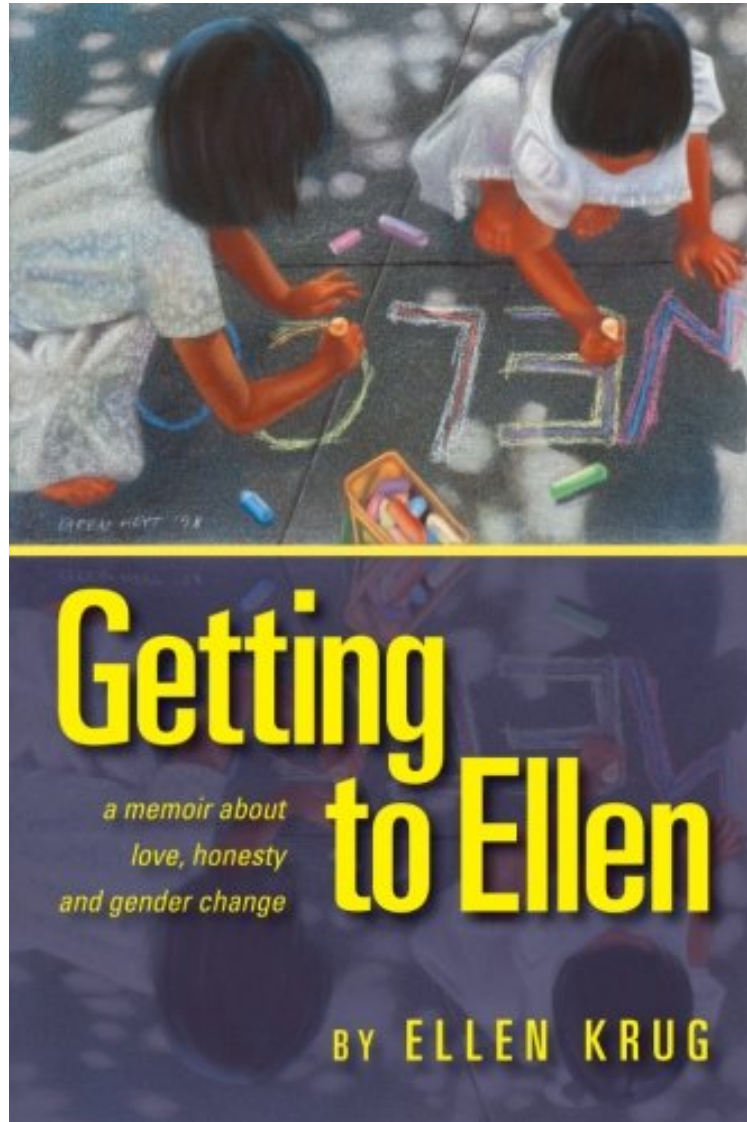


(Free and download) Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change

## Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change

*Ms. Ellen Krug*

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**Ms. Ellen Krug : Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A Mesmerizing MemoirBy Eric C. ThompsonEllen Krug's book, "Getting To Ellen," is a heart-wrenching story of love and metamorphosis, love for herself and for those around her

