

# TRANS 101



# WHAT DOES LGBTQIA STAND FOR? WHAT DOES CISGENDER MEAN?

## + LGBTQIA

- The first three letters refer to sexual orientation (Lesbian, gay, bisexual)
- The “T” refers to issues of gender identity
- The “Q” refers anyone who chooses to identify as such which can include, but is not limited to, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and asexual people
- The “I” is a term to describe a person whose biological sex is ambiguous
- The “A” refers to an Ally, a supporter and advocate for the LGBTQIA population

## + Cisgender

- Term used to describe people who identify with the gender they were assigned at birth

★ Why say ‘cisgender’ instead of ‘non-transgender’? Because, referring to cisgender people as ‘non trans’ implies that cisgender people are the default and that being trans is abnormal.

# WHAT DOES TRANSGENDER MEAN?



## + Transgender

- Umbrella term used for people whose gender identity differs from what is typically associated with the sex they were assigned at birth. May include: trans women, trans men, gender fluid/ gender non-conforming folks



# WHAT DOES QUEER MEAN?

## + Queer

- An umbrella term to refer to all LGBTQI people
- A political statement, as well as a sexual orientation, which advocates breaking binary thinking and seeing both sexual orientation and gender identity as potentially fluid.

### **GENDERQUEER:**

Someone who resists categorizing their gender identity. They may identify somewhere in the middle of the gender spectrum or as neither gender. Genderqueer people often use gender neutral pronouns such as “they / them.”



## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRANS, DRAG AND CROSS-DRESSING COMMUNITIES?

### + Transgender community

- Trans includes people who identify at transsexual, genderqueer, non-binary, androgyne, two spirit, etc.

### + Drag community

- Performers who cross-dress for the purpose of entertaining, and the majority of drag queens are not trans women

### + Cross-dressing community

- Wears the clothing and accouterments of the “opposite sex,” and unlike transsexuals, they do not seek to live full-time as the opposite sex. Formerly referred to as the pejorative term “transvestites,” cross-dressers are often heterosexual men who wear feminine clothing part-time. Some trans people have a cross-dressing history, while not all cross-dressers are trans.

## HOW DOES SEXUAL ORIENTATION DIFFER FROM GENDER IDENTITY?

- + Gender identity is your own, internal, personal sense of being a man or a woman
- + Sexual orientation describes a person's enduring physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction to another person
- + Transgender people may be straight, lesbian, gay, bisexual or queer
- + Gender identity is your own internal, personal sense of self on the gender spectrum; whether it be masculine, feminine, or somewhere in between



★ Some trans\* people medically transition (with hormones and/or surgery) to align their bodies with their gender identity, while some do not.

★ Gender identity and sexual orientation are distinct; for example, a trans woman might identify as hetero, as a lesbian, as queer, or as anything in between.

★ **"Transgendered" is not a word! No one gets "transgendered."**

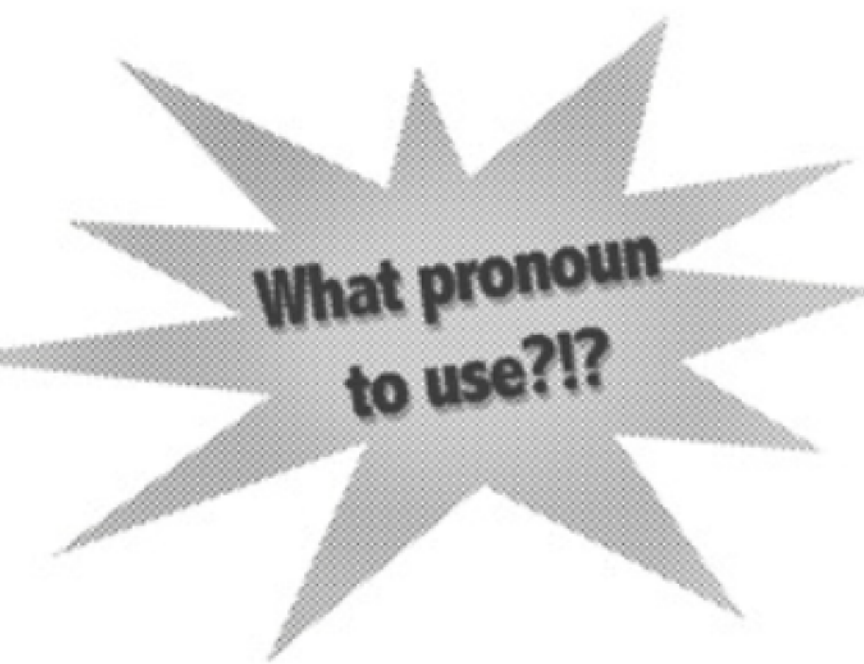
★ **Transgender is an adjective and not a noun.**

