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## Synopsis

This brave memoir chronicles Prattâ™s struggle to overcome the repressive traditions of Southern womanhood and live her life honestly. It chronicles her youth, her marriage, her eventual decision to come out as a lesbian, and her life with transgendered activist and author Leslie Feinberg. Minnie Bruce Pratt is the author of *We Say We Love Each Other*, *Rebellion*, *Crime Against Nature*, *Walking Back Up Depot Street*, and *The Dirt We Ate*.

## Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Alyson Books (March 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 155583888X

ISBN-13: 978-1555838881

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.3 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,376,461 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > LGBT > Lesbian #2394 in Books > Gay & Lesbian > Nonfiction > LGBT Studies #3627 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Gender Studies > General

## Customer Reviews

Pratt breaks traditions, restrictions, and taboos in what many--some with shocked horror, others with fascination--will find a high-risk book, almost sure to become one of the hottest this season in and perhaps also outside the lesbian community. In a long series of vignettes, Pratt chronicles her Southern youth, during which she was "trained into the cult of pure white womanhood" and raised to be subjugated by a man; her lengthy marriage, the birth of two sons, and her eventual leave-taking from that traditional role; her coming out, living as a lesbian, and the fear it brought of "a sisterhood based on biological definitions" ; and--at the book's pulsing, erotic core--her passionate love for a woman born female but male in gender expression, who often lives as a man and whom Pratt calls "my husband." Some straights and gays alike may be repulsed by Pratt, finding her neither a "real woman" nor a "real lesbian." Others may applaud her efforts to eradicate boundaries. Whitney Scott --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Minnie Bruce Pratt is the author of We Say We Love Each Other, Rebellion, Crime Against Nature, Walking Back Up Depot Street, and The Dirt We Ate.

I liked this book. The author has had an interesting life. A southern white, femme lesbian attracted to transgender stone butches, she grew up during and participated in, all the civil rights movements of the late twentieth century, black, women's, gay and transgender. With short one to four page vignettes the book moves quickly and is written in a rather "poetic" style (the author is a poet) and I would actually like to read a more conventionally written autobiography fleshed out with more detail. I thought it was interesting that later in life she reunited with several schoolmates and came to find out that many of them were also gay and reminisced about how different their lives could have been if they could have been out with each other, but back in the 60s that just couldn't have happened. I would also like to know more about her mother who is described once as a bulldagger. This book has lots of great slice of life scenes and I didn't want it to end. It was published in 1995, I hope the author writes a "part 2" that brings us up to the present.

Pratt's language in this book is sometimes painfully raw, as she strips her feelings and experiences bare for the world to read. It is often beautifully poetic and highly quotable. She can come across as tender or intolerant, but always there is strength and affection running through the warp and weave of her story. I also found the "Some straights and gays alike may be repulsed by Pratt, finding her neither a "real woman" nor a "real lesbian"" of 's Booklist review to be gratuitous, inflammatory, condescending, and repulsive. Gender and sexual identity are highly personal and nuanced, and not subject to external validation. Recommended reading for:- Anyone who enjoys poetic prose- Anyone studying gender identity or sexual identity- Anyone who enjoys Dorothy Allison, Leslie Feinberg, or Bear Bergman

This was great!!! As a dyke who has had a hard time coming to terms with being a femme, it was great to see some of myself in this book. The book is well written and evocative, plus it brings in enough gender, feminist and queer politics that it is not a simple pleasure read. And of course I love Leslie Feinberg, so reading a book written from the perspective of Leslie's partner was great.

great read

Item as described and arrived on time. Thank you.

very professional

I never seem to have a copy of this beautiful book because i am always giving it to people, telling them to just keep it, because i feel like it will enrich their lives. I read this when i was first exploring my femme identity, and i found every piece beautiful, moving, powerful, and transformative. I cried again and again as MBP moved through her journey from young wife to lesbian feminist to femme, to powerful superfemme force to be reckoned with. This book is the only one i have ever read that deals perfectly with the pain and shame and profound sadness and lonliness of growing up filled with a desire that is not recognized in our culture, and is difficult to understand inside ourselves. For a long time i thought of this book as a love letter to Les Feinburg, MBP's partner, but now i read it as a love letter to herself, revealing her growth and strength and wisdom. When i grow up, i wannabe Minnie Bruce Pratt!!

And you thought this text was about lovers who traverse gender and sexual dimensions of US culture? Since it's such a rich read, take another look at the revolutionary's socialist political cultural criticism. Minnie Bruce is doing a Lao Tzu impression to achieve a socio-cultural damnation of the US--"doing without doing." With lovers, gorgeous sexual scenes, deep intimacy in the foreground of her tiny "chapters"/stories, my favorite in-between writer is providing an understated socialist feminist critique. It is a genre-crossed book. Like the soft spoken and appearing Southern lady gone North as she is, Pratt's got a near subliminal "undertext" going on beneath the surface reading of everyday life stories. One of the most delightfully subversive texts I've read of a modern poetic prose writer. Oh give this one to all cultural and literary criticism students, queer theorists, transgender and gender studies scholars, and the poets, of course.

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