

Sometimes crossdressing just feels like the natural thing to do. Some crossdressers dress to feel more feminine. The feeling of stockings and high heels gives some crossdressers a sense of satisfaction. Other crossdressers seek transition and feel that dressing as a woman on a full-time basis is in line with the gender they perceive themselves to be.

Some men crossdress because they believe that women are treated much better than men. This might be true in some cases, but reality can be cold and chilling. Let me quote a friend of mine, a respected member of the transgender community whom I shall not embarrass by revealing her identity: If your life sucks as a man, it will suck worse as a woman! Let me add, with no disrespect to anyone: If you're ugly as a man, you'll be even uglier as a woman. Appearance plays a large role in your passability and acceptance as a woman in society. If you're an ugly man and have the kind of face only a mother could love, I would strongly advise you not to transition. You will only create huge problems for yourself later on in life.

If you choose to transition, no matter what you look like, read the rest of this book and many more like it because you've got a tough road ahead. To me, I would rather not transition than resort to taking daily painkillers or becoming a prostitute. These are, perhaps, bad examples of transsexuals, but they exist and are more common than most transsexuals would care to admit.

## **How Others Perceive Us**

"I dress like this and do everything I do in a closed environment for fear of being found out by friends or family."

"I hire XYZ Transformation Service and pay them a lot of money to create an atmosphere where I am accepted as a woman. It is my fantasy to be accepted as a woman and to be treated as such for a short while."

Do either of the above statements sound like you? If so, and you're satisfied with living in a fantasy world, then this book is definitely not for you. If you want to find out what you're doing wrong and how to correct it so that you can pass effectively as a woman and improve other people's perceptions of transgender people, this book will certainly help. I can't promise to cover everything about gender illusion in a 40-page book, but I can take an important subset of it and explain it in an understandable way that will get you excited about gender illusion and willing to study other aspects of it on your own.

Let's start by understanding how other people perceive us. We're all seen as crossdressers to most people, no matter if we are transvestite, transsexual, or something in between. The educated might know the difference between a transvestite and a transsexual, but, on the whole, most people don't.

The media makes people believe that all crossdressers like to prance around like the drag queens in *To Wong Foo*. Maury Povich, Geraldo Rivera, and Jerry Springer all aired shows exploiting transgendered people. You have the media working against you when you try to explain to people that what you do isn't sick and demented. A lot of us are fearful of admitting that there's more to this than just wearing women's clothes. We want people to accept us for who we are. Appearances play a big role in this and convincing people that we are what we say or think we are is a challenge for all of us.

Some people are actually offended by crossdressers and believe that only women should be wearing women's clothes. They cite The Bible and God and all that. Just keep nodding and smiling. God loves all of His children. When a person knowingly upsets another person, I'm sure God keeps tabs on such troublemakers. Ignore the God-fearing and have fun with crossdressing.

Let's take a look at a few of the major categories of crossdressers. While some people may not appreciate being classified a certain way, it is helpful to see how being part of a certain group can shape people's perceptions of you.

### **The Support Group Crossdresser**

The support group crossdresser is usually a closeted crossdresser who is not "out" to her friends and family. Perhaps her spouse and a few friends know, but the majority of people in her life do not know. She is rarely passable as a woman no matter how well she is put together. People may give her nice compliments on her appearance, but all of these remarks tend to be made by close friends or other support group crossdressers. Support group crossdressers are usually friendly towards one another. The embittered ones have usually tried passing as women in public and failed numerous times, so they now confine themselves to safe havens, such as support groups, for acceptance.

The big problem with support group crossdressers is they all tend to look the same. You've seen the type: curly blonde wig, lots of badly applied makeup, big gaudy jewelry, hideous flower dresses, and, to top it all off, four-inch patent pumps that never match the outfit. Some support group crossdressers refuse help from anyone, citing the years of experience they have crossdressing. Years of experience is fine, but if it's bad experience, what good is it in the real world? The acid test is if you can walk around town during the day and not have everyone point and stare at the hulking crossdresser in high heels.

