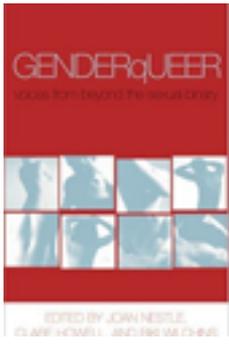


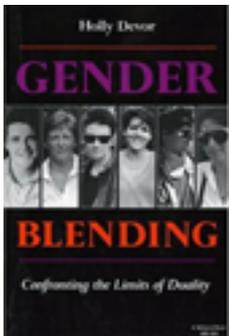
Gender/Trans Commentary Books



Genderqueer: Voices from Beyond the Sexual Binary

by Joan Nestle, Clare Howell, and Riki Wilchins

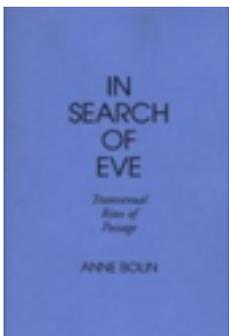
Perhaps more than any other issue, gender identity has galvanized the queer community in recent years. The questions go beyond the nature of male/female to a yet-to-be-traversed region that lies somewhere between and beyond biologically determined gender. In this groundbreaking anthology, three experts in gender studies and politics navigate around rigid, societally imposed concepts of two genders to discover and illuminate the limitless possibilities of identity. Thirty first-person accounts of gender construction, exploration, and questioning provide a groundwork for cultural discussion, political action, and even greater possibilities of autonomous gender choices. Noted scholar Joan Nestle is joined by internationally prominent gender warrior Riki Wilchins and historian Clare Howell to provide a societal, cultural, and political exploration of gender identity.



Gender Blending: Confronting the Limits of Duality

by Holly Devor

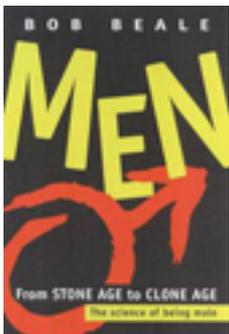
Fifteen women who have to varying degrees rejected traditional femininity, but not their femaleness, discuss their lives with Devor. These women, sometimes mistaken for men, choose to minimize their female vulnerability in a patriarchal world by minimizing their femininity.



In Search of Eve: Transsexual Rites of Passage

by Anne Bolin

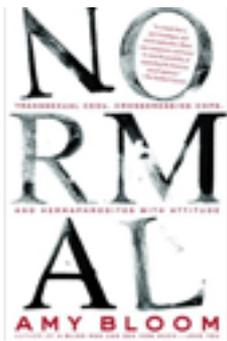
In this first comprehensive study of transsexual "rites of passage," Anne Bolin illuminates the array of social, psychological, and physical changes experienced by people in the process of changing gender. In these stories of symbolic death and rebirth, the author illustrates how the rituals that accompany each stage of transition are integral to successful transformation. Her case studies also poignantly represent the extent to which gender roles are culturally constructed.



Men from Stone Age to Clone Age: The Science of Being Male

by Bob Beale

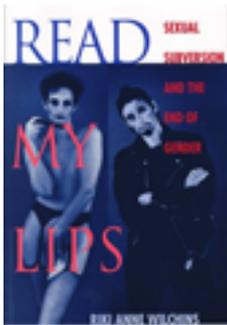
If you've been following the international trivia columns in newspapers this book's contents would not come as a surprise. It is through such reports of abstruse studies/researches that Beale attempts to summarise the 'accident' of being male. Besides, for a book that seeks to tackle the whole shebang of maleness through the ages—“not just centuries or even millennia”—this one's surprisingly short on insight and argument. Beale makes a case for femaleness, highlighting through various lower animals' sexual practices how Eve's was the original sex. Because early unicellulars reproduced vegetatively begetting daughter (rather than son) cells; among contemporary life forms we have female aphids producing female aphids pregnant with female aphids. He then wonders why and how men came into being and stayed on top for so long without having really contributed to the greater genetic good.



Normal: Transsexual CEOs, Crossdressing Cops, and Hermaphrodites with Attitude

by Amy Bloom

Taking in an amazing range and diversity of the human experience of gender and sexuality, novelist Bloom (*Love Invents Us*) devotes an essay each to three phenomena: female to male transsexualism, heterosexual cross-dressing and the intersexed, or those with ambiguous genitalia or confusing chromosomal balance. But she is most interested in examining "why the rest of us struggle" with gender and sexual experiences we do not share. Bloom interviews people from each of the above groups (as well as doctors, social scientists and gender activists) and brings together, in graceful, readable prose, a plethora of facts, ideas, arguments and personal responses to help us reconsider received ideas about gender. While some of her information is surprising (babies born with "confusing" genitals are more common than babies born with cystic fibrosis), she never uses the lives of her subjects to titillate. Bloom is happy to confess her own, and others', confusions and lack of information, pointing out that there is no reliable information on the number of heterosexual cross-dressers, for instance. And she allows her subjects like the female-to-male-transsexual who has not undergone phalloplasty and claims, "I can live this way, as a man with a vagina" their complicated lives. Fascinating without being prurient, detailed without being overly scientific, the book opens new ways of viewing not only gender but our own inability to accept difference.



