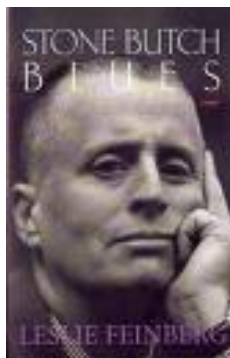




# LGBT Reading Group



## December 2008 - January 2009



### The Read... Stone Butch Blues

*Woman or man?* This internationally acclaimed novel looks at the world through the eyes of Jess, a masculine girl growing up and coming out as a young butch lesbian in the pre-Stonewall gay drag bars of a blue-collar town. This book traces a propulsive journey, powerfully evoking history and politics while portraying an extraordinary protagonist full of longing, vulnerability and working-class grit.

This underground classic takes the reader on a roller-coaster ride of gender transformation and exploration and ultimately speaks to the heart of anyone who has ever suffered or gloried in being different.

ISBN: 978-1555838539



### The Author... Leslie Feinberg

Leslie Feinberg was born in 1949 and is a transgender activist, speaker and author. *Stone Butch Blues* won the Stonewall Book Award and despite popular belief, the fictional work is not autobiographical. It is frequently taught at colleges and universities and is widely considered a groundbreaking work about gender.

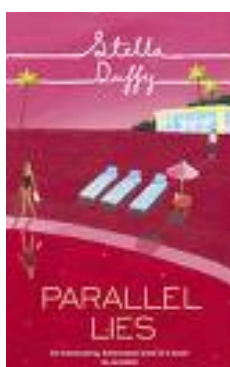
Feinberg was born female and prefers the gender-neutral pronouns such as "hir" and "ze" saying; "I have shaped myself surgically and hormonally twice in my life, and I reserve the right to do it again."

Feinberg's partner is the prominent lesbian poet-activist Minnie Bruce Pratt.

### Our Opinion...

Jess becomes Jesse as she takes a long, often painful, journey into masculinity and back. Growing up 1950s America, Jess knows from an early age that she's not like other girls – and her parents know it too. She runs away to start a new life, first as a butch baby-dyke before a decision to take hormones and pass as a man. Detailing many experiences of horrendous police brutality, we learn something about how life was like for our 'ansisters', especially in the butch/femme and cross-dressing scene.

This book does have a distinct autobiographical feel and, as usual, the group was divided in their opinion. Jess has a variety of truly awful things happen to her which made some readers feel depressed, not wanting to read any more, but those who persevered to the end found the book to be moving, insightful and empowering. Visit: [www.transgenderwarrior.org](http://www.transgenderwarrior.org)



### What Next? Parallel Lies by Stella Duffy

Celebrity, identity and sexuality - the three poles of our fame-obsessed society, each one a magnet for secrets and lies. Despite her youth, Russian-born Yana is already a Hollywood legend. She lives in a beautiful house in Beverly Hills with Jimmy, a sitcom star, and Penny, her British PA.

Theirs is a strange and uneasy partnership, held together by sex, secrets and the fear of scandal. Then Yana starts receiving threatening letters from an anonymous but very knowledgeable source. Suspicion turns to fear, and fear leads to murder. But who exactly is conning whom?

ISBN: 978-1844080250



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