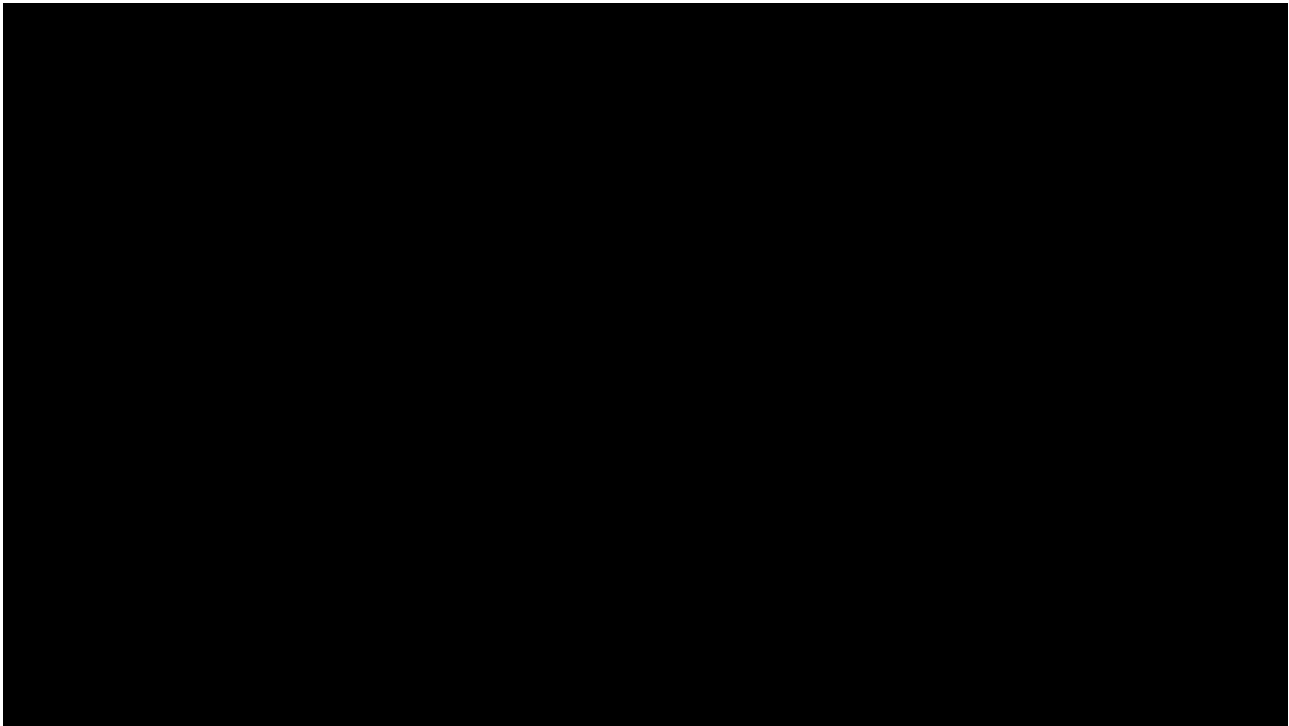
From [Wikipedia](#)  norrie mAy-welby became the first person in the world to be officially declared to be neither a man nor a woman, making Australia the first country in the world to recognise a "non-specified" gender.



Born in Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland, as a male and moving to Perth, Western Australia at the age of seven, norrie underwent male-to-female reassignment surgery in 1989, but later found that being a woman was not what zie felt like either. Zie moved to Sydney in the early 1990s. Doctors stated, in January 2010, that norrie was a neuter, neither male nor female, as hir psychological self-image was as a neuter, hir hormones were not the same as a male's or female's, and zie had no sex organs.

One of hir worries about being labelled male or female is that zie now looks like neither and is physically neither as well. Because of this, if hir passport states gender as being one or the other, it is possible that zie might be detained for not fitting what the gender field says zie should look like. This was one of norrie's reasons for seeking recognition as gender neutral. Of hir own sexuality, norrie has stated: "I'd be the perfect androgyne if I was completely omnisexual, but I'm only monosexual. Just think of me as a big queen girl."

norrie has been an integral part of the Gender Centre in many ways since moving from Western Australia many years ago. [Visit hir website for more about norrie](#)  Meanwhile, this excellent video has appeared on You Tube, an interview with norrie in which zie explains her views on many topics



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Book Review: The Man Who Would Be Queen

The Science of Gender-Bending and Transsexualism

Reviewed by Dr. Tracie O'Keefe D.C.H.