**WRONG: "Tony is a transgender" or "the parade included many transgenders."**

**RIGHT: "Tony is a transgender man" and "the parade included many transgender people."**

## ETIQUETTE:

ALWAYS use the chosen name of a trans person (yes, that mean's it's Chelsea Manning, people). If someone introduces themselves as "Fantasia" but their drivers license says "Darnell," they are Fantasia to you always and forever.



**What pronoun  
to use?!?**

- ★ When in doubt, go with how the person is presenting themselves. If you think someone might be trans, is wearing feminine clothing and introduces themselves as "Diana," using a feminine pronoun is a safe bet.
- ★ A simple, "Hey, what pronoun do you prefer?" is appreciated.
- ★ You can also use a gender neutral pronoun like "they." A lot of trans people go by "they" and "them" full-time, avoiding gendered pronouns altogether.



# WHY IS TRANSGENDER EQUALITY IMPORTANT?

- + Multiracial transgender and gender non-conforming people often live in extreme poverty, with 23% reporting a household income less than \$10,000/year
- + Transgender people face mistreatment at work as 62% are harassed, 12% physically assaulted and 9% sexually assaulted
- + Most countries and states offer no legal protection in housing, employment and health care. Multiracial transgender people (27%) have reported being refused medical care



## WHAT DOES TRANSGENDER INEQUALITY LOOK LIKE IN REAL LIVES AND IN REAL TIME?

- + Transgender and gender non-conforming people face injustice in every turn
- + Key findings from a study by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Center for Transgender Equality:



**41%** of respondents reported attempting suicide

Respondents were **4X** more likely to live in poverty than the general population and



**1 in 5** reported experiencing homelessness once in their lives

Those who expressed a transgender identity in school reported alarming rates of

**harassment (78%),  
physical assault (35%),  
& sexual violence (12%)**



**53%** reported being verbally harassed or disrespected in a place of public accommodation

# POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE HEADLINES AROUND TRANS ISSUES IN RECENT NEWS

## White House: Obama to sign order banning anti-gay discrimination



President Obama plans to sign an executive order banning discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity by federal contractors.

By **CHRISTI PARSONS, MICHAEL A. MEMOLI**  
contact the reporters

## R. Kelly Reacts to News His Teenage Child Is Transgender



Jun 25, 2014 2:06pm



(Photo Credit: C Flanigan/Getty Images)

R&B superstar R. Kelly made his first public comments about his 13-year-old child Jay, who came out as transgender earlier this month on social media

## Advertising Watchdog Organization Under Fire for Its Own Transphobic Ad

source: Advocate

Tue, 8 Apr 2014 10:30P



A nonprofit advertising watchdog group has released a video campaign to warn consumers about deceptive advertising, featuring a trans woman as an example of deception.

Featured Image:



read more

POLITICS > TRANSGENDER

## Texas Transgender Teacher Banned From the Classroom Following Suspension

In the past month, Laura Jane Klug has been suspended from work, reinstated, outed to local and national media, and now banned from the classroom.

