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## **AN EXTRAORDINARY AND POIGNANT LOVE STORY**

Emeryville, CA—In a country in which the divorce rate remains consistently close to 50 percent, there are countless reasons why married people decide to end their relationships—disagreements about money, addictions, growing apart, even another woman. For Helen Boyd, there is another woman, and that other woman is her husband.

In the eagerly awaited follow up to *My Husband Betty*, ***She's Not the Man I Married*** (Seal Press, March 2007) was inspired by the crisis in one couple's marriage. Helen Boyd's cross-dressing husband, after saying "No" again and again to the question "Do you think you'll need to live as a woman?" answered "I don't know." At this point, Boyd could no longer avoid exploring whether she would be able to stay with her husband if he became a woman, and whether her love and desire for her partner would remain the same.

With unflinching honesty, Boyd ponders the many issues surrounding the possibility of her husband's transitioning—or what's commonly known as getting a sex change. Not only does she think about gender in new ways, she also discusses a broad range of topics including feminism, heterosexuality and queer identities, romance and sexuality, as well as how the gay marriage debate may threaten the legality of her marriage should Betty go through with the surgery.

***She's Not the Man I Married*** unveils the challenges that surround marriage, identity, self-expression and partnership—not just in the context of one husband's cross-dressing and transgender identity, but for us all. Because ***She's Not the Man I Married*** is also a love story that flies in the face of the simplicity of books like *Men Are from Mars/Women Are from Venus* and *The Rules*, in which the author suggests that quite possibly the gender roles required of us as heterosexuals may greatly limit our abilities to be ourselves fully in any love relationship.

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**Helen Boyd** is the author of *My Husband Betty* (Thunder's Mouth, 2004) which has been nominated for a Lambda Literary Award and is now in its 6th printing. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from The City College of New York.

Boyd has been running an online group for couples since 2000, and has spoken at many trans conferences, including the IFGE, First Event, Fantasia Fair, Southern Comfort, the Chicago Be-All, and also at special events, like Trans Issues Week at Yale University. Helen and Betty have been featured on *The Dr. Keith Ablow Show* and spoke about GLBT marriage on PBS' *In the Life*, and her partner Betty recently appeared on an episode of *All My Children* – playing herself. Boyd's writing has also appeared in anthologies edited by Matt Bernstein Sycamore and Vern Bullough. Her blog (*en*)*Gender* can be found at [www.myhusbandbetty.com](http://www.myhusbandbetty.com).

***SHE'S NOT THE MAN I MARRIED: My Life with a Transgender Husband***

by Helen Boyd

Seal Press, an Imprint of Avalon Publishing Group, Inc.

March 2007

\$15.95 / 280 pages / Trade Paper

ISBN 1-58005-193-6