Article appeared in Polare magazine: August 2003 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015



The Man Who Would Be Queen,
by J. Michael Bailey

The Man Who Would Be Queen: The Science of Gender-Bending and Transsexualism

by J. Michael Bailey
Published by Joseph Henry Press
(2003)
I.S.B.N.-13 978 0309084185

What became evident right from the beginning however, was that his knowledge was at such a level that I would have failed him as an undergraduate student.

Before receiving a review copy of this book I had already received many emails from different parts of the world from members of the sex and gender diverse community who were outraged by its publication. I did, however, try to give it a fair chance both from an intellectual and academic stance.


Bailey is a professor of psychology at Northwestern University in the U.S.A. and the promotion of the book is very keenly centred on the premise that he uses scientific methodology in both his research and his discourses. Being a social scientist myself I was fully open to his presentations on the origins of homosexuality and transsexualism. What became evident right from the beginning, however was that his knowledge was at such a level that I would have failed him as an undergraduate student.

His literature search is profoundly out of date and he relies heavily on Richard Green's studies of feminine boys to argue that feminine boys were more likely to become homosexual or sometimes transsexual. But Green's studies are now some thirty years-old. Bailey also maintained that Blanchard was clever in his interpretation that primary (development at a young age) transsexuals were in fact homosexual men who wanted to change gender to attract men. He also jumped on Blanchard's and Anne Lawrence's bandwagon of some transsexuals being deluded heterosexual men who were only able to connect sexually by imposing a female form on their on body images during sexual fantasy (autogynephilia).

The book focuses on what Bailey calls male-to-female transsexuals with very little respect for those people's female identities. Sadly his research is so paltry and tragically inadequate that he seems basically to have gleaned nearly all his information from transsexual prostitutes, both pre-operative and post-operative, whom he evidently saw as sad losers. Any sex researchers worth their salt would have known that this was the fundamental mistake Kinsey made in compiling his studies of Americans' sexual habits over sixty years ago. Certainly many transsexuals are forced into the sex industry through the poverty trap of marginalisation but they are no longer the greater part of the transsexual population in many countries. This kind of research error on Bailey's part is indicative of his attempting to make generalisations on humankind by studying isolated populations. Many of his subjects were solicited from America's down market nightclubs.

The majority of Bailey's studies were based around explaining sexual behaviour and sex and gender-identity as a deviation of the male and female bi-polar model. It is unfortunate that an academic should put out misleading work such as this and confer authoritative status on it. I would be terrified to think that one of my young naive students might come across such a poor publication and completely erase the progress that genuine thinkers of sex, gender diversity and sexual freedom have made in the past thirty years. I imagine this book will do well in the recycling bins if the sex and gender diverse community are lucky, before it does harm to too many.

The Man Who Would Be Queen Controversy

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Hysterectomy and Associated Risks

Possible After Effects of Total or Sub-Total Hysterectomy

by Beth, Trans-Femme

Article appeared in Polare magazine: August 2003 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015

With great interest I have observed several online and real-time discussions regarding hysterectomy within the trans community, the wimmin's community and the health care community. I find only the wimmin's community to be realistic with regard to the short and long-term sequelae and their overall impact on the patient's post-operative quality of life. Now ... to translate that into English ... most of the F.T.M.s and S.O.s don't seem to have a clue about the negative possible after-effects of total or sub-total hysterectomy ... and the doctors gloss over them quickly, preferring instead to focus on the preventative aspects of this surgical procedure. I'll grant you that any organ that is surgically removed will no longer be a source of potential problems, but they fail to mention the problems that can come as a result of surgical intervention:

... most of the F.T.M.s and S.O.s don't seem to have a clue about the negative possible after-effects of total or sub-total hysterectomy ...

Basic anatomical structures I will refer to include: uterus, cervix, vagina, ovaries, and Fallopian tubes.

