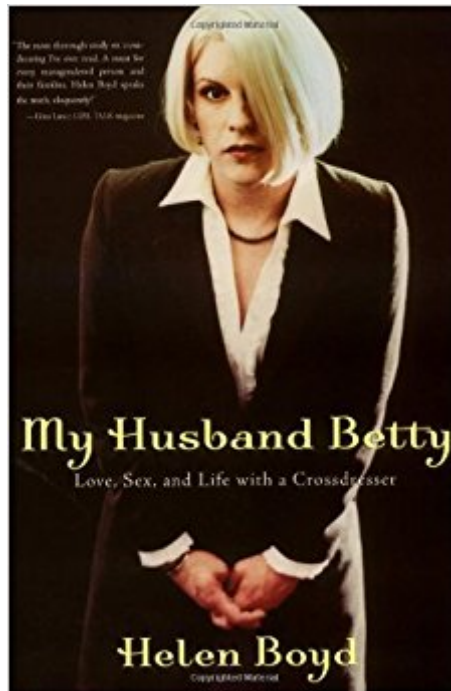


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My Husband Betty: Love, Sex, And Life With A Crossdresser



Synopsis

Author Helen Boyd is a happily married woman whose husband enjoys sharing her wardrobe - and she has written the first book on transgendered men to focus on their relationships. Traditionally known as cross-dressers, transvestites, or drag queens, men like Helen's husband are a diverse lot who don't always conform to stereotype. Helen addresses every imaginable question concerning the probable and improbable reasons for behavior that still baffle not only "mental health professionals" but the practitioners themselves; the taxonomy of the transgendered and the distinct but overlapping societies of each group; coming out; bisexuality, and homophobia. The book features interviews with some very interesting people: a dominatrix and her crossdressing husband; a crossdressing Reiki master and his son; a woman who after dating one crossdresser wanted to date others and fell in love with a transsexual instead; and a woman whose husband promised her he was only a crossdresser who later realized that he was transsexual. The stories and opinions chosen to represent the spectrum will surely titillate, shock, and disgust some readers; alternatively, Helen's narrative is a powerful lens with which to examine our own notions of gender and equality.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A straight woman who has been married several years to a crossdressing man gives a thoughtful account of their relationship (as well as the relationships of other crossdressers she knows) in this forthright and revelatory book. "Instead of putting a 'pretty face' on crossdressing," Boyd writes, "I think this book paints a more realistic picture." Her interest is as much in the broader issues of love and acceptance, denial and repression, human nature and sexual identity as it is in the who, when,

why and how of crossdressing. Boyd shares personal and often intensely private moments in order to illustrate her findings, describing her husband's ritual for getting dressed as a woman and candidly admitting that she once believed that she would never be able to accept his behavior. Particularly sharp is her chapter on gendered politics, which takes to task members of the crossdressing community who isolate themselves "from all the groups who could otherwise educate and liberate them: the feminist community, the gay and lesbian communities." Though such comments may be uncharacteristically harsh for a book that by and large supports crossdressers and their actions, Boyd's opinions lend her discussion a critical viewpoint and comprehensiveness that it might not have had otherwise. Boyd, who founded the online support group CDOD, helps out newbies to the topic by making distinctions among phrases like "transgendered" and "transvestite" that are sometimes unknowingly used interchangeably and by summarizing the history of and research into the behavior. Honest and well researched, this book is likely to become an indispensable guide for woman who are trying to forge stable, accepting relationships with crossdressing men. Given the topic and Boyd's approach, it is a shame that the author still felt the need to mask her true identity by using a nom de plume. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Boyd never expected to write about transvestites and their partners, yet here is her fascinating account of marriage to a cross-dresser, the intent of which is to reduce the tumult his cross-dressing causes in the couple's lives and to help more women deal better with having transgendered husbands. The originator of an online support group for such couples, Boyd supplements her own experiences with those of others to explore the diversity within a stereotyped group (the male-to-female transgendered) and answer questions concerning their behavior. Boyd was supportive from the onset of her knowledge of "Betty," but even after two years' socializing within a supportive transgender community, the Boyds' first outing in the real world terrified her because of her own and society's expectations--and that was the first of a series of painful realizations. Boyd's skill as a writer enables readers to enter a relatively hidden existence easily, and perhaps even to appreciate its complexities. Her account, though initially disquieting to some, well may become a standard text in gender studies. Whitney Scott Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Helen Boyd totally gets it. For me, the best parts of "My Husband Betty" were the real stories and interviews of people who are involved in and affected by CD/TG life, as well as the chapters on

feminism and LGBT intersectionality. Boyd understands the complex feelings and grief work that can affect a marriage, as well as the potential benefits of making this work. She gets the important details of what it's like to be in the shoes of a woman witnessing this transformation and deciding to stay with a CD/TG spouse. She also includes other perspectives of people in the scene - as well as the brief but fascinating history of gender. It almost feels like the producers of "Transparent" read this book before they made the show. In a good way. The book isn't perfect: the narrative takes a few detours, the trans-protection and same-sex marriage legislation information is already dated, and I even noticed a few distracting typos. Further, it's interesting to see in hindsight how the "crossdressing vs. transgender" differences played out after this book, when Boyd's crossdressing husband became her trans wife. However, this is still essential reading for a married couple that includes a crossdressing or transgendered spouse. Worth the read!

This book is a must read for EVERYONE! Raw and real stories. My heart was happy and it was breaking and it was happy again. I think this should be required reading for everyone. Thank you Helen for sharing your story with such courage and grace and for the great care with which you share all the stories. My hat is off to them all for their courage and their stand to be able to live freely in this world. I have referred so many people to this book to help them to gain a greater understanding of what it is to be a cross dresser, transgender, or even just a human reaching for a greater understanding about a topic that needs a brighter light shining on it, one of understanding and love. Thank you! I can't wait to start reading your other book now!

Made it easier to understand the turmoil that she experienced but seem to feel some chapters were written out of anger then the next chapter would be accepting.

Excellent book! One of the best out there about this "new" subject in the American consciousness. Boyd provides much needed insight and support for the "significant others" of transgendered men (Male-to-Female). She writes of her own experiences, and backs it up with thoughtful research. Should be a good read for Female-to-Male, as the general concepts of understanding, acceptance, and tolerance is necessary for all transformations. But this is not just for the wives or partners, this is a great benefit to the transgendered as well. Oh, may I recommend you give this to your friends who are debating and struggling with the transgender issue?

Explains a lot from both sides. Glad I read it

She provides some good information about crossdressers, but the book seems to be one long whine about how difficult it is even to know crossdressers, how they are demeaning "real" women by their actions, and how much trouble they are.

I've known of this title for sometime. I finally read it. It was refreshing to here the point of view from her side that was not only accepting but uncomfortable and at the same time inquisitive. Many of the "list" out there that wives come across are vet negative, or as I called "bitter Betty's" I will not call non-accepting wives by that term since reading this book out of respect to Betty. I look forward to reading the 2nd book of Helen's and wish I didn't wait so long to read this one.

We're still reading this, but so far very good book.

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