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France. Just as Crompton found homosexuality widespread in France, he also found it prevalent in England during the 16th and 17th centuries, with royalty, poets, and nobility involved.

The last three chapters are devoted to the 18th century, with discussion of homosexuality in the Netherlands, England, and France. Crompton concludes with a discussion of English law and the contrasting views of William Blackstone (who regarded same-sex relations as an activity so horrible it was not to be mentioned by Christians) with that of Jeremy Bentham (who felt that same-sex relations gave pleasure to many and caused no harm to others). Unfortunately for gay and lesbian rights, Bentham's views were not published in the 18th century and it was not until the last part of the 20th century that they became fully known—a fate that many of the more positive writings on same-sex relations suffered throughout much of Western history. Left out of the book is the genesis of the modern homosexual rights movement, which began in Germany in the last part of the 19th century. However, this subject would demand an entire book in its own right, and those who attempt to carry on from where Crompton left off will have an excellent foundation upon which to build.

The end notes supply references only, and Crompton includes an extensive bibliography mainly of writings in English or French and translations into those languages. The more than 100 illustrations complement the text nicely. In sum, for those interested in the history of homosexuality this is an invaluable resource. I highly recommend it. It is well written, scholarly, and dispassionate, although it is clear where Crompton stands on the issue of homosexual rights.

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A CHORUS OF TRANSGENDER VOICES

Finding the Real Me: True Tales of Sex and Gender Diversity. Edited by Tracie O'Keefe and Katrina Fox. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2003, 293 pages. Paper, \$17.95.

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Challenging our own sense of self, looking inward to find who we are, using the process of autobiography that we know so well, is producing some very interesting answers that challenge the very binary structure of the complacent world in which gender was invented, and by which it has become obsessed. (from foreword by Stephen Whittle, p. xi)

Strange as it may seem, gender-variant people—those who were out of the closet, at any rate—made almost no

contributions to the professional literature on gender variance prior to the 1990s. Exceptions that come to mind are Magnus Hirschfeld in turn-of-the-century Germany and transgenderist Charles (now Virginia) Prince, who presented at sexology conferences and authored and coauthored a number of articles in medical journals from the late 1950s on (e.g., Prince, 1957). With regard to transsexuals, there were no exceptions; not a single transsexual had written or edited a text or been even the second or third author of a journal article.

Transsexuals nonetheless made their voices known. They did so by writing autobiographies. Between 1952 and the end of the millennium, as many as 100 different transsexual autobiographies were published. Even as medical journals speculated on the causes of transsexualism and debated the advantages of different surgical techniques, transsexual men and women were revealing in print their innermost feelings and describing the steps they took to find comfort in their lives. And, in considerable numbers, the public was reading and learning about transsexualism and adjusting its attitudes.

Today, of course, transsexuals and other transgendered people have a significant voice in the literature of gender variance. Still, there is a continuing demand for transsexual autobiographies. They continue to be published in significant numbers (e.g., Boylan, 2003) and continue to influence public attitudes. This is not the case with nontranssexual transgendered people, however. It's almost as if the criterion for acceptance for publication of an autobiography is a 3-hour genital operation. The personal stories of crossdressers and transgenderists—and for that matter, intersexed people—are rare.

Fortunately, there are several collections with autobiographical chapters by nontranssexual gender-variant individuals (Gender Identity Center of Colorado, 1996; Matzner, 2001). Although there are few contributions by crossdressers (perhaps this is in part because many individuals who would once have called themselves crossdressers now embrace a transgender identity), these collections provide a variety of perspectives on the transgender experience. Although transsexuals are liberally represented in these collections, many of the chapters are written by individuals who have not had and do not plan to have genital surgery, and many are by those born female.