A hysterectomy is the surgical removal of the uterus or womb. A total hysterectomy is the surgical removal of the uterus and cervix. Total hysterectomy with bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy includes the removal of the Fallopian tubes and ovaries in addition to the uterus and cervix. A radical hysterectomy is a procedure that includes uterus, cervix, tubes, ovaries, upper vagina, and some lymph nodes and is usually used in treating cancer and other pathological conditions. Vaginectomy (colpectomy) is not part of a hysterectomy of any type. It is a procedure that is normally performed only in 'bio-women' for conditions such as cancer or as treatment for vaginal prolapse. It can also be part of a sex reassignment surgery such as phalloplasty or metoidioplasty, but is not, repeat not, part of a 'normal' hysterectomy.

In addition, there are several types of surgical procedures used by gynaecologists/surgeons. An abdominal hysterectomy is performed through a horizontal incision in the lower abdomen. Most of the time the small resulting scar will be covered by pubic hair (after it grows back from the pre-op shave) and is not noticeable. You may know women whose incisions are vertical. Usually this type of incision is only used if the horizontal type cannot be used for some reason or if the woman has had previous abdominal surgery with a resulting vertical scar. In that case, the incision may be made in the same place as the existing scar to prevent further scarring.

Vaginal hysterectomy is the surgical removal of the uterus through the vagina. In addition, today's surgeons also perform this type with an assist from a laparoscope that enables them to see internal pelvic structures while using the vaginal approach. I have personally cared for a number of both abdominal and vaginal hysterectomy patients as the charge nurse on a peri-operative care hospital unit.

I will now address the risks associated with the procedures described. Of course, the risks that come with all surgery using general anaesthesia are quite serious and are always listed on surgical consent forms. These risks include such problems as infection, bleeding, drug reactions, blood clots, loss of sensation, loss of limb function, paralysis, stroke, brain damage, heart attack or death. While serious and worthy of much consideration, these risks are not the intended subject of this article.

If you have concerns regarding these risks or if you have had problems with anaesthesia in the past, you should definitely discuss this with both your surgeon and anaesthetist.

What I would like to address are the sequelae of hysterectomy. These include:

- » Injury to the bowel or rectum;
- » Injury to the bladder or urethra;
- » Haemorrhage that may require a blood transfusion;
- » Wound infection;
- » Urinary tract infection;
- » Incontinence;
- » Urinary retention requiring continued use of a catheter;
- » Bowel obstruction;
- » Vaginal pain; and
- » Fistula (abnormal communication) between the vagina and bladder or rectum

In addition, urinary frequency, stress incontinence, and nocturia are known post-operative complications of this surgery that are experienced by patients.

Some of these patients report that these complications persist indefinitely.

In fact, any surgical procedure that involves a female's reproductive system exposes that patient to risks of damage to the bladder and urinary system. Any damage to associated nerves and muscles can cause urinary incontinence.

Adhesions appear to be another common problem in patients who have undergone this surgery. This internal scar tissue can attach itself to internal organs and cause major problems with anything to which they adhere. This will sometimes cause the need for additional surgeries including a common procedure called 'lysis of adhesions' which can in and of itself predispose the patient to further adhesions which can lead to the need for further surgery ... and on and on in a spiralling quagmire of expensive and painful medical intervention.

Rectocele is another problem directly caused by hysterectomy that patients may not be aware of. This condition, in which the front wall of the rectum bulges down into the vagina, sometimes causes faecal incontinence and other related problems. Medical treatment consists primarily of increasing dietary fibre and fluids, but troublesome cases require surgical repair.

While I realise that many F.T.M.s would like to have 'bottom surgery' or what is otherwise called sex reassignment (genital) surgery (S.R.S.), reality is such that few actually do this. The reasons include the poor outcome with regard to functionality inherent in the various techniques (i.e. phalloplasty, metoidioplasty, etc.) and the high financial burden of the cost of these procedures that usually falls on the patient without any assistance from insurance coverage.

So the argument that the vaginectomy will eliminate any risks associated with prolapse of either rectum or bladder into the vagina cannot happen to F.T.M.s as they will undergo vaginectomy is mostly wishful thinking. While I wish that every F.T.M. who desires S.R.S. could have this done, it is not going to happen any time soon. The medical resources in my country (U.S.A.) are stretched to the maximum as a result of budget cutbacks and other 'small government' schemes. Combine the shrinking health care budget with the virtual blank check given to our insurance companies and Health Maintenance organisations (H.M.O.s) with regard to selecting areas of coverage, and reality is such that most F.T.M.s will not be undergoing these surgical procedures. It is therefore important that the sequelae associated with female-bodied persons that have a vagina be understood before any consent to treatment is given.

