

It is reasonable to feel uncomfortable being in an unfamiliar environment, but if you feel uncomfortable using the ladies restroom because you feel you don't pass, then you've already lost the battle. You need to build confidence in yourself to be who you want to be. If you let the people you are afraid of dictate where you should be and what you should do, such as rude women who try to stare you down, then you will never succeed as a woman. On the other hand, you should never force your ideals on others. If you're unpassable, then you're unpassable and you should never force someone to accept you as a woman if he or she does not think you look or act anything like a woman.

Ultimate passability is an impossible dream for most transsexuals. You will know when you've achieved ultimate passability when people believe you're a woman even though you're not dressed as a woman. An ultimately passable transsexual can wear no makeup, no women's clothes, no jewelry, and no hats and still be considered a woman. Thus, a transsexual with male pattern baldness could never be an ultimately passable transsexual unless her hair problem is fixed. A transsexual with a big bulky body could never be an ultimately passable transsexual unless her body problem is fixed. A certain degree of passability is achievable in these transsexuals, but that depends on how hard they work at perfecting their look. In the real world, nobody keeps tabs on how saintly you are or how much you've done for the transsexual community. They're judging you solely on your looks.

Get constructive criticism from others, but consider the source of any advice you receive. I've seen lots of very unattractive transsexuals give all sorts of bad advice to other transsexuals. Adhering to my strict philosophy on passability will make you more passable and will enable you to live a happier and more satisfying life. I meet too many transsexuals who come up with every conceivable excuse as to why they can't follow my advice and strive to better themselves. The ones who make up the most excuses are the ones who will never be completely passable. If you have gotten this far in the book, I know you want to be passable. Having the desire to achieve passability is the first step towards fulfilling a goal that most transsexuals only dream about.

## The Need to Be Passable

Do you want to be attractive, passable, believable as a woman, and accepted as a woman or do you want to be unattractive, unpassable, ignored, and possibly ridiculed as a man who dresses as a woman?

*"I will present myself as a woman and fuck everyone who doesn't see me as a woman."*

I've heard that statement from many unpassable transsexuals who've given up trying to pass and I often wonder if they fail to see how important fitting into society

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is in order to be accepted as the gender they wish to present themselves as. If you look like a cat, should you call yourself a dog and tell people they're wrong to still call you a cat? If you look like a cat dressed as a dog, are you really a dog just because you think you're a dog?

How can you really, truly feel like a woman if you don't look like a woman 24/7? I've wrestled with this problem of mind over body for years and my conclusion after hearing all of the evidence is *you can't*. You can give up trying to pass and live your life as an unpassable woman, but no matter how thick-skinned you might be, all of the insults and heckling towards your physical appearance will eventually irritate you and gnaw at the very core of your being.

Unattractive and poorly dressed genetic women get enough mean glances, stares, and behind-the-back sneers every day. To be an unattractive transsexual adds on top of the pain felt when the object of derision is you. I uncovered the following letter written by a depressed transsexual. More often than not, this is how many unpassable transsexuals feel. Read it and listen to these words because they might apply to many of you:

*"I don't even know what to say really... I'm just so sick of my life and myself that I don't even want to go on anymore. I'm sick of being alone, my life was so much better two years ago when I had someone who loved me. I didn't realize how good I had it.*

*I remember when I first started transitioning Jordan told me things would get better but they never do. I have even more problems than before. I used to hardly ever get clocked but now I feel like I'm being read or spooked more frequently. I know for a fact that ignorant morons have said shit at least three to four times over the last couple of months. I feel really ugly and unpassable. I haven't been on hormones for a while because I can't afford them anymore. I just don't see the same person in the mirror anymore. There are so many things I want to change but I can't. It could be lack of confidence that's giving me away also, because every bit I had is long gone... But how do you girls deal with this if it happens?*

*Everybody tells me 'you look fine' or 'you're crazy' (that's pretty obvious I think) but I'm not blind or deaf. This is really messed up but I tried to kill myself a couple weeks ago. I was put in the hospital, been going to a therapist but they can't help me... I still feel the same and I'm afraid I'll succeed next time and end up hurting a lot of people close to me. But I really can't take it anymore..."*

As you can plainly see, this transsexual is clearly troubled by her ability to pass as a woman. She is not alone. If you want people to see you as a woman, you have to look like a woman. If they ever figure out that you're a transsexual, the hope is that they say "Daaaaamn, nobody goes through *that much trouble* to look the way she does for no reason. She must seriously want to be a woman." This is how you can convince all doubters that you are truly a woman, not by walking around looking unpassable and proclaiming yourself a woman. Imagine if I walked around town telling everyone I