BY PARKER MARIE MOLLOY APRIL 28 2014 12:50 PM ET



Laura Jane Klug

A substitute teacher in Lumberton, Texas has returned to work after parents complained because she is transgender, but her new position with the school district keeps her out of the classroom.

Earlier this month, Laura Jane Klug **was suspended** after a parent complained that her gender identity and expression was a classroom distraction. Days later, fearing a lawsuit, the Lumberton Independent School District officially **reinstated the teacher** following a school board meeting, though her reinstatement seems to have come with a catch: she's no longer allowed in the classroom.

## Transgender candidate elected to Wis. city council

Nick Penzenstadler, USA TODAY 4:04 p.m. EDT April 2, 2014



(Photo: The (Appleton, Wis.) Post-Crescent)

residents."



APPLETON, Wis. — Residents in Appleton, Wis., **elected an openly transgender** member to the city council Tuesday.

Gypsy Vered Meltzer expects there will be some uneasiness to surface over his election. But he's determined to not let it become a distraction.

"I can see some push back, but I hope they'll get over it," said Meltzer, 31. "I hope things don't go that route. I don't want to lose focus on the issues and increasing communications between the city and its



Ukraine peace plan aims at curbing violence | USA NOW Jun 20, 2014

## U.S. Department of Education Extends Protections to Trans Students

In a major step forward for the protection of trans students, the United States Department of Education announced today that trans students are protected from discrimination under Title IX.

BY PARKER MARIE MOLLOY APRIL 28 2014 2:29 PM ET



United States Department of Education Headquarters

Earlier today, the United States Department of Education **issued clarification** to the until-now unanswered question of whether transgender students were protected from discrimination on the basis of Title IX, confirming that transgender students are, indeed, protected by the federal legislation's prohibition discrimination on the basis of sex.

Today's guidance, released by the department's Office for Civil Rights states, "Title IX's sex discrimination prohibition extends to claims of discrimination based on gender identity or failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity and OCR accepts such complaints for investigation."

# HOW TO RESPECT A TRANSGENDER PERSON

- + Be with people unconditionally, as you would be with any other person, especially where gender is a non-topic in life
- + Watch your past tense. When talking of the past try not to use phrases like "when you were a previous gender" or "born a man/woman"
- + Use language appropriate to the person's gender
- + Respect the transgender person's need for privacy
- + Begin to recognize the difference between gender identity and sexuality
- + Treat transgender persons the same
- + Be supportive



