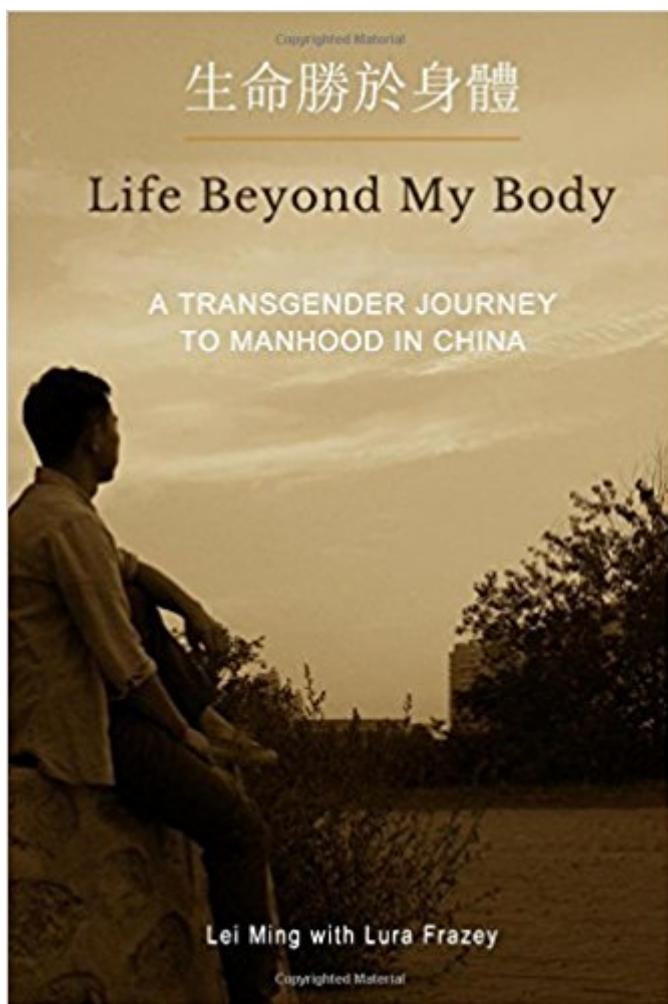


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# Life Beyond My Body: A Transgender Journey To Manhood In China



## Synopsis

2017 Lambda Literary Award Winner for Transgender Nonfiction Born in a rural Chinese village and identified as a girl at birth, Lei Ming, is barely cared for during his childhood. Often lonely, terrified and abused, he learns early to fend for himself and look within for answers, but there he discovers a paradox that threatens to undo him. Although he does not yet know the word "transsexual," at 16, Ming sets out on a secret mission to find relief. *Life Beyond My Body* tells the true story of his quest to find answers in a society that is closed-mouthed about men like Ming. Along the way, Ming finds solace and judgement in the Christian church, loves and loses a woman, begins his physical transition using black market testosterone, is jailed over his identity, and arranges for top surgery without blowing his cover. But ultimately, understanding the true meaning of being a man will require reckoning with God.

## Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Transgress Press (November 14, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0986084484

ISBN-13: 978-0986084485

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #588,287 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #101 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > LGBT > Transgender #15034 in Books > Gay & Lesbian

## Customer Reviews

"*Life Beyond My Body* is a beautifully written account of heartbreak, survival, and liberation -- a triumphant journey from cold, bitter hardship to the warm glow of optimism. I found Lei Ming's tale thoroughly gripping, a precious gift I felt honored to receive from a talented, brave storyteller whose origins lie in the rural landscape of a country at the intersection of ancient ways and modern technology: China." -- Willy Wilkinson, author of the Lambda Literary Award-winning book, *Born on the Edge of Race and Gender: A Voice for Cultural Competency* "Seemingly destined for a life filled with strife and suffering, Lei Ming shows us how, through sheer tenacity and devotion, one person can overcome insurmountable obstacles and rise ever strong, withstanding the push and pull of family, church and country." -- Zander Keig, co-editor of *Manning Up: Transsexual Men on*

Finding Brotherhood, Family, & Themselves and Letters for My Brothers: Transitional Wisdom in Retrospect "This heartfelt narrative describes another culture, another landscape, another site where transness occurs spontaneously, without the ideological interference of feminist theory or LGBT agendas. Allowing an English-speaking/reading audience to witness Lei Ming's transgender journey, Transgress Press brings us an intriguing gift, Evocative, sensitive, and real. Lei Ming bridges both genders and cultures." -- Jamison Green, Ph.D., educator, author of *Becoming a Visible Man*

Lei Ming is currently living in stealth in China. *Life Beyond My Body: A Transgender Journey to Manhood in China* is his first book.

It was a enjoyable moment to read this book, a very touching story. I felt related regarding the contents. I definitely recommend ppl. to read it, to learn about gender diversity in a global context. Unlike most countries with westernized culture and social structure, gender and sexual minorities have a hard time to live and liberate as true self from collectivism. It is tough to be who you are regarding sexual and gender minority in a cultural context that is family-oriented. Without support from family, friends, and ppl. around and the terms of sexual and gender identity, people have to consistently discover and research from their identities.

A remarkable story of, endurance, abstinence, and perseverance.... very well written and writing style, kept my interest from beginning to end.... a powerful message in one's faith that every soul should read for their own struggles and battles they face within.

In *Life Beyond My Body*, Lei Ming takes us on a journey of personal, spiritual and physical transformation defying cultural taboo, religious doctrine and medical protocol to live an exemplary life as a teacher, Christian and transsexual man in rural China. Seemingly destined for a life filled with strife and suffering, Lei shows us how through sheer tenacity and devotion one person can overcome insurmountable obstacles (abuse, neglect, isolation) and rise ever strong, withstanding the push and pull of family, church and country. Never before has the journey of an Asian transsexual been so accessible and relatable to readers worldwide. Weaving together narration and description Lei simultaneously demystifies Chinese culture and paints vivid scenes of Chinese landscape while describing the intimate details of a traumatic childhood, a search for purpose and meaning amidst the many barriers placed in his path and his final triumph of forgiving his

transgressors. *Life Beyond My Body* is a must read for students of gender and ethnic studies, individuals embarking on or well into their own gender transition, family members and caregivers of transsexuals and anyone wanting to better understand the lived experience of transsexual men. -- Zander Keig, co-editor of *Manning Up: Transsexual Men on Finding Brotherhood, Family & Themselves and Letters for My Brothers: Transitional Wisdom in Retrospect*

I read your book over the weekend. The description of your life in China was vivid and highlighted the struggles present for many in China. Adding in the difficulties associated with being Transgender in China and how critical identification is for everyday life. The challenges for obtaining medical care, the lack of privacy in toilet and shower/bathing facilities and housing reflect a significant degree more challenging than for some Transgender individuals in more accepting countries. Sharing your story is an important reminder for everyone that each Transgender individual's journey is a difficult path and support and resources are often found in unexpected places. Thank you for your courage and faith in sharing your story.

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