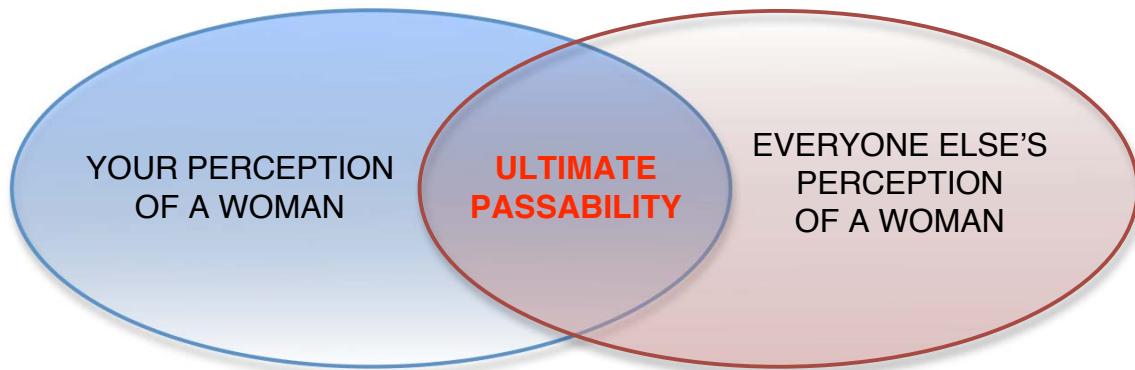
was black or a Sno-Cone or a Chia Pet. People might humor me and say, “Yes, you are, darling,” but when I walk out of earshot they would think I was nuts! If you are reading this book, obviously you care enough about your passability to want to ensure that everything you do convinces the majority of strangers that you are a woman.

Your ultimate goal in passability is to make sure that *everyone* thinks you are a woman and that everyone thinks you were born a woman. Some of you think you’re already very passable just because all of your friends said so in support group meetings or gay bars, but I will tell you that you cannot develop passability by hanging out exclusively at LGBT-based places. You have to throw yourself into the fire by going to straight places and immersing yourself in the culture of the place whether it is a department store makeup counter or a seat in the middle of the room of the finest restaurant in the city. And if you really want to be completely passable, you will do these things with a man because only then will you be placing yourself in the social role of being a woman as society sees it, not some warped version of what you think a woman is just because you can’t attract a gentleman who is good enough to treat you as a woman.

*“If I am not small and petite, will I ever be passable?”*

I want the answer to be yes, and I think it can be yes, but it’s all up to you and how hard you want to work at your passability. You cannot simply tell the world that you are a woman and expect everyone to treat you as a woman. If it were that easy, more transsexuals would come out and transition.

How passable you are ultimately depends on how much you can “sell” your image to others by convincing them that you are indeed what you present yourself as. You can condition yourself to accept yourself as you are, but if you have physical flaws that prevent you from being seen as a woman by others, it is not so simple as to simply ignore others as wrong. Your views and their views must coincide in order for them to see you as a woman and for you to be ultimately passable. Too many transsexuals try to go their own way with their passability only to find out that they’re really not that passable at all except around their friends and their support groups. I would never want to live my life in a state of delusion like this.



*The golden rule of ultimate passability states that your perception of a woman must coincide with everyone else's perception of a woman. If your perception of a woman is different than everyone else's, you will not be considered passable.*

Of vital importance is securing an attitude of never giving up. Looking like a woman, in the strictest sense, is not easy, especially if you've been a man most of your life. Once you start to give up, all hope will be lost in ever becoming passable. Never give up. Always hold your head up high and work harder at passing next time.

The most terrible thing a stranger can say to you is "You look like a man in drag." Unless you hang out with a lot of urban youths, you probably won't ever hear this, but just because you don't hear it doesn't mean that people aren't thinking it. When you finish reading this book, if you should have a healthy dose of skepticism about your passability, then my work was successful in instilling a sense of unrest in you. Never rest on your laurels just because you've discovered a look that works for you. Always push ahead to create the next good look for you. Genetic women all have several good looks that they can create for themselves. A lot of these looks have to do with changing their hairstyle, their makeup, and their clothing. Mastering the arts of hairstyling, makeup, and clothing style will greatly help your passability.

In case you missed any of the pertinent points of this section, let me repeat all of it in a bolder way to drive the point home:

*You will not fit into society as a woman if you do not look like a woman!*

Do you cry in your pillow every night wishing you were passable? If so, you are not alone. I did, too. Passability is the single most important criterion in determining your self-realization as a woman. If it walks like a duck, quacks like a duck, looks like a duck, then it must be a duck. Many unpassable transsexuals give up trying to pass after a while and confine themselves to a small corner of society. For introverted personalities, this may be fine, but for the rest of us, we want more than that.

When we talk about a transsexual being passable, we are not talking about passable to a few people or passable to some people. We are talking about passable to