Now Tracie O'Keefe and Katrina Fox bring us a third collection of short autobiographies, *Finding the real me: True tales of sex and gender diversity*. In just under 300 pages, 26 gender-variant people tell their stories with dignity, aplomb, and often wit. Within this limited space, the editors do a remarkable job of illustrating their term *sex and gender diversity*. Indeed, the contributors are a diverse lot: young and old, natal male and natal female, from the U.S., the U.K., Australia, Europe, and Japan. Their occupations range from sales and marketing to writer and poet to broadcasting to chef to sex worker, and several are students. Some identify as transsexual, some as transgendered, some as neither man nor woman, and one as physi-

cally intersexed; one identifies as “bisexual metagender, post-Christian theologian, pagan spiritualist, and lycanthrope” (p. 283). Possibly one half are transsexual, although some who are crossliving full-time claim transgender rather than transsexual status. One author writes of regretting the decision to have surgery. Race is not addressed, but I know several of the authors are Asian.

Alienation is a common theme across the chapters. The older authors who grew up in a period in which gender variance was ignored or punished and opportunities for self-education were scarce speak to this, but even the young authors like Cynthia BrianKate describe their experiences of not fitting in, being bullied and attacked, and searching for support. Another theme is change—toward the masculine, toward the feminine, or toward androgyny. Other themes include sexuality—many of the authors describe their attempts to make sense of their sexual attractions in light of their evolving gender identities—and struggles with religious beliefs and interpersonal relationships. Some of the authors describe the great lengths to which they went to ignore, conquer, or deny their transgender feelings.

The editors' skills show in the fact that their presence in the process does not show; the words of the authors flow easily and naturally, so the reader becomes easily lost in their stories. Without a doubt, this required effort. Each chapter is equally gripping, and each gives a different perspective on gender variance and the processes of coming out and transition. The humanness of the authors shows clearly; these are ordinary people in extraordinary situations, doing their best to make sense of their lives and feelings.

In bringing together this chorus of voices of “sex and gender diverse” individuals, Tracie O’Keefe and Katrina Fox have given sexologists a rare insight into the lives of transgendered and transsexual people.

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PSYCHOSEXUAL ISSUES: A CARING PROVIDERS MANUAL

Sexual Disorders: Perspectives on Diagnosis and Treatment.
By Peter J. Fagan. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003. 151 pages. Paper, \$18.95; hardcover, \$40.00.

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“The iron tongue of midnight hath struck twelve. Lovers to bed”
(from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Sir William Shakespeare).

And there we may have it. The stereotype—perhaps our stereotype—that those who are forever young and forever in love (as we all may yearn to be) will uniformly make straightaway to bed, vigorously engaging in psychosexual activities through the night, each and every night, without ever so much as a whisper or a whimper of psychosexual dysfunction. In our 20th century, when psychosexual dysfunctions were first openly admitted, of course it seemed reasonable to begin our search for a resolution. Dare we wonder, even before the sildenafil (Viagra) era, if our perpetual search for perfection in both our anatomic structures and our psychosexual functions is somehow akin to the medieval search for the occult and cryptic Holy Grail (Bass, 1994; Brown, 2003)?

Now, in our 21st century, Peter J. Fagan, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, presents four perspectives for organizing our thinking in the approach to a psychosexual dysfunction:

1. The disease perspective defined as “what the patient has.” This perspective forms the foundation of the medical model.
2. The dimension perspective defined as “what the patient is.” This perspective includes behavior patterns and the assessment of intellectual functioning.
3. The behavior perspective defined as “what the patient does.” This perspective focuses on the consequences of problematic behaviors.
4. The life story perspective defined as “what the patient encounters and gives meaning to.” This perspective is the one most closely associated with psychotherapy.

Fagan presents a case-based discussion of each perspective. For example, with regard to the disease perspective we are introduced to “Frank,” who presented with agitation and diaphoresis (sweating). These symptoms led directly to the resolution of his premature ejaculation when his medical issue of hyperthyroidism was properly diagnosed and treated. Then we are introduced to “Ralph,” whose presentation with sexual disinterest was associated with a low serum testosterone level and an elevated pituitary prolactin level. Ralph's psychosexual interest and activity were restored when he was provided with bromocriptine to treat the benign hyperfunctioning adenoma of his pituitary gland.

To illustrate the dimension perspective we are introduced to “George and Millie,” a loving couple whose marriage of 43 years ended when Millie died of cancer. When George met “Grace,” he was initially unable to achieve an erection, until with therapy he was able to resolve his ambivalence about becoming sexual with any woman other than his wife.

With regard to the behavior perspective, we meet “John,” married for 24 years with recent life stressors