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# Testosterone and F.T.M. Sex Drive

## F.T.M. Adolescence

by Matt Kailey

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Everyone's sex drive is different, and everyone responds differently to this particular biological force. So, although I am posting this in response to a question from one of the readers of my

column, I need to make it clear that my experience with testosterone is my experience with testosterone. I have heard similar stories from other trans men, but they will have to speak for themselves.

***One of the most interesting things about the effects of testosterone and transmen is that we have something else to compare it to. Non-trans men do not.***

One of the most interesting things about the effects of testosterone and transmen is that we have something else to compare it to. Non-trans men do

not. And non-trans women do not (which is why I wrote a column on "It's the testosterone: what straight women should know").

When I started testosterone a dozen years ago, I expected my sex drive to increase. The "horror" stories are part of transman lore, passed down from generation to generation as we all gear up for male adolescence, no matter how old we are, and take out a line of credit at the adult toy store.

And it did increase, within about four days of my first shot, and I basically squirmed a lot for two years before I got used to it. But I was planning for that. Here are the things that took me by surprise:

- I became very focused on one thing - the goal, the prize, the end. That doesn't mean that I wasn't able to "make love". What it does mean is that there was a madness in my method, because it was goal-oriented. There was a light at the end of the tunnel. There was a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. There was an unguarded hoop just waiting for a slam dunk - score!
- It became very visual. I saw it, I wanted it - whatever it was. This was a new experience for me, because, in the past, I had not been aroused so much by pictures and body parts (or pictures of body parts) as I had been by words - erotic descriptions, stories, and things said to me.
- It became very visceral - instinctual - with a need to take care of it. It had very little to do with romance, or even an attraction that made sense intellectually. You're hungry, you eat. There was a matter-of-factness about it, especially when I was by myself. Hmmm ... peanut butter sandwich sounds good. Okay, done. Let's move on.

And that was how it changed. And I need to add some caveats here.

The first is to remind everyone that this was my experience. I cannot speak for anyone else.

The second is to point out that there are, no doubt, both men and women who have experienced or do experience something very similar. We can speak in general terms about the differences between men and women (and I personally believe, in general terms, that there are differences). But those generalities cannot be assumed to apply to all individual men and women.

The third is to totally refute the claims that have been made over the years that "all men are rapists if given the opportunity" and similar accusations.

I think this is utter nonsense, as is the idea that men "can't control themselves".

And last, these things change. Either they eventually become less intense or we adjust. We are going through a male adolescence, and we survive and come out the other side as adults. And unless we are truly fourteen (I was forty-two), we have a little bit of maturity and the intelligence to know what's happening to us and how to handle it. This maturity and intelligence is what allows most men and women, trans and non-trans, to have loving adult relationships that succeed on many levels.

You only go through adolescence once (or, if you transition, twice) so hopefully you enjoyed yours.

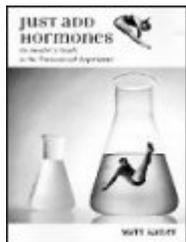
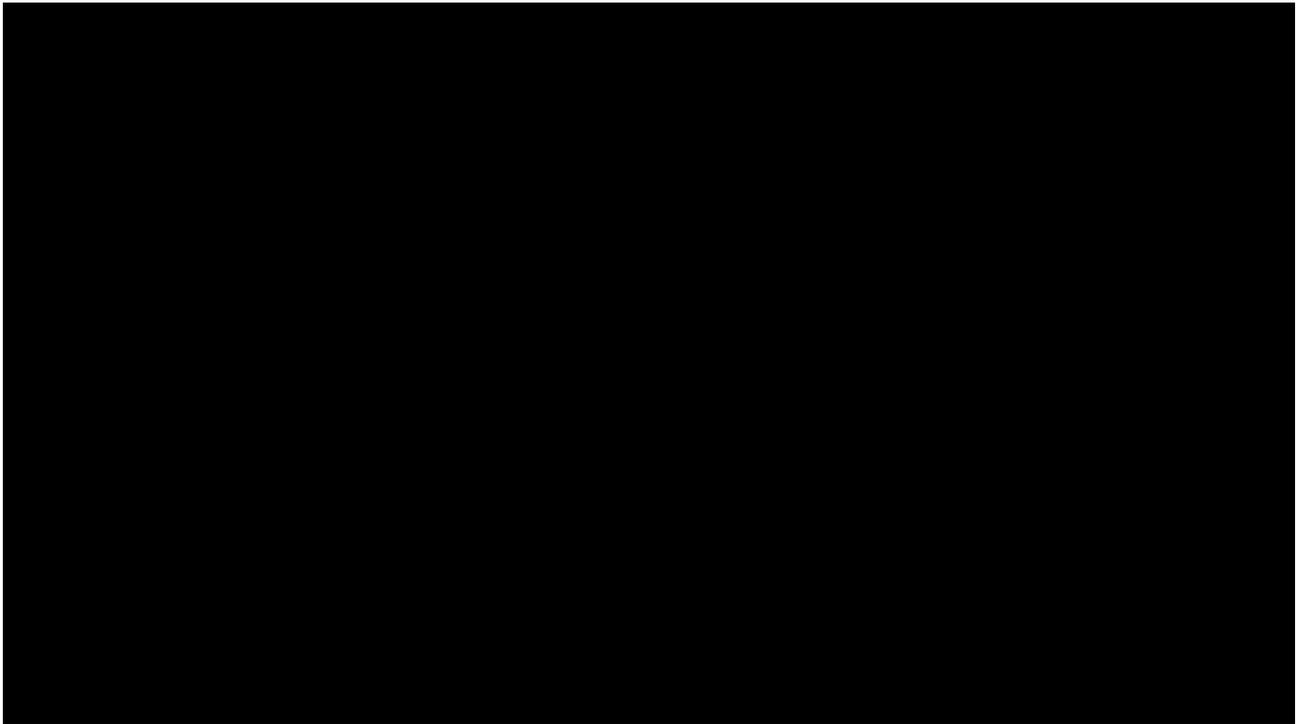
Now, have that peanut butter sandwich and move on.

