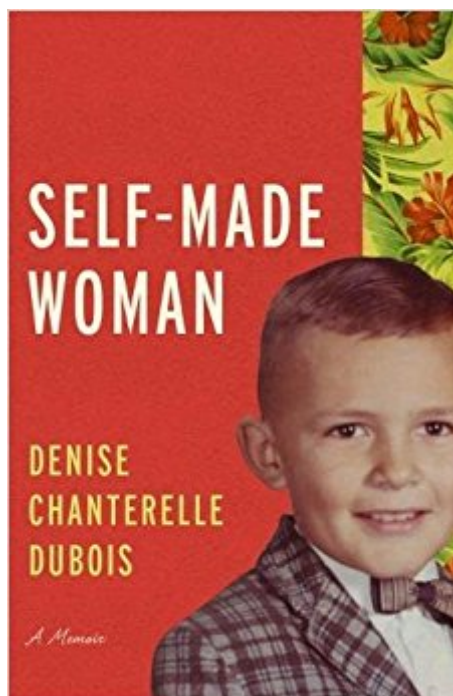


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Self-Made Woman: A Memoir (Living Out: Gay And Lesbian Autobiog)



Synopsis

Denise Chanterelle DuBois's transformation into a woman wasn't easy. Born as a boy into a working-class Polish American Milwaukee family, she faced daunting hurdles: a domineering father, a gritty 1960s neighborhood with no understanding of gender nonconformity, trouble in school, and a childhood so haunted by deprivation that neckbone soup was a staple. Terrified of revealing her inner self, DuBois lurched through alcoholism, drug dealing and addiction, car crashes, dangerous sex, and prison time. Dennis barreled from Wisconsin to California, Oregon, Canada, Costa Rica, New York, Bangkok, and Hawaii on a joyless ride. Defying all expectations, DuBois didn't crash and burn. Embracing her identity as a woman, she remade herself. Writing with resolute honesty and humor, she confronts both her past and her present to tell an American story of self-discovery.

Book Information

Series: Living Out: Gay and Lesbian Autobiog

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

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Customer Reviews

"An astonishing saga of survival and transformation." [Will Fellows](#), author of *Farm Boys*"DuBois's searing, brutally honest memoir of her emotional journey from male to female is a page-turner, occasionally shocking but ultimately joyful. Though the decisions she's made have been a mixed bag, she finds that, waking up each day solidly a woman"A story full of heartache and hope. By the end we are a lot more compassionate and smarter about the radical grace required to be transgendered in a relentlessly heterosexual society." [Cassandra Langer](#), author of *Romaine Brooks*"Denise's colorful life has covered it all in spades: sex, drugs, and a journey of self-discovery that takes her around the world. Buckle up for a wild ride!" [Andrea James](#),

filmmaker and transgender rights activist

For decades I kept Denise in the closet. Then I kept Dennis in the closet.

Born into a physically and mentally abusive Catholic family in the late 1950s, Dennis always liked dresses and dolls. Despite his frequently drunk father's beatings, Dennis grew up pursuing common Wisconsin hobbies like fishing and ice skating. But Dennis has a secret, he has always felt female. His clandestine wearing of female clothing and makeup during high school is eventually discovered forcing him to move to California after graduation. Dennis continues his downward spiral into sex, drugs and crime before finally realizing his dream of womanhood at age 50. *Self-Made Woman* is an empowering tale of one person's transformation. Not just from male to female but also from adolescent to adult. Memoirs allow readers to view life through someone else's eyes. There are few eyes as interesting as Ms. DuBois'. *Self-Made Woman* is recommended for those who have gender dysphoria and their loved ones. However, it is also an interesting read for anyone who wants to get out of their own skin for awhile. Just a note, this book contains graphic sex and should only be read by mature older teens and adults. I received this book in a Goodreads giveaway but that has not impacted my review.

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