mention a woman as a possible sex partner, there are 10 other times where the author only writes "he" or "boyfriend." Women who have sex with women are made invisible even in the sub-section on oral sex. ("In general, you’re looking for your partner to address your clitoris with his fingers, lips and tongue.")

Still, you have to give Livoti and Topp credit for writing an entertaining book, and for boldly naming it “Vaginas” in the first place—that takes ovaries! If you can get past the hetero default, this book does work as an introduction to all things vaginal.

MASCULINITIES WITHOUT MEN?
FEMALE MASCULINITY IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY FICTIONS
Jean Bobby Noble
UBC PRESS, 2004

Review by Jennifer O’Connor

In Masculinities Without Men? Female Masculinity in Twentieth-Century Fictions Jean Bobby Noble looks at how and why ideas of masculinity have been altered over the last century, and the ways in which those concepts have played out in popular texts.

Noble, who teaches Critical Theory and Cultural Studies as an assistant professor in the English Department at McMaster University, argues that masculinity—and therefore female masculinity—has gone from being a singular phenomenon (male body = male identity = male power) to a complex construct influenced by race, nation, class and ethnicity. The author proposes that throughout the last century, female masculinity has been articulated using similar story lines and themes, and she examines the more recent appearance of transsexual and transgender masculinity.

Noble draws on a variety of sources, including sexology studies, trial transcripts and documentary films. The focus is on the novels The Well of Loneliness by Radclyffe Hall, Stone Butch Blues by Leslie Feinberg and Sacred Country by Rose Tremain, as well as the film Boys Don’t Cry.

There is much to ponder here, such as how having or not having certain body parts—specifically, breasts and phalli—signify gender, both for the protagonists of the texts being studied and in society. While popular culture has considered the penis the barometer of male and female, for Hall’s Stephen Gordon et al. breasts have taken on that role. “Above all else, a flat chest has become the visual signifier of maleness,” writes Noble. “Having a flat chest allows one to pass as a man on the street.”

All fascinating stuff, but unfortunately the prose tends to be quite dry at times—“What emerges in these reviews are the ways in which a discourse of essentialism and an alibi of essence function to facilitate a kind of ontological will, or right, not just to visibility but also to counter-discursive voice”—as well as repetitive and meandering.

Still, Masculinities Without Men? is a worthy contribution to the study of sexuality and gender.

INSIDE CORPORATE U: WOMEN IN THE ACADEMY SPEAK OUT
Edited by Marilee Reimer
SUMACH PRESS, 2004

Review by Phil Koch

A funny thing happened on the way to gender equity at Canadian universities. Just as more women gained faculty positions, as women’s studies programs were developed and expanded, and as feminist principles began to impact pedagogical and institutional arrangements, universities themselves underwent a radical restructuring that today threatens all of these advances.

Beginning in the 1980s, administration procedures and government funding...