## Matt Kailey

**From Matt's Blog:**  Matt Kailey is an American transsexual man and an award-winning author, blogger, teacher, and community leader, as well as a nationally recognized speaker and trainer on transgender issues. He is the author of *Just Add Hormones: An Insider's Guide to the Transsexual Experience* (Beacon Press), and *Teeny Weenies and Other Short Subjects*, a collection of humorous and heartfelt essays about his life before and after transition. In addition, his work has appeared in numerous publications, from anthologies to professional journals. He is also a media personality who has appeared on local and national American radio and television, in local and national American print publications, and in five documentary films.



Visit Matt's Blog " [Tranifesto](#) " .



**Just Add Hormones: An Insider's Guide to the Transsexual Experience**

Author: Matt Kailey

Publisher: Beacon Press (2006)

I.S.B.N.-13 978 0807079591

**From Amazon Books:**  Matt Kailey lived as a straight woman for the first forty-two years of his life. Though happy as a social worker and teacher, he knew something wasn't right. Then he made some changes. With the help of a good therapist, chest surgery, and some strong doses of testosterone, Kailey began his journey toward becoming a man. As his body morphed and his voice dropped, Kailey began noticing subtle shifts in the way he was treated. Men suddenly stopped offering to change flat tires for him but insisted on talking to him about women and bodily functions. Women got nervous when he baby-talked to their infants but routinely asked him to move heavy things around the office. In these everyday exchanges, Kailey recognized the many ways we define what it means to be male. He also realized that, with few role models, he had to learn to accept himself as a person between two genders. As he writes about his transition from female to male, Kailey answers all the questions you've ever had about what it's like to live as a transsexual. From the fear of public restrooms to deciding whether to "pack" his pants, Kailey explains what the world looks like from his new vantage point - a position more people are discovering as gender transitions become increasingly common. More than a memoir, *Just Add Hormones* is full of sound advice for those who may be questioning their gender. And through his story, Kailey offers valuable insights to the families and friends of those who have started a transition. Funny, fresh, and incredibly candid, *Just Add Hormones* can help us all consider - and even laugh at - our own notions of what it means to be a man or a woman.

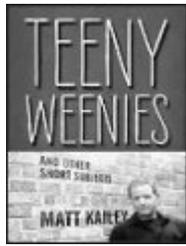
**Teeny Weenies: And Other Short Subjects**

Author: Matt Kailey

Publisher: Outskirts Press (2012)

I.S.B.N.-13 978 1432781200

**From Amazon Books:**  With Miss America and a collection of Playboy centrefolds as role models, a young girl struggles to figure out femininity, only to discover that she was headed in the wrong



direction all along. When she finally realizes that being the best girl - and woman - she can be is no match for being the man she's supposed to be, there's only one solution, and it's not another purse, pair of pumps, or push-up bra. *Teeny Weenies and Other Short Subjects* takes a long, hard look at getting the short end of the stick, both before and after transition from female to male. This collection of humorous essays from award-winning author and transsexual man Matt Kailey explores identity, sexuality, and growing up female in a world with two sexes, two genders - and no exceptions.

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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.