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My Lesbian Husband: Landscapes Of A Marriage



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Synopsis

Winner of the American Library Association GLBT Book Award
Finalist for the Lambda Literary Award

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Barrie Jean Borich's memoir of her 14-year marriage is a subtle exploration of gender and the intricacies of butch-femme desire. In dense, lyrical paragraphs, *My Lesbian Husband* describes Borich's first attraction to her partner, Linnea, and the slow building of their life together in a decaying neighborhood in Minneapolis. Borich traces both the pleasures and the wrenching difficulties of trying to construct a long-term union in the absence not only of legal and social support but of everything that our aunts and uncles and parents take for granted: "names for their union in every language, the weddings of a square-chested prince and a big-busted, cinch-waisted princess at the end of every Disney movie, every Shakespeare comedy, not to mention Mary and Joseph, Hera and Zeus, and those little bride and groom figurines they have saved from their wedding cakes." This is as sharply observed and well-written a memoir as Jan Clausen's *Apples and Oranges*, but a valentine rather than a valediction. --Regina Marler

Thoughtfully mapping the landscape of love and commitment outside the legal and societal comfort zone of state-sanctioned marriage, Borich repeatedly asks Linnea, her lover of "twelve years and counting": "Are we married?" It's not an accusation, a manipulative device or a pointed query so much as an attempt to probe what it means to be in love and to share a life for many years without

the social benefits and familial recognition granted to Borich's two married younger brothers. Not merely another queer commentary (or diatribe) on marriage, this memoir is foremost a graceful and compelling rumination on love. In the course of her paeon to Linnea, and using their life together on Portland Avenue in Minneapolis as a kind of metaphor, Borich ponders how she got to this place in her life. A recovered substance abuser who once spiraled perilously downward, devoid of any focus beyond hanging out, Borich is truly in recovery, a partner in a love that literally reconfigures her existence. Elucidating a host of lesbian issues from the butch-femme dynamic to "serial non-monogamy" to changing sexual politics, Borich also addresses more global concerns, such as neighborhood confraternity, racism and violence. Though the narrative trajectory sags a bit during the endless idyll of Borich's love (which has no downside and is never punctuated by disagreements, except in the first year when a psychic led the author astray), this tale of heart and home and what it means to find both in a tough and alienating world offers many pleasures. (Sept.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

As a straight woman, this book gives me wonderful insight into the love life of a lesbian couple. And to all those people out there who argue against gay relationships, this book clearly shows that "love is love." Worries, tender moments, everyday things like walking the dog and feeding the cats, are things we all go through in our relationships. So I hope this book does not get just a gay audience. The only bone I have to pick is that I thought the writing and editing could have been tighter. Some of the chapters seem as if they were written to stand on their own. For example, we're introduced several times to "Paulie, my brother," when she could have just introduced him that way once and subsequently referred to him just as Paulie. Same thing with her descriptions of her Chicago neighborhood and her Slavic background. But still, I really flew through this book.

Winner of the American Library Association's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Book Award, this is a heartwarming work of creative non-fiction. Alternating between present and past, the reader enters the author's 13 year relationship w/ her "lesbian husband." Readers see everyday slices of life: buying a house, moving, walking the dog, dinners with friends, etc. within the context of a long-term lesbian relationship. Attending a family wedding prompts the author to ponder what she should call her partner, is a ceremony necessary to recognize/legitimize her relationship? A well written, touching story of lesbian love and devotion.

I can't say enough how wonderful this book is. It goes best with deliriously hot summer days and

cool drinks with condensation on the outside of the glass. The prose is wonderful and sweeping, it pulls you through each and every memory that fills the book with a sense of delight, wonder and devotion. It made me think about my own position as a Lesbian in the 21st Century. A must for any Lesbian in a long term relationship, or any woman that has the teeniest romantic soul.

This is a marvelous love story. Ms. Borich's prose is very lyrical as she describes the relationship between herself and her lover and best friend. The first half is totally captivating, weakens a bit in the second half, but wraps it up with a very strong last chapter. This is not just a story of the life of a lesbian, but a story of the love that two people have for each other. Read it. You will not be disappointed.

I found this book very useful in changing people's idea of being a lesbian mean being unhappy, and tortured. We can live a happy and somewhat "conventional" life, with a partner, and a family too. I think that it's the best way to show others our pride.

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