

# arts



**Jericho: "I left with the name Kristen, a daughter and a sister (as far as the obvious signs went), and came back with a beard and a deep voice." Photo by Dean Kotula from the Phallus Palace.**

mine. So, at age 42 ... I want to know raucous, endless laughter. ... I want to wear a smile so generous it engulfs my head, and to live in moonlit madness, pumping some pungent pussy in the back of the proverbial Chevy."

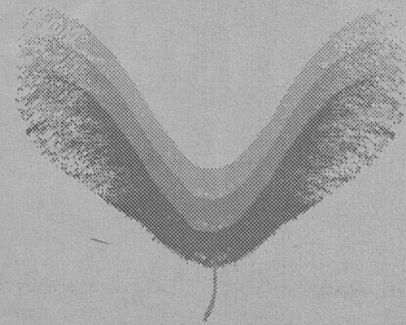
Some of these words are sweet, some telling about the power of transition, of coming into boyhood and manhood as a 42-year-old transsexual. Of those that are just plainly sexist, I want to say to Kotula, "How dare you? It is so

unacceptable to reduce sex with a woman to 'pumping some pungent pussy.'" And I want to say to non-trans readers, "Don't let this strengthen your possible belief that all FTMs turn into big, old sexists." Some are, and many aren't.

In the end, I'd ask you to read *The Phallus Palace* not as a source book on FTM identity, although it bills itself as such, but rather as one transman's window into a very particular kind of FTM experience. Be prepared for a book

that's not cohesive and falls into many discrete pieces. But by all means look at the portraits, read the statements about the various meanings of transition, and recognize and accept this specific way of being a man. ▼

*Rabble-rouser and poet Eli Clare recently moved to Vermont from Michigan and is the author of Exile and Pride: Disability, Queerness, and Liberation (South End Press).*



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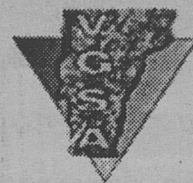
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