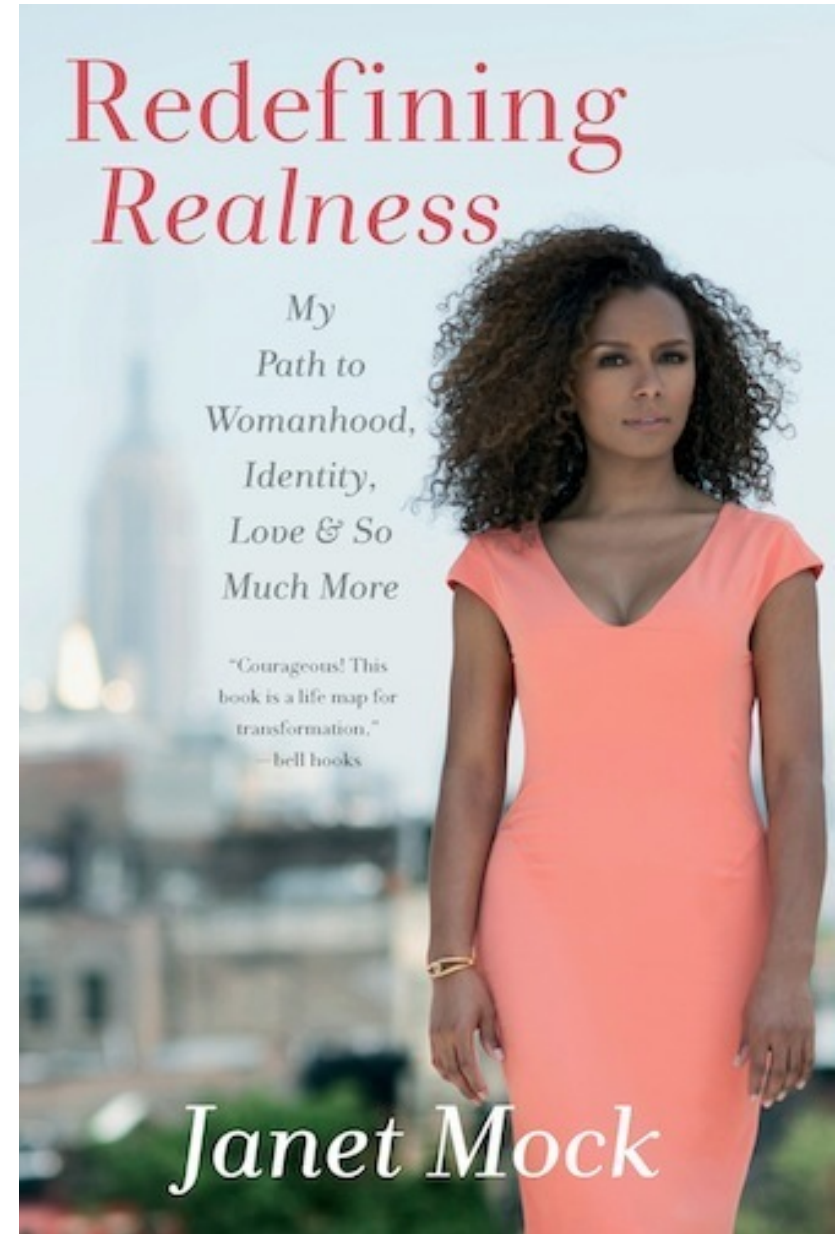
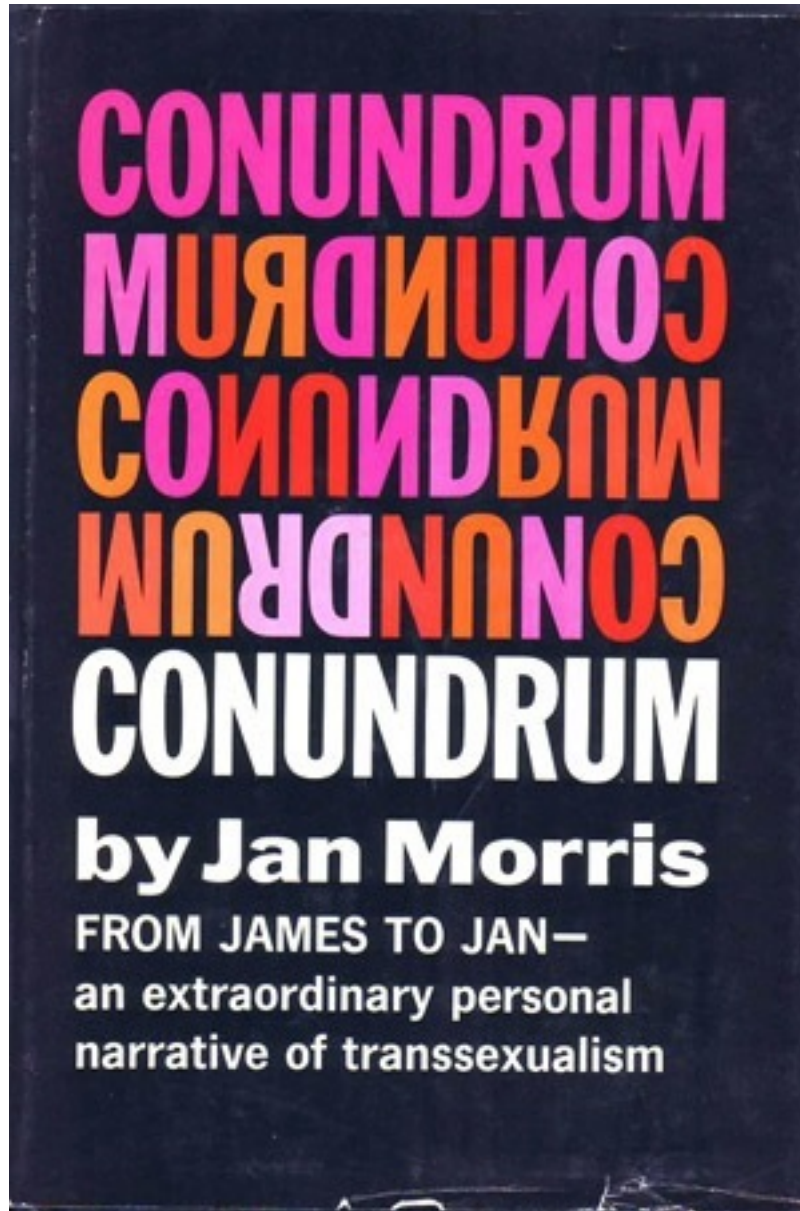