These are not new ideas. Common sense and a practical knowledge of basic surgical technique and insight into human frailty mandate that there can and will be errors in the surgical suite. I am not suggesting that any or all of these complications can or will happen to all patients ... just that they are possibilities that every potential hysterectomy patient needs to be aware of in order to give fully informed consent to the procedure. For those who are not familiar with the term 'informed consent', let me point out that this is a legal term that has a specific meaning. I will just say here that it means that you have a right to fully informed choices with regard to your health care and any treatments or procedures given/done to you. This is your legal right. Do not sign it away without doing your homework.

I fully acknowledge the fact that many F.T.M.s want a hysterectomy for psychological reasons. I recognise that mental health needs are often as or more pressing than physical health concerns. It should be the right of every F.T.M. to have a hysterectomy with salpingo-oophorectomy if they so desire. I fervently believe that. I am just concerned at the flippant attitude with which the risks of this procedure are dismissed and the assumption that every F.T.M. wants/needs this done. Nothing is further from the truth. Most of the F.T.M.s I have known online and in real time who did not want the procedure done for one reason or another are afraid to voice their concerns with their 'brothers' because of possible ridicule, misunderstanding, or doubt as to the veracity of their status as F.T.M.s. Thus as a nurse I chose to articulate these concerns even though I am not an F.T.M., but am an S.O. of many years standing who shares hope, life, and dreams with my beloved Sam who is finally coming into his rightful place in the world after a successful transition with me by his side every step of the way.

Finally, let me just say that I am not in any way attempting to speak for any F.T.M.s, but rather I speak as a health caregiver who is concerned for the safety of those from within my community who choose this procedure as a part of their transition process. I wish them success and a trouble free transition unencumbered by any major problems. Transition is difficult enough even when you are armed with good information and plentiful resources. I hope I have contributed in some way to that by providing this information.

Polare Magazine is published quarterly in Australia by The Gender Centre Inc., which is funded by the Department of Family & Community Services under the S.A.A.P. program and supported by the N.S.W. Health Department through the AIDS and Infectious Diseases Branch. Polare provides a forum for discussion and debate on gender issues. Unsolicited contributions are welcome, the editor reserves the right to edit such contributions without notification. Any submission which appears in Polare may be published on our internet site. Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, The Gender Centre Inc., the Department of Family & Community Services or the N.S.W. Department of Health.

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(The Gender Centre advise that this article may not be current and as such certain content, including but not limited to persons, contact details and dates may not apply. Where legal authority or medical related matters are cited, responsibility lies with the reader to obtain the most current relevant legal authority and/or medical publication.)

Another First

Jessica & Andrew Tie the Knot

by Andrew Blair

Article appeared in Polare magazine: August 2003 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015



As far as we are aware this was the first legal wedding between two transsexuals.

On the 31st May 2003 Jessica and I chose to legalise our relationship which began with a Commitment Service in the Wayside Chapel on 21st August 1999 followed by a Nuptial Mass in full Ecumenical Catholic splendour.

The wedding and reception was attended by people who have known Jessica and me practically all our lives and have stood with us through the changes, the cross-dressing right through the surgery to now ...

We sent out invitations to all who had attended the original non-legal ceremony and left leaflets in various other places to give anyone who wanted to the opportunity to see history in the making.

As far as we are aware this was the first legal wedding between two transsexuals. We could just as easily have had a civil ceremony but we wanted to be married in our faith community. It was a first for the E.C.C.A., too - their first wedding. Earlier this year they had inducted me into the Seminary and had baptised a baby and given first Holy Communion to our second youngest member of this congregation - but ours was the first wedding of any kind.

We were married in the Pro-cathedral of St. John the Beloved of the Ecumenical Catholic Church of Australia by the Bishop Primus himself.

Jessica's matron of honour was Shelly, who is one of the respite workers who takes care of Jessica each Thursday while I am working. Karl, a friend of ours gave her away - mainly so that she would not need her white cane to negotiate the aisle.

