



## Read My Lips: Sexual Subversion and the End of Gender

By Riki Anne Wilchins

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**Read My Lips: Sexual Subversion and the End of Gender** By Riki Anne Wilchins

Riki Anne Wilchins has written the book that may take the discussion of gender over the top. *Read My Lips: Sexual Subversion and the End of Gender*, a frontal assault on both the status quo in academic studies and the full spectrum of single-issue identity politics, will change the way you think about bodies, sex, and gender. Yours and everyone else's.

Combining the theoretical breakthroughs of Judith Butler's *Gender Trouble* and the performance revelations of Kate Bornstein's *Gender Outlaw*, Wilchins -- cofounder of the Transsexual Menace -- moves the dialogue to a new level. In a voice that is by turns outraged, outrageous, sad, and hilarious, the author weaves theory and personal experience into a compelling story of self-discovery. She redefines what it means to be "gendered", both by the way she lives and the accessible theoretical narrative she constructs.

*Read My Lips*, with its unique mix of theory and application, anecdote and affront, will appeal to feminists, queer academics, activists, transpeople, "the queer-on-the-street", and the increasing audience of mainstream readers hungry for writing that pushes the absolute edge of the gender envelope.

OUT Magazine says that the author "has surfaced as the Superhero of this burgeoning (transgender) movement". Wilchins, herself, signs off on her email as follows: "Just your average straight white guy with a cunt who really digs lezzie chicks like me". Rarely have smarts and chutzpah produced such good effect.

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## **Read My Lips: Sexual Subversion and the End of Gender By Riki Anne Wilchins Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

Over the course of the past decade transgender politics have become the cutting edge of sexual liberation. While the sexual and political freedom of homosexuals has yet to be fully secured, questions of who is sleeping with whom pale in the face of the battle by transgender activists to dismantle the idea of what it means to be a man or a woman. Riki Anne Wilchins's *Read My Lips* is a passionate, witty, and extraordinarily intelligent look at how society not only creates men and women--ignoring the fluidity of maleness and femaleness in most people--but also explains how those categories generate crisis for most individuals. It is impossible to read Wilchins's ideas and not be provoked in fundamental and mysterious ways.

#### From Library Journal

As the gay and lesbian movement heads toward the mainstream, the trans movement is left behind at the margins, virtually alone in challenging the way society constructs and defines gender and sexuality. The executive director of GenderPac, Wilchins combines personal narrative, essay, photojournalism, history, and a critique of the feminist and queer movements to present a unified rage against gender-based oppression. In her enlightening and moving book, she challenges us to break out of our boxes and view gender, eroticism, oppression, and persecution through the eyes of a strident member of the trans community. Covering much of the same territory, PoMoSexuals gives voice to 15 people living in the gray areas of gender and sexuality who struggle with what it means to have "nonstandard" erotic desires and identities in America. They represent people on the margins of gender and sexuality, ranging from a man who becomes a lesbian woman to a heterosexual woman exploring her attraction to gay men and a lesbian who writes gay male porn. These eye-opening stories carry us into the lives of people we don't usually encounter. The collection varies in quality, but pieces by well-known authors, such as Dorothy Allison and Pat Califia, help to carry the rest of the work. Wilchins also offers a powerful autobiographical essay. Academic libraries with gay/lesbian and feminist collections should include both books in their collections. —Jerilyn Veldof, Univ. of Arizona Lib., Tucson

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#### About the Author

Riki Wilchins is an author, activist and gender theorist. The founding E.D. of GenderPAC, she is the author of *Queer Theory/Gender Theory: An Instant Primer* (Magnus) and co-editor of *GenderQueer: Voices from Beyond the Sexual Binary* (Magnus). Her work has been published in periodicals like the *Village Voice* and *Social Text*, as well as anthologies like *Feminist Frontiers*, *Language Awareness*, and *The Encyclopedia of Identity*. She has been profiled in the *New York Times* and *Time Magazine* selected her one of "100 Civic Innovators for the 21st Century." S/he is proud of her smart, courageous six-year-old daughter, Jade. About Julia Serano Julia Serano is best known for her book *Whipping Girl: A Transsexual Woman on Sexism and the Scapegoating of Femininity*, a collection of personal essays that reveal how misogyny frames popular assumptions about femininity, and shapes many of the myths and misconceptions people have about transsexual women. Julia is also an accomplished spoken word artist. She is a slam poetry champion (having qualified for finals and/or semifinals in Berkeley, San Francisco, and San Jose in the past) and has performed spoken word at a variety of high profile events, including Toronto Pride, San Francisco Pride Main Stage, The San Francisco Dyke March, Ladyfest Bay Area, and The National Queer Arts Festival.

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#### James Shaw:

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