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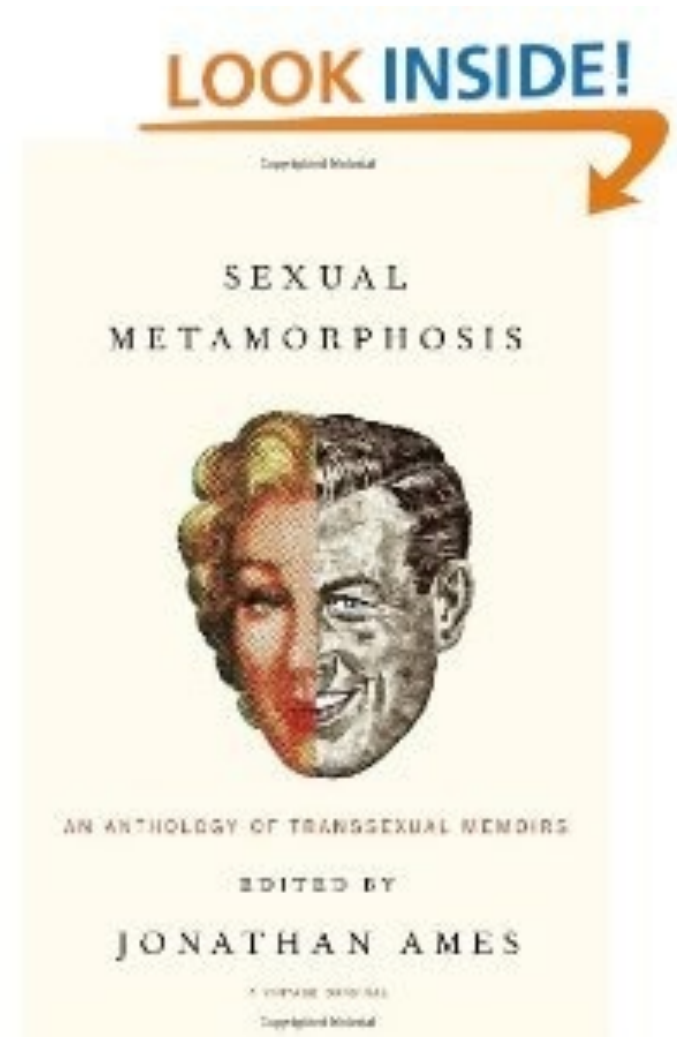
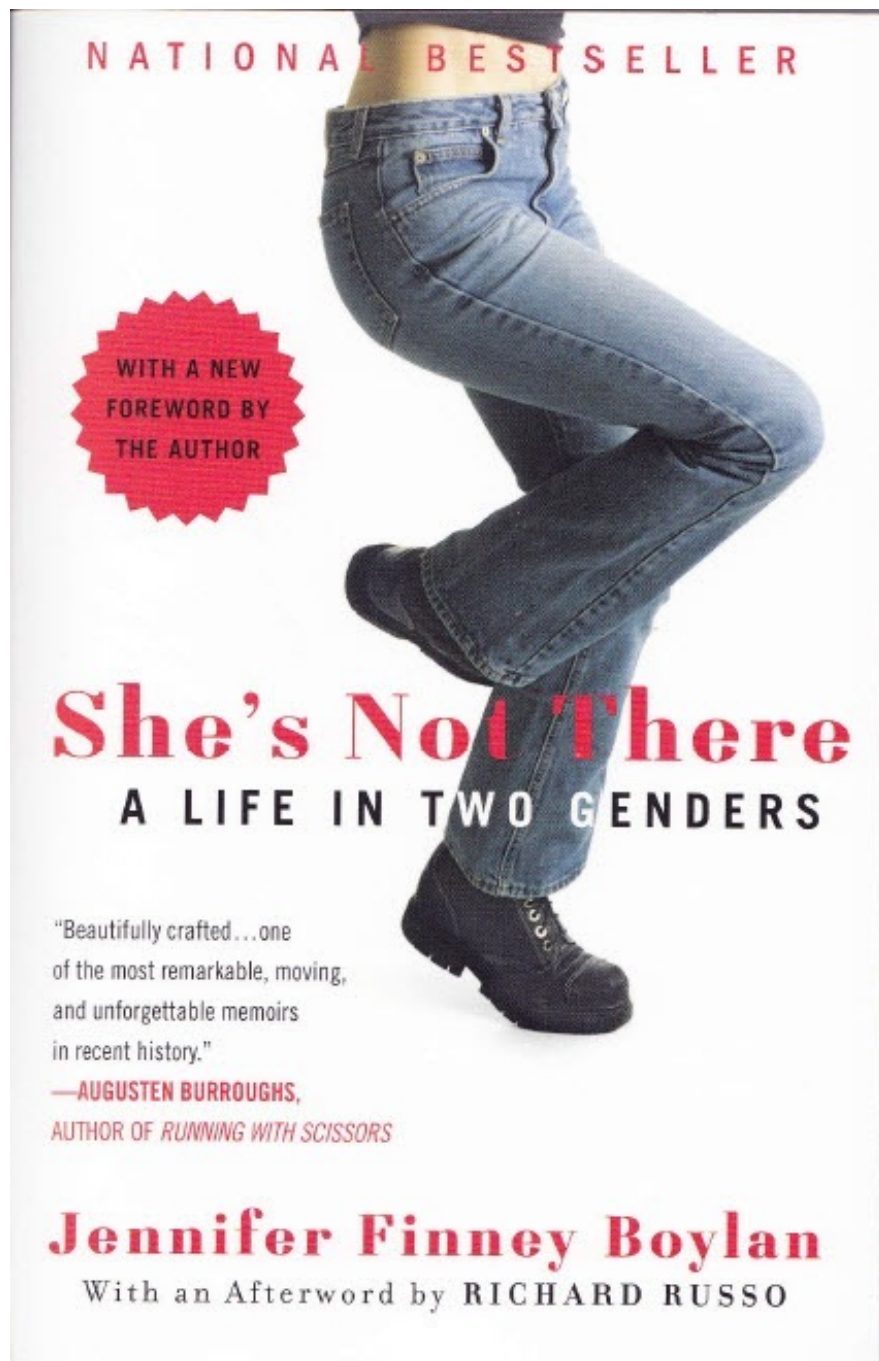




