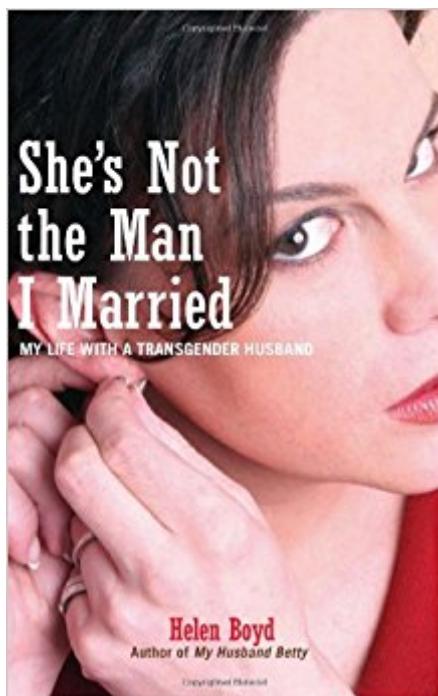


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# She's Not The Man I Married: My Life With A Transgender Husband



## **Synopsis**

Helen Boyd's husband, who had long been open about being a cross-dresser, was considering living as a woman full time. Suddenly, Boyd was confronted with the reality of what it would mean if her husband were actually to become a woman; socially, legally, and medically. Would Boyd love and desire her partner the same way? Boyd's first book, *My Husband Betty*, explored the relationships of cross-dressing men and their partners. Now, *She's Not the Man I Married* is both a sequel and a more expansive examination of gender in relationships. It's for couples who are homosexual or heterosexual, and for readers who fall anywhere along the gender continuum. As Boyd struggles to understand the nature of marriage, passion, and love, she shares her confusion and anger, providing a fascinating observation of the ways in which relationships are gendered, and how we cope, or don't, with the emotional and sexual pressures that gender roles can bring to our marriages and relationships.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I've been preparing myself to lose my husband for the past few years," observes Boyd in this humorous, self-deprecating follow-up to her first memoir, *My Husband Betty*. "There is another woman, in a sense. My husband is that other woman, or might become her." Delving deeply into the question of gender identity, she explores the role of gender and its impact on how and who we love. Boyd, an androgynous-looking heterosexual woman (often mistaken for a lesbian), is married to a heterosexual man, who for the past few years has been "presenting as female" most of the time." Betty hasn't yet decided to have "the surgery," while Boyd isn't sure she'd be able to stay in the

relationship if Betty does fully "transition" into being a woman. When referring to Betty, Boyd switches back and forth from "he" to "she" even within the same sentence portraying the confusion that a "trans person" presents daily in defining gender. Though she covers her complex topic well, and even includes a chapter of sex advice, Boyd's attempts to conceptualize her experience are unnecessarily repetitive. Part love story, part psychological treatise and part cautionary tale, this book will speak most directly to those who are confronting gender's perplexing contradictions. (Mar.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"Boyd discusses with humor and candor ways to come to terms with crossdressing, focusing on issues of identity, trust, and sexuality... this will undoubtedly have a wider appeal to those curious about this subculture. Recommended for public and academic libraries." "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.... Honest and well researched, this book is likely to become an indispensable guide." "Boyd never expected to write about transvestites and their partners, yet here is her fascinating account of marriage to a crossdresser.... 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, may well become a standard text in gender studies." "I'd consider *My Husband Betty* essential reading, but even for the educated and seasoned, it is an amazing resource that delves deep into the issues-cultural, political, sexual, historical, psychological-facing crossdressers, their partners, and the various communities they intersect... the work simultaneously transcends crossdressing altogether. It becomes a blueprint for nontraditional relationships: how to communicate honestly about needs and desires, let go of white-picket-fence dreams, and move beyond them to something real." -- Tristan Taormino

I thought the book was a great look inside the mind of someone who is married to a person who is transgender and considering transition. I thought it was really interesting the whole way through, and like most of it. I can't fault her for being honest, but parts of the book seem pretty defensive to me, and while she enjoys being married to someone who's trans, it's almost like she feels guilty for doing so. I also think it would have been nice to hear more about their feelings, and a little less of putting words in the mouths of "most wives". Other than that, I really enjoyed the read, and thought it was really insightful.BTW, if you are confused, she describes anyone who presents as female on a

part time basis only as a "crossdresser", regards of their reasons for doing so or their gender status. I was a little confused by this at first.

I have nobody in my life that is transgender, nor do I identify as such. I read this book because I have a curiosity with sexuality and gender. It was interesting. It was mostly about the thought processes that the author was going through regarding various issues. It's refreshing to have such honesty from such an intelligent person that is so much in love. I suspect it will be helpful to others in that it makes people feel like they aren't alone. It isn't instructional, though. My main criticism was that the chapters were long and weren't broken up frequently. It was an overwhelming slog at times and I felt like I lost the train of written thought. I enjoyed it, and would recommend it.

A little heady, but I give Boyd credit for her informal study on society's indoctrinated point of view about gender issues in general. I learned a great deal about that, but I couldn't identify with her intellectual approach to what must have been/is such an emotional journey. Still, she's a great force for compassion in the TG world. Kudos to her!

It was an OK book. I thought Helen goes on a little too much on certain themes. Some of the time it was like she was trying to talk herself into believing what was happening in her life with the transition of her husband.

If you read the first part, then I can recommend also the second part. It has also updated views and theories on the TG topic. And as in the first part, also personal stories.

This helped me to understand better my own transgender husband. However, I felt Helen spent a lot of time talking about her personal feminist issues, rather than sticking to the story about dealing with Betty. Those areas where Helen did talk about her fears and concerns I did find helpful - I no longer feel alone. I did feel though that as a couple they are both either ignoring or denying Helen's feelings about Betty's trans sexuality. How does Helen feel about Betty ultimately rejecting her physically, emotionally and sexually? How does Helen feel about Betty getting hormone injections, or SRS? Does Betty leave Helen at home evenings while she goes out with her trans friends? Does Betty refuse to let Helen know any of her trans friends? Do Helen and Betty go places or do things together where both would be dressed as women? How does each feel about that? Does Betty talk endlessly about trans friends, hormone therapy and SRS (ad nauseum)? Are there support groups

for straight women married to trans MTFs in SF where a person like myself can get help? Etc, etc etc?

I bought this mainly for my partner, but read it first. It is a very good and extremely thoughtful and thought provoking discourse on femininity and gender. I would read "My Husband Betty" first but works as a stand alone book too.

good reading material, learn allot from book on how to tell wife your deep secret. how to accept your secret life. got me to accept my cross dressing. knowing that i am not alone either.

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