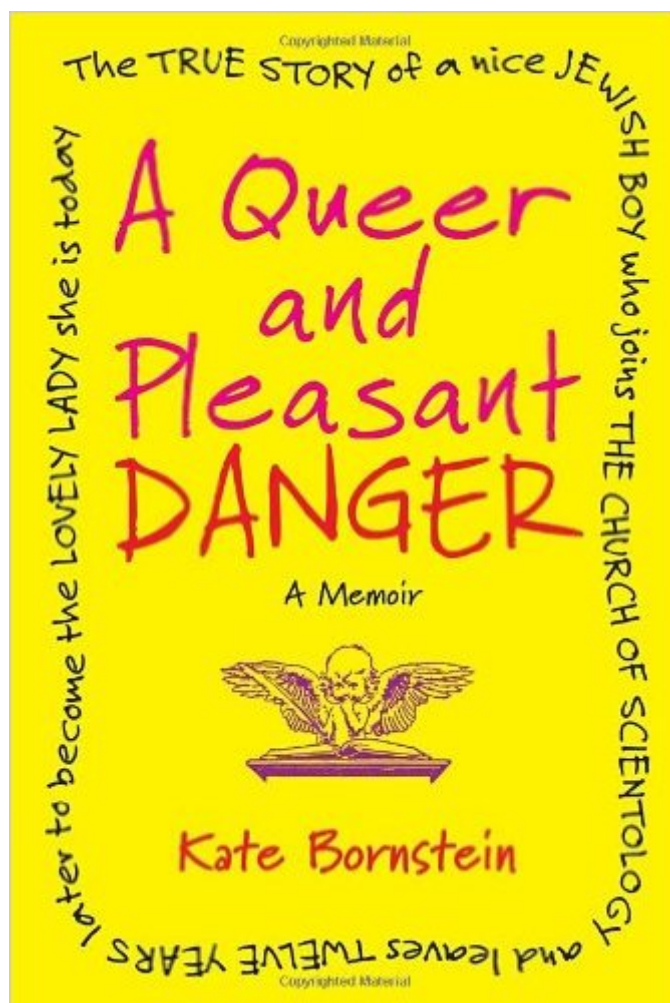


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A Queer And Pleasant Danger: A Memoir



Synopsis

The true story of a nice Jewish boy who joins the Church of Scientology and leaves twelve years later to become the lovely lady she is today

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm not really sure what can I say about Kate Bornstein's new memoir, *A Queer and Pleasant Danger*, other than WOW! This an amazing, intense, heartfelt read that's goes far beyond questions of gender and sexuality to examine, really, what it means to be human. Written in a casual, conversational, sometimes rambling manner, this is a very easy book to enjoy. One of its many quirks that I found so delightful was the way in which Kate would tell a story, swear it was the honest-to-gosh truth, then turn around a page or so later and admit that it was a lie. In most cases, they were stories she believed wholeheartedly for years - until she shared them and was promptly shot down by her brother. It's a quirk that not only adds a bit of a comic feel to some chapters than definitely need a pick-me-up, but it's also a playful element that ties into Kate's personality. Really, this is three memoirs in one, as the extended title suggest: *A Queer and Pleasant Danger: The true story of a nice Jewish boy (1) who joins the Church of Scientology (2) and leaves twelve years later to become the lovely lady she is today (3)*. Let's start with the nice Jewish boy. Kate (then Albert) realized at the tender young age of four-and-a-half that she wasn't a boy and, therefore, must be a girl. With that self-realization, a youth of lying to the world, putting on an act, and hiding her true self began.

What an amazing memoir of Kate Bornstein's life! It included a lot about her days in Scientology and how she lost her daughter to them. My God one day she gets back to Clearwater, Florida from a Scientology "mission" and takes her daughter to school. But then she is forced to undergo what is called a "gang bang sec check" by Scientology's "International Finance Police". Here she is falsely accused of all sorts of crimes, screamed at by a group of Scientology goons while being on their version of a crude lie detector. Kate is then immediately routed off Scientology's staff (this is 1982) without so much as being able to say "goodbye" to her family who were made to disconnect from Kate. Now she has two grandchildren who she has never even seen. And she loves them and her daughter very much. In the book Kate tells her daughter her story and why she never came back that day and how she tried to reconnect. She hopes that someday her daughter/grandchildren will get out and be able to read this book written for them. One can feel the honesty in this book and the pain. Kate tells of her being at the point of suicide when her ex wife hung up on her and would not let her speak with her daughter. I am ASHAMED to have ever been a friend of Kate's EX!!! Kate offers her daughter/grandchildren some advice on life and a home should they ever need it, although she does not suspect she will live all that much longer. It was heartbreaking!!! Scientology is so unbelievably cruel and dangerous. And my heart goes out to Kate. I also feel sorrow for her loved ones who are IMO yet another family that has been devoured by organized Scientology for worldly gain.

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