My best man was Richard, English like me and who first met me the year before I went into transition while I was a Drag King named, - well Andrew of course!

For those of you who will visit the web - The Celebrant was the Right Reverend Bishop Ronald Langham, with Fr. John Rolley as M.C., the Acolyte was the Reverend Father Deacon Peter who has since been priested, and the Server was Br. Luke.

Karl who has a terrific voice also doubled-up as our Cantor for the afternoon and led the congregation in the responses. We didn't have enough hymn books for everyone so we decided to have a Liturgy using responses and some Taizé which all seemed to know.

For the liturgically minded - we used the Readings of the Day and the first reading was read for us by Jean who is someone who has known me, woman and man, for twenty years at least, we taught Scripture together and were both Lectors at St. John's Campbelltown, our children grew up there together.

Mary, from St. Luke's Stanmore read the second reading - Mary has come to understand and accept quite a lot from me in the three years she has known me. She used to be quite homophobic, though what the two things - 'transsexual' and 'homosexual' have to do with each other I'm not sure - except I used to be a lesbian.

The wedding and reception was attended by people who have known Jessica and me practically all our lives and have stood with us through the changes, the cross-dressing right through the surgery to now and who are still with us. Real friends are the ones who remain when everyone else has departed.

Friends from Acceptance Sydney provided bottles of bubbles for everyone and we were well and truly bubbled all down the aisle to the traditional wedding march.

It is very sad that only one member of either of our families attended - Kevin, partner of Jessica's cousin, Ron. We had asked him if he might give Jessica away since her father passed away some years back but he was not sure he would be on time since he came there from work hence Karl was happy to step into the breach.

My mother was diagnosed with leukaemia the Wednesday before the wedding and both my sons with their wife/male partners and my

granddaughters decided to go and visit her on the very day of the wedding. They seemed to think that visiting her on that very day was a good enough reason not to attend the wedding.

It has been difficult even for my gay son to come to terms with the changes in my life and now that Jessica really is the wicked step-mother rather than just my partner it has given them something more to think about. The saddest thing is that I don't get to see my grandchildren - well it seems that taking time to come to terms is a family trait since it took me thirty-one years from marriage to a male - to marriage to a female. I guess that eventually when David is a grandfather he might have come to terms with me.

Jessica and I spent four days and three nights at Lightning Ridge where we had a wonderful time and found some opal potch as well.

Since we have been back we have gained two copies of the same Medicare card with Jessica on it as my number two and likewise joint pension cards and a \$29.00 N.S.W. Marriage Certificate which is the one legally required for any documentation requiring one in the future. We also purchased a 'Flora and Fauna' Special one for \$42.00 which has a platypus right above our Wedding Date.

As a person of Aboriginal descent the platypus is Jessica's Totem and that makes the commemorative certificate all the more special. It now hangs on the wall opposite her commemorative birth certificate purchased in 2000.

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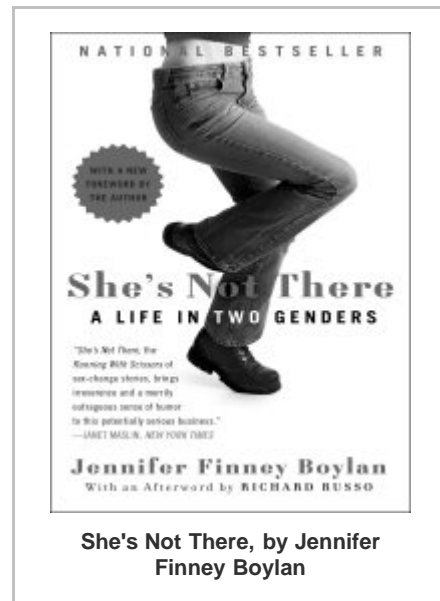
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Book Review: She's Not There

A Life in Two Genders

Reviewed by Janet Mason, New York Times

Article appeared in Polare magazine: August 2003 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015



She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders

by Jennifer Finney Boylan
Published by Bantam Books (2003)
I.S.B.N.-13 978 0767914291

James Finney Boylan and Richard Russo were best friends and office mates at Colby College in Maine. Both were engaged in impressive creative endeavours. Mr. Russo had written the splendid Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *Empire Falls*. But James took on what was arguably the more ambitious project by transforming himself into Jenny.

