

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN? JENNIFER FINNEY BOYLAN, BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *SHE'S NOT THERE* AND COAUTHOR OF *MAD HONEY* WITH JODI PICOULT, EXAMINES THE DIVISIONS—AS WELL AS THE COMMON GROUND—BETWEEN THE GENDERS AND REFLECTS ON HER OWN EXPERIENCES, BOTH DIFFICULT AND JOYFUL, AS A TRANSGENDER AMERICAN.

Jennifer Finney Boylan's *Cleavage* is more than a deep dive into gender identity; it's also a look at the difference between coming out as trans in 2000—when many people reacted to Boylan's transition with love—and the present era of blowback and fear.

How does gender affect our sense of self and the passage of time? Our body image? The friends we lose—and keep? Boylan considers her womanhood, reflects on the boys and men who shaped her, and reconceives of herself as a writer, activist, parent, and spouse. With heart-wrenching honesty, she illustrates the feeling of liminality that followed her to adulthood but demonstrates the redemptive power of love through it all.

With Boylan's trademark humor and poignancy, *Cleavage* is a sharp, witty, and captivating look at the triumphs and losses of a life lived in two genders. *Cleavage* provides hope for a future in which we all have the freedom to live joyfully as men, as women, and in the space between us.

JENNIFER FINNEY BOYLAN is the author of nineteen books, including *Mad Honey*, coauthored with Jodi Picoult. Her memoir, *She's Not There*, was the first bestselling work by a transgender American. Since 2014, she has been the inaugural Anna Quindlen Writer in Residence at Barnard College of Columbia University; she is also on the faculty of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference of Middlebury College and the Sirenland Writers Conference in Positano, Italy. She is the president of PEN America, and, from 2011 to 2018, she was a member of the board of directors of GLAAD, including four years as national cochair. From 2022 to 2023, she was a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University. She graduated from Wesleyan University and Johns Hopkins University, and she holds doctorates honoris causa from Sarah Lawrence College, the New School, and Wesleyan. For many years she was a contributing writer for the opinion section of the *New York Times*. Her work has also appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *Washington Post*, the *Boston Globe*, *Literary Hub*, *Down East*, and many other publications. She lives in Maine and New York with her wife, Deirdre. They have two children: a daughter, Zai, and a son, Sean.

**READ BY GABRA ZACKMAN
WITH THE AUTHOR**



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