Read My Lips: Sexual Subversion and the End of Gender

by Riki Anne Wilchins

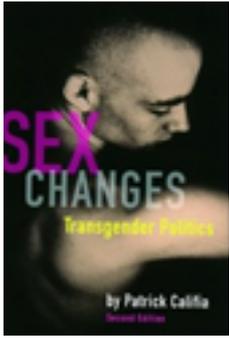
Over the course of the past decade transgender politics have become the cutting edge of sexual liberation. While the sexual and political freedom of homosexuals has yet to be fully secured, questions of who is sleeping with whom pale in the face of the battle by transgender activists to dismantle the idea of what it means to be a man or a woman. Riki Anne Wilchins's *Read My Lips* is a passionate, witty, and extraordinarily intelligent look at how society not only creates men and women--ignoring the fluidity of maleness and femaleness in most people--but also explains how those categories generate crisis for most individuals. It is impossible to read Wilchins's ideas and not be provoked in fundamental and mysterious ways.



S/He: Changing Sex & Changing Clothes

by Claudine Griggs

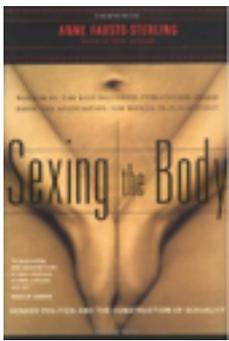
Through an examination of the experience of transsexuals, this book enhances understanding of how gender can and does function in powerful, complex and subtle ways. The author, who has herself been surgically reassigned, has conducted extensive interviews with transsexuals from many walks of life. Her personal experiences, which inform this book, have given her an access to her subjects that others would likely be denied. While highlighting how the gender identity of transsexuals relates to hormonal and surgical changes in the body as well as to changes in dress, the book investigates the pressures and motivations to conform to expected gender roles, and the ways in which these are affected by social, educational, and professional status. Differences in the experiences of those who change from male to female and those who change from female to male are also examined.



Sex Changes: Transgender Politics

by Patrick Califia

Common sense has dictated that there are two genders- female and male. But this perspective is becoming less accepted and making less sense for many people. Pat Califia's *Sex Changes* is a frank, forthright, and sometimes funny challenge to the traditional ideas about gender and sexuality. Transgenderism is the term used to describe people who feel they belong to both, or neither, traditional genders. Califia- a vocal sex radical as well as a therapist- explores the worlds of biology, sociology, psychology, and politics and comes to the conclusion that life and personal experience is far more complicated than most people believe and that the simple two-gender system most people accept is more harmful than helpful. Clear-headed writing and enormous empathy for everyone who exists outside of "the norm" make *Sex Changes* challenging and vital reading.



Sexing The Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality

by Anne Fausto Sterling

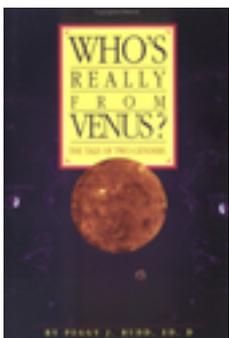
Anyone who has been following the new brain science in the popular press- and even those whose casual reading includes journals along the lines of *Psychoneuroendocrinology*- will be fascinated by the puckish observations of Brown University biologist Anne Fausto-Sterling, whose provocative and erudite essays easily establish the cultural biases underlying current scientific thought on gender. She goes on to critique the science itself, exposing inconsistencies in the literature and weaknesses in the rhetorical and theoretical structures that support new research.



Transgender Warriors: Making History from Joan of Arc to Dennis Rodman

by Leslie Feinberg

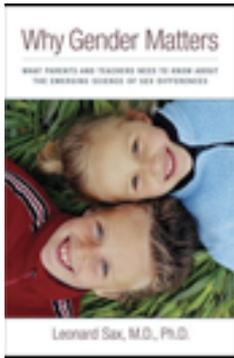
Leslie Feinberg has been a leader in the transgender rights movement as long as such a movement has existed. This book is both deeply personal and widely researched. Feinberg examines perceptions of the body, the status of clothing, and the structures of societies that welcome or are threatened by gender variance. The portrait gallery that closes the book contains photographs and capsule biographies of contemporary transgendered people.



Who's Really From Venus? The Tale of Two Genders

by Peggy J. Rudd, Ed.D

Finally the answer to the question: Can the balance of masculinity and femininity improve human life? Mars is the Roman God of War, husband or lover of Venus, the planet named for him and the exemplary model of masculinity. Venus is the Roman Goddess of Love and Beauty, the planet for her and the model of femininity. But there are millions of people on Planet Earth who choose to embrace the better qualities of not Venus and Mars rather than stay with the stereotypical model or expected norms of their birth sex. Their stories are presented within the pages of this thought provoking and beautiful book. Many of these human mortals are transcending gender lines in their endless journey between Mars and Venus.



Why Gender Matters: What Parents and Teachers Need to Know About the Emerging Science of Sex Differences

by Leonard Sax, Ph.D.

In the feminist conception of gender flexibility, no set rules apply: girls can play with trucks; boys can play with dolls. But pediatrician and psychologist Sax argues that our theories about gender's fluidity may be wrong and to apply them to children in their formative years is quite dangerous. Sax believes the brains of boys and girls are hardwired differently: boys are more aggressive; girls are more shy. And deliberately changing a child's gender- in cases of intersex (hermaphroditism) or accident (as in the case of David Reimer, who was raised as a girl after a hideous circumcision mishap)- can ruin a child's life. Sax also believes modern gender philosophy has resulted in more boys being given behavior-modifying drugs and more girls being given antidepressants. Much of his argument makes sense: we may have gone to the other extreme and tried too hard to feminize boys and masculinize girls. Sax makes a compelling argument for parents and teachers to tread lightly when it comes to gender and raises important questions regarding single-sex education, which he supports. His readable prose, which he juxtaposes with numerous interviews with school administrators, principals, scientists and others, makes this book accessible to a range of readers.