She's Not There, the *Running With Scissors* of sex-change stories, brings irreverence and a merrily outrageous sense of humour to this potentially serious business.

"Boylan," Mr. Russo writes in an email message reprinted here, with a tone very like the author's, "I have always known, and never doubted, that if called you'd be right there. I had no idea you'd show up in heels, but that's hardly the point, is it?"

Another Boylan friend with similar aplomb remarked: "I don't see why you get to be a woman just because you think you are. I mean, what if you thought you were a cat? Would you walk around with little paste-on whiskers and a tail?"

As James Boylan, a talented novelist, the author, now co-chairwoman of Colby's English department, had written (in *The Planets*): "People's personalities were pretty much finished developing by the time they were thirteen years old. Then you spent the eighty years trying to cover it up." As it turned out, this came from the heart.

James had fallen in love with a woman called Grace here (and Deirdre in earlier Boylan books) and become a father. But like other transsexuals, he always sensed a certain confusion. He had begun wearing women's clothes at home. ("No pearls before five," he says his wife uneasily warned him.) Phrases like "an eggshell cardigan" had a special resonance for him. His birthday "was also the birthday of Kris Kristofferson and Meryl Streep, both of whom I later resembled, although not at the same time."

He felt out of place in a man's body. Fortunately, as the book puts it, "In spite of the nearly constant sense that I was the wrong person, I was filled with a simultaneous hopefulness and cheer that most people found annoying."

Eventually he felt compelled to investigate his medical options. And as *She's Not There* makes clear, the decision to change genders was easier on the author than on those around him. "You're asking me to accept a fundamental change in the one person in the world of whom I could honestly say, 'I wish he would change nothing'" he says Mr. Russo told him.

"I guess that's a compliment," James answered.

"Russo shrugged," the book reports, and said: "It used to be." *She's Not There*, which takes its name from the Zombies' song because the author is that rare rock 'n' rolling transsexual English department chief who plays *Brown-Eyed Girl* in a bar band, is tender as well as funny. Determined as she was to morph into a willowy blonde, Jennifer remained aware of creating problems. But Grace adapted. The children now have a parent they call "Maddy" (as a Mommy-Daddy hybrid). And the friendship with Mr. Russo, which is strained during part of this account, is secure enough for him to have contributed an afterward to the book.

There Mr. Russo makes the good point that his friend's sex-change and fiction writing may be fundamentally at odds. The James who became Jennifer, feeling that this was her destiny, might bring a different set of imperatives to her work. "Novelists continue to hold people accountable for their actions and the consequences of those actions," Mr. Russo writes. "This is the fiction writer's manifesto, because without it, there's no story."


With or without free will, there's quite a story here. Ms. Boylan tells it with disarming humour and a sharp eye for some of the absurdities of her situation. Thinking as a woman, she ends phrases in timid question marks ("I'm Jenny Boylan?") and starts thinking she ought to lose weight. Taking both oestrogen and a drug to lower her testosterone level, she explains: "Well, one pill makes you

want to talk about relationships and eat salad. The other pill makes you dislike the Three Stooges."

She announces her situation to her Colby colleagues in a "coming-out letter - which contained equal measures of Joseph Campbell, John Barth and Ann Landers." She appreciates the way that people in her situation can become extremely self-centred. "It does no good to tell a transsexual that this is all old ground and to get over yourself," she writes, "any more than it does to tell this to a fifteen-year-old. There is nothing as annoying as someone for whom the world is new. At least to those for whom the world is old."


Although this story is by no means pain-free (one friend commits suicide), Ms. Boylan places her emphasis elsewhere. What she accomplishes, most entertainingly, is to draw the reader into extremely strange circumstances as if they were utterly normal. It's easy to feel, as Mr. Russo apparently did, when being told by his friend's doctor that sexual reassignment surgery and novel writing require similar precision. "Rick rubbed his chin," Ms. Boylan writes, "having never realised how much his work and Dr. Schrang's had in common."