"Dude, what the hell are you doing?" is a comment many guys would say to a support group crossdresser. "Har har! That's a man!" is a rude comment other guys would say to their friends when they see a support group crossdresser. It can be very frustrating to be on the receiving end of these remarks, especially when you've done your best to pass as a woman. Confining yourself to a safe haven like a transgender support group will never enable your female persona to flourish and, because of this, you may never find peace within yourself.

### **The Bitchy Transsexual**

The bitchy transsexual was once a crossdresser who decided to go on a path towards gender reassignment. Some transsexuals believe that their life sucks as a man, so maybe it would be easier, better, or more fun as a woman. Transsexuals who do not take all of the steps necessary to retrain their male psyches to think more like female psyches are at a severe disadvantage to those who walk, talk, and act like women. After a while, many transsexuals simply give up on passing as women and live their lives as androgynous people, angry at the world for not accepting them. Many of them, like support group crossdressers, confine themselves to safe havens for acceptance.

### **The Fetish Escort Shemale**

Like the phrase implies, this person has some connection with the adult sex industry. She could be into bondage wear. She could be an escort. She could be a shemale porn star. She could be two of or all three of the three. You have to be reasonably attractive in order to do this sort of thing and even if you are, you'll find that the window of opportunity closes fast because today's hot tamale will be yesterday's old hat very quickly. When most fetish escort shemales finally realize this, they may become bitter unless they've already made all of the money they could hope for. Many fetish escort shemales hang out with other fetish escort shemales forming their own kind of support group, a safe haven where everyone compliments each other on the way they look and nothing ever gets improved.

These three types of people comprise a very large percentage of the transgender female population. The piece that ties them all together is the bitterness factor. Eventually, all three become bitter, angry at the world, and ready to lash out at those who have anything to say against them.

"You don't live my life!" they say.

"Oh course not," we respond. "Why would we want to?"

All sarcasm aside, a gender illusionist seeks to perfect an art that makes her happy. A gender illusionist welcomes appreciative comments from people and revels when people tell her that they had no idea that she is really a man underneath the clothes and makeup.

## **You Don't Have to Be Bitter!**

For a transsexual to tell me that she has given up on passing as a woman and just wants to live her life in her own way just makes me shake my head. It tells me that the transsexual made an attempt at some point to blend in with society, failed at it because of lack of dedication or practice, and is now embittered by it. The transsexual then lashes out at crossdressers and drag queens, deeming them unworthy to be spoken of in the same breath as transsexuals who live their lives as women 24-7. "You're just a man with a nice makeup job," we'd hear them say to crossdressers.

To that, I say poo on them. How can someone who has supposedly found her true self be so bitter? If you found yourself, wouldn't you be at peace with yourself and the world and not need to lash out at others? I hate meeting bitter people and I'd advise you to avoid them if at all possible. Listening to a bitter person is not productive and could be detrimental to your own mental health. If you meet someone who likes to complain a lot, just make up a convenient excuse to leave the conversation and run away. Don't let a bitter person make you bitter because that's exactly what she wants, a companion who can share in her bitterness.

By reading this book, I'm going to assume that you aren't bitter or maybe you were sick and tired of being bitter, so now you want to better yourself. If so, you have taken a very important first step on the road to success in gender illusion. Directing negative energy towards positive things is always a good thing, whether it be gender illusion or otherwise.

## **Why Gender Illusion?**

Some crossdressers take their art to the highest level. Their goal is to pass as women and be so convincing that no one will question their true gender. They will do everything they can to achieve this, including female hormones, plastic surgery, skincare treatments, exercising, permanent hair removal, hair transplants, and more. Many of these people do not care to be women on a 24/7 basis. Like other crossdressers, they may seek attention or acceptance, but usually when a person undergoes several procedures towards feminization, that person desires some form of attention.

Let's all look at the one major goal why we chose gender illusion as a practice. We chose gender illusion because we all want to look like beautiful women. Not just any women, mind you, but drop dead gorgeous women. Not many people strive to look like a fat old housewife who has three kids and makes Rosanne Barr look like a supermodel. As crossdressers, we strive to look like women. As gender illusionists, we strive to look like beautiful women.