and in the end, the change both inside and outside, that had to be to get to Ellen. Krug struggles for 50 years to be who she really is, always with the knowledge that to do what she must to be true to herself, she will hurt those she loves the most. This book is an epic quest for Krug to what she must, while weighed down with the knowledge of what the terrible cost to herself will be to her and those around her. Written with honesty and candor, Krug lays open a world conflict and ultimately resolution which will tear at the reader's heart. In the end she has "won" but paid a huge price, losing the family she worked so hard to create, nurture, and provide for. This book is an insight into the soul of a woman trapped in the form of a man compelled to follow conventions to live the American dream. It is both thoughtful and provoking, and may challenge the reader to examine their own ideas about gender and society. The author is blunt and direct at times, with a straight forward style of prose that makes the pages fly by. Once you begin this book, as Ellen found out, there's no turning back. This book kept me captured from about page 5. Highly, highly, recommend this book. The writing flows and the story is even more compelling when you realize it's true. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. **Discovery...** By Curtis P Disclaimer, I graduated with Ellen in 1975 but we were not close in high school (HS) and have never communicated. Yesterday afternoon I saw a post on the private Facebook group for the Gay Straight Alliance group at our HS that Ellen was going to be talking with the students via Skype about her experience and her book. Imagine my surprise to learn the classmate I knew as Ed was now Ellen. I immediately purchased the book and downloaded to my Kindle and didn't stop reading until finishing the book at 1am. Part of what was so compelling was knowing the author, some of the people involved, the hometown aspect with places such as the Tic Toc (I used to hang out there in 1977-78), etc. But Ellen really drew me into her world immediately from page one and I didn't want to leave that world until I finished learning her story. I titled this review discovery, because I discovered someone I wish I had known better in HS. Like Ellen, I too needed to discover myself as a gay man. Looking back it was something I knew as a very young child, but didn't have the tools to know what that was. Like Ellen I dated women but unlike her did not make the love connection. After leaving Cedar Rapids in the early 80's I finally came out to myself and lived a mostly open life as a gay man. Finally in 2009 I came out to my parents, my final and most difficult hurdle. I only share this because while the destination for Ellen was very different than mine, there were many parallels that really connected with me in her story. I'm certain even without the HS connection and knowing people, places, times shared in this book that I would still love it. I highly recommend it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. " And I loved how it ended **By Lindagail Disclosure**; Ellen and I shared a class at the Loft Literary Center and are acquaintances. As a not-yet-published author, I've steered clear of writing a review about the writing of someone I know, because if their writing isn't up to par, I don't want to hurt their feelings with honesty. Putting my name on a recommendation has to do with my authenticity. I bought the book because I knew from the parts she shared in our class it was going to be an interesting story. I give the review because I think what I have to say might encourage someone to choose to read it and become more enlightened about Transgender people. Before I read "Getting to Ellen," I really didn't understand all the issues transgender encompasses. As a heterosexual woman, I've known several Gay people, however Ellen is the first Transgender. This book gave me a glimpse of her arduous journey and the strength it took to get through it alive and sane. Besides being an educational read for me, I found it thoroughly engaging. There were a few spots having to do with the timeline that momentarily took me out of the story. This required a slight reorienting myself within the story. That said, I did not want to stop reading, and when I wasn't reading, my thoughts often drifted back into her story. I admire Ellen all the more for being brave enough to share what it took to "Get to Ellen." And I loved how it ended. Thank you Ellen for being a light for others.

What is the price of living an authentic life? Ellen Krug knows. "Getting to Ellen" details the "gender journey" taken by Ellen Krug, a woman born into a male body. As a man, "Ed" Krug had everything anyone could ever want: the love of a soul mate named Lydia, two beautiful daughters, a house in the best neighborhood, a successful trial lawyer's career--a Grand Plan life so picture-perfect it inspired a beautiful pastel drawing. In a quest to find inner peace, Ed gradually confronted fear and loss, including the residue of growing up in an alcoholic household and a parent's suicide. As this page-turning story of self-discovery unfolds, the reader understands that for Ed to live authentically as Ellen, much of that picture-perfect life--including Lydia's love--would need to be sacrificed. How could anyone make that choice, pay that kind of price? Then again, how could anyone not? This is much more than one person's story about some things lost and others gained. It's a glimpse into the life choices that all of us make--whether or not we're transgender. This is a perfect read for anyone dealing with a key personal decision or crisis or the question of whether to be true to one's self. And too, this story details what it means to be transgender, and it will help anyone wrestling with gender identity issues or loved ones trying to understand another's "gender journey." In short, "Getting to Ellen" is an unforgettable true story of love, honesty, and the rewards of living authentically.

About the Author Ellen (Ellie) Krug's business card reads: "writer, lawyer, human." She is a graduate of Coe College and Boston College Law School. She is one of the few attorneys in the United States to try separate jury trials in separate genders. Ellen is a freelance writer for several publications and frequent lecturer on the life lessons learned during her gender journey. She presently serves as the executive director of a nonprofit organization. She is the parent

of two adult children.