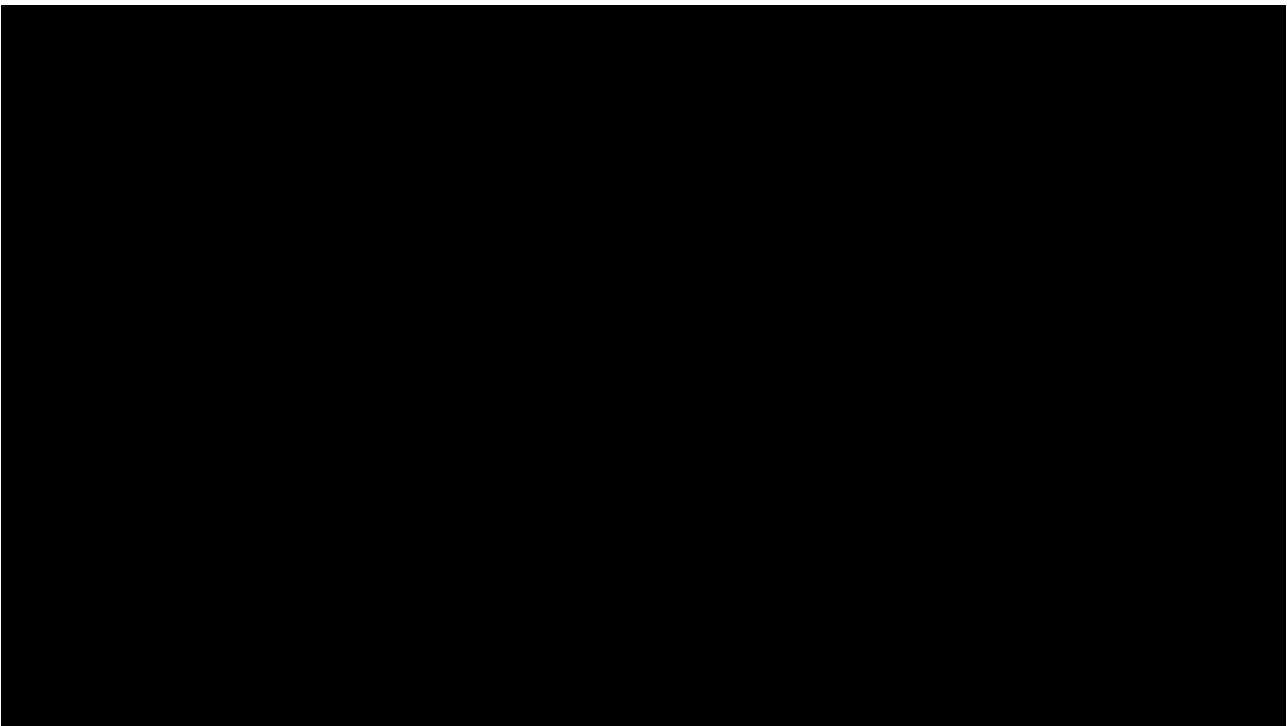
Jennifer Finney Boylan

From Jennifer's comprehensive website "[There from Here](#)"  Transgendered Author Jennifer Finney Boylan is a widely praised author and professor. She is an activist for L.G.B.T. people in general and trans men and women in particular, through her writing as well as through her involvement as a director of G.L.A.A.D. She supports the expansion of our scientific understanding of gender through her service on the Board of Trustees of the Kinsey Institute. And she advocates for storytellers of all stripes, in part through her support of the PEN American Centre, and, above all, through her work with her students at Colby College in Maine, where she has been part of the English Department for twenty-five years.



Jenny is the author of thirteen books – three novels, a collection of short stories, three memoirs, and six young adult books, four of them written under a pseudonym. Published in 2013, her latest book *Stuck in the Middle with You*, a memoir about the differences between fatherhood and motherhood. *Stuck in the Middle* holds that "having a father who became a mother has helped my sons, in turn, become better men".

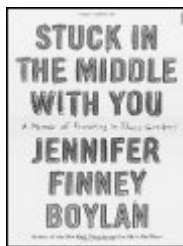
Jenny's memoir, *She's Not There*, published by Doubleday in 2003, was one of the first bestselling works by a transgendered American; until 2001 she published under the name James Boylan. *She's Not There* was released in a new and expanded edition in April 2013, and contained a new preface, and two new afterwords – one written by herself, bringing the story up to date, and one written by Jenny's wife "Grace", about the couple's lives together and the love she and Jenny share. Currently in its eleventh printing, *She's Not There* is popular both as a textbook in high schools and colleges as well as with reader's groups. Read more at Jennifer's comprehensive website "[There from Here](#)" 



In this 2012 video, Jenny Boylan gives the keynote address for the Maine Women Writers Collection conference "Identity, Memory, Testimony". A number of other excellent videos of Jenny also appear on You Tube.