# Suggested Bibliography

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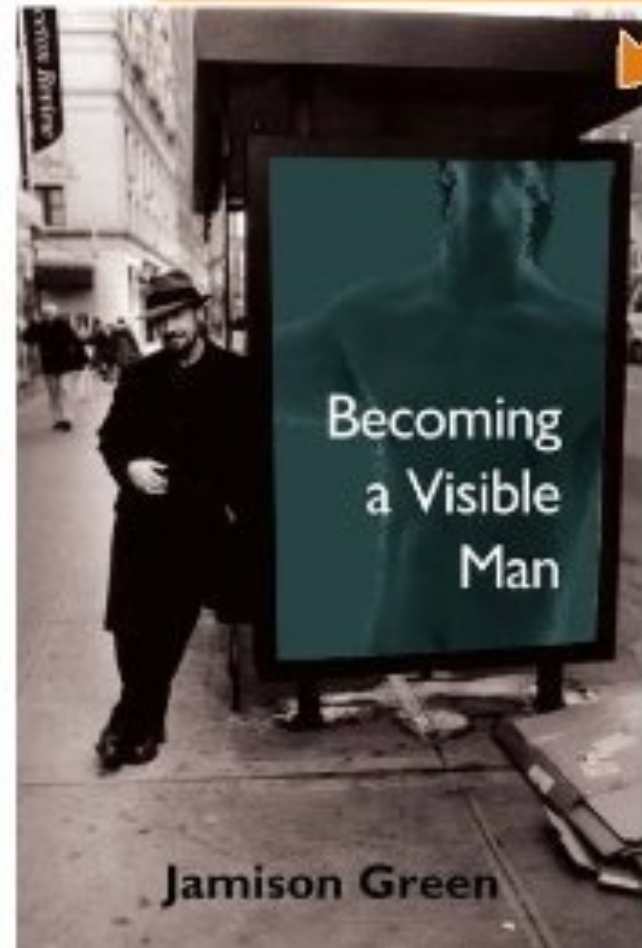
## Letters For My Brothers