While beauty is in the eye of the beholder and highly subjective, bear in mind that the majority rules when it comes to what is attractive and what isn't. You will need to determine how important you feel consensus opinion is. Lynda Carter and Morgan Fairchild may be considered by many to be two of the most beautiful women in the world. To someone who likes gothic chicks, Lynda and Morgan might look like ugly slugs. Okay, maybe not that bad, but you get the idea. After all, a guy who likes one thing can usually be reasonably objective when it comes to determining what everybody else likes. "Lynda and Morgan" are pretty cute, the gothic guy might say, and that's the best of the worst kind of comment we can hope to achieve as we try to convince others of our attractiveness.

Crossdressing should be fun. If it's not fun, why do it? Wouldn't it be cool to look like someone else for a day? Wouldn't it be cooler to be someone else for a day? Gender illusion takes this concept one step further. Wouldn't it be cool to look like a totally glamorous woman for a day and have men kiss your feet and do your bidding? The power of a beautiful woman cannot be underestimated. It is perhaps the most powerful gift of all. It is achievable by some and perhaps attainable by others. Not everyone can or will achieve this gift, but nobody ever achieved anything significant without trying.

## **Maximize or Minimize?**

Gender illusion is about maximizing our strengths and minimizing our weaknesses. Everyone has good and bad features on their face and body. Skilled gender illusionists can emphasize and enhance the good features while drawing attention away from the bad. However, there's more to the maximizing and minimizing concept than just appearance.

What are we trying to maximize? In our crossdressing, we should all hope to develop superior makeup application skills. This is a teachable subject. Makeup can alter the way we look, sometimes minutely and sometimes dramatically. Oftentimes, makeup is abused in the hands of an unskilled artist. Colors clash, techniques are faulty or nonexistent, and the end result is not pretty.

In order to be successful at gender illusion, we have to maximize our teachable skills and minimizing our chances for failure. Success and failure are measured differently by different people. For some people, a walk to a nearby park while crossdressed constitutes a success. To others, getting a guy to buy you flowers, dinner, and drinks is the minimum standard for success. Let's go through what you, as a budding gender illusionist, should maximize and minimize.

Minimize mistakes. In the beginning, every time you go out, you should learn something from the experience. Rude people will comment about you if you look mismatched or not quite right. Let them sling their insults. If enough people say the same thing, then the insults might be accurate. Sometimes the rudest comments turn out to be the most helpful. Once you learn to filter through the negative stuff, take the criticisms, dissect them, and figure out how to correct the flaws in your gender illusion. Correcting the problem of mismatched clothes is easy. Buy more clothes or pair up different stuff. Correcting something more permanent, such as bad skin or a big nose, requires you to look more closely at the problem, its source, how much money you are willing to spend to correct the problem, and the time required to correct the problem.

Minimize confrontation. Picking a fight while you are in girl mode is the last thing you want to do. Girls don't normally go around insulting people or beating people up. Girls also don't use profanities or make obscene gestures at people. If someone insults you, avoid confrontation, but remember what he or she said. When the tempers die down, carefully analyze the remarks. Talk about it with other crossdressers or gender illusionists. If the offender is just plain nasty, remember what was said and use that as your driving force to improve yourself even more to look so convincing as a woman and gain so much appreciation from others that the person who insulted you will just be regarded as an insignificant oaf.

Maximize quality time. Every adventure in your girl self should be a fun learning experience. Even if the experience was positively dreadful, such as people insulting your appearance, force yourself to learn from that and understand why they insulted you. Perhaps they were assholes. Perhaps they were right. Assholes don't just poke fun of others without a reason. Assholes speak their mind and that kind of thinking may be used as constructive criticism for your development as a gender illusionist.

Now that you know what to maximize and minimize, what should be your goal in crossdressing or gender illusion? Simple. Your goal is to pass as a woman in society. That should be your ultimate goal and something