Stuck in the Middle with You: A Memoir of Parenting in Three Genders
Author: Jennifer Finney Boylan and Anna Quindlen
Publisher: Crown (2013)
I.S.B.N.-13 978-0767921763.

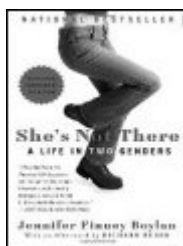
From Amazon Books:  *New York Times* bestseller and acclaimed author Jennifer Finney Boylan



returns with a remarkable memoir about gender and parenting, including incredible interviews discussing gender, how families are shaped, and the difficulties and wonders of being human.

A father for ten years, a mother for eight, and for a time in between, neither, or both), Jennifer Finney Boylan has seen parenthood from both sides of the gender divide. When her two children were young, Boylan came out as transgender, and as Jenny transitioned from a man to a woman and from a father to a mother, her family faced unique challenges and questions. In this thoughtful, tear-jerking, hilarious memoir, Jenny asks what it means to be a father, or a mother, and to what extent gender shades our experiences as parents. "It is my hope", she writes, "that having a father who became a woman in turn helped my sons become better men".

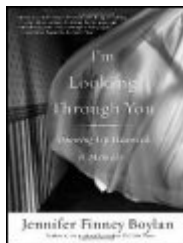
Through both her own story and incredibly insightful interviews with others, including Richard Russo, Edward Albee, Ann Beattie, Augusten Burroughs, Susan Minot, Trey Ellis, Timothy Kreider, and more, Jenny examines relationships with fathers and mothers, people's memories of the children they were and the parents they became, and the many different ways a family can be. Followed by an Afterword by Anna Quindlen that includes Jenny and her wife discussing the challenges they've faced and the love they share, *Stuck in the Middle with You* is a brilliant meditation on raising – and on being – a child.



She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders
Author: Jennifer Finney-Boylan
Publisher: Publisher: Bantam Books (2003)
I.S.B.N.-13 978-1863254267.

From Amazon Books: 📖 The provocative bestseller *She's Not There* is the winning, utterly surprising story of a person changing genders. By turns hilarious and deeply moving, Jennifer Finney Boylan explores the territory that lies between men and women, examines changing friendships, and rejoices in the redeeming power of family. Told in Boylan's fresh voice, *She's Not There* is about a person bearing and finally revealing a complex secret. As James evolves into

Jennifer in scenes that are by turns tender, startling, and witty, a marvellously human perspective emerges on issues of love, sex, and the fascinating relationship between our physical and intuitive selves. *She's Not There* shines a light on the often confounding process of accepting ourselves.



I'm Looking Through You: Growing Up Haunted: A Memoir
Author: Jennifer Finney-Boylan
Publisher: Broadway Books (2008)
I.S.B.N.-13 978-0767921756.

From Amazon Books: 📖 From the bestselling author of *She's Not There* comes another buoyant, unforgettable memoir — *I'm Looking Through You* is about growing up in a haunted house ... and making peace with the ghosts that dwell in our hearts.

For Jennifer Boylan, creaking stairs, fleeting images in the mirror, and the remote whisper of human voices were everyday events in the Pennsylvania house in which she grew up in the 1970s. But these weren't the only spectres beneath the roof of the mansion known as the "Coffin House". Jenny herself — born James — lived in a haunted body, and both her mysterious, diffident father and her wild, unpredictable sister would soon become ghosts to Jenny as well.

I'm Looking Through You is an engagingly candid investigation of what it means to be "haunted". Looking back on the spirits who invaded her family home, Boylan launches a full investigation with the help of a group of earnest, if questionable, ghostbusters. Boylan also examines the ways we find connections between the people we once were and the people we become. With wit and eloquence, Boylan shows us how love, forgiveness, and humour help us find peace — with our ghosts, with our loved ones, and with the uncanny boundaries, real and imagined, between men and women.

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