Transitional Wisdom in Retrospect



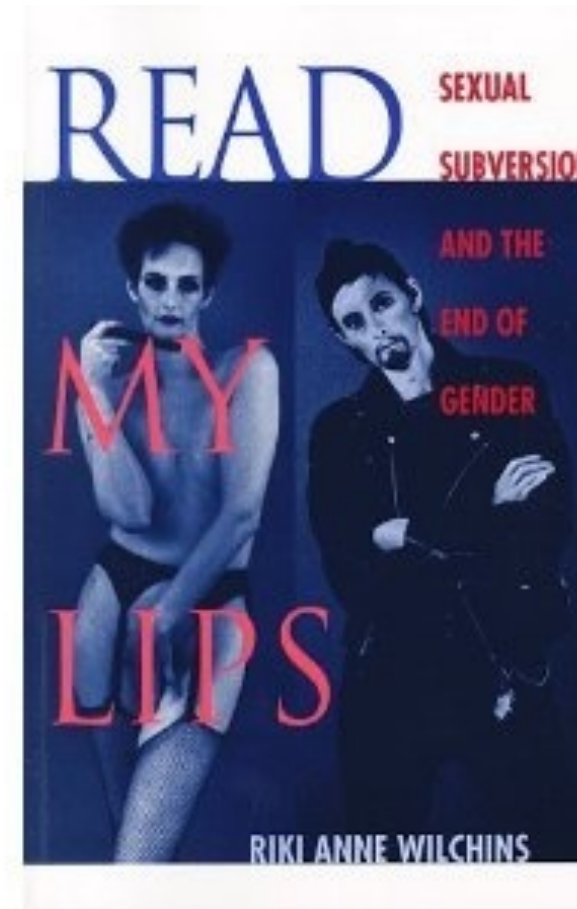
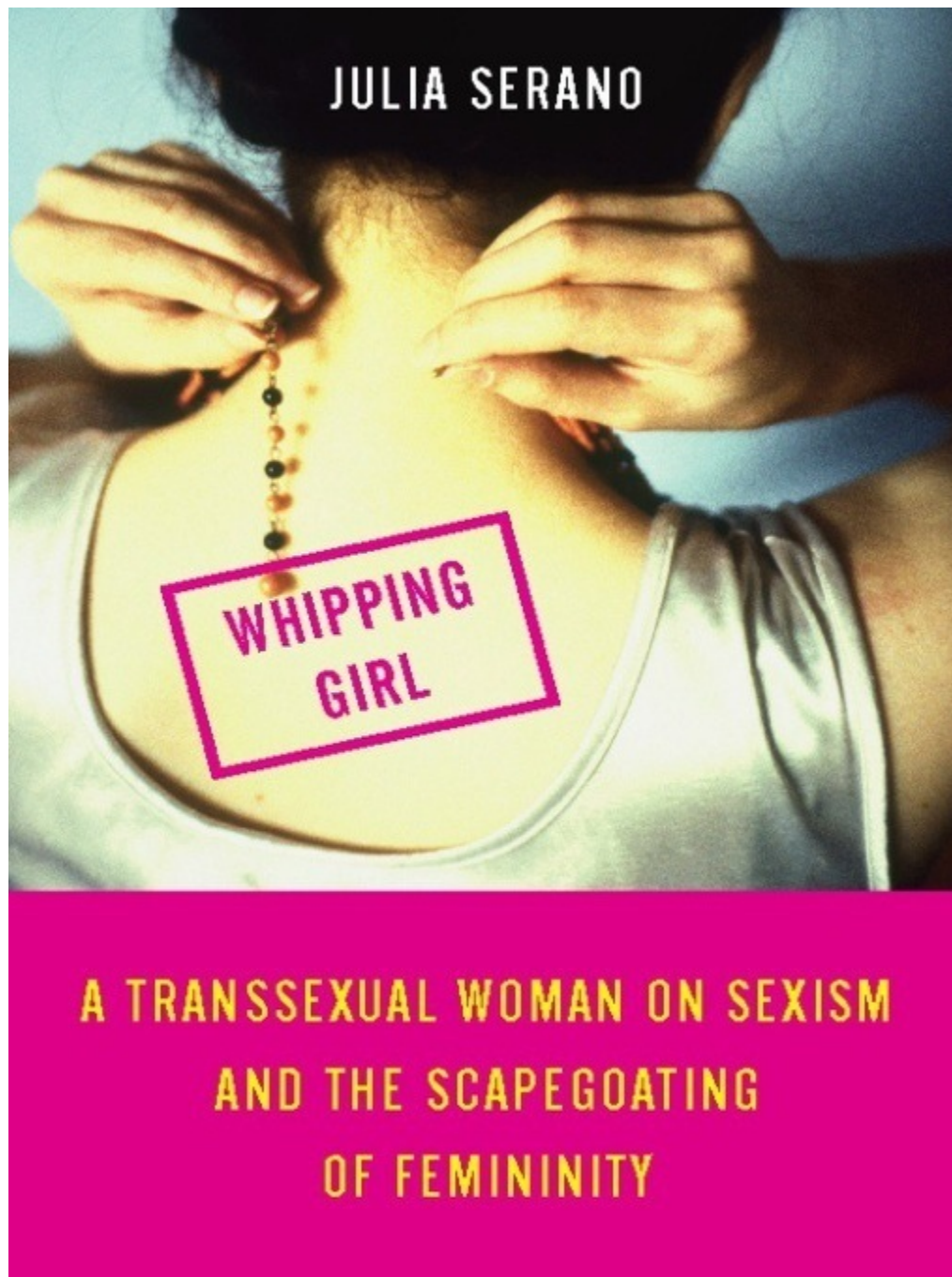
Edited by Megan M. Robert and Zandra Keig

LOOK INSIDE!





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## TRANSGENDER EXPLAINED

For Those Who Are Not



Joanne Herman



