

Guide to reading *Man into Woman*, ed. Niels Hoyer (1933)

1. Note any similarities between this narrative and the case studies we've read. What similar experiences are narrated? What similar motifs are used? Also note how MIW differs from the case studies.
2. Note how this narrative is told to us—who speaks? what formats are used to convey the story? (both will vary throughout)

See Narrative Terminology in Sakai/Resources:

The **narrating agency** is the medium by which events are narrated, including the one telling the story, or the narrator, and the linguistic medium of the story, how it's told.

Focalization, or point of view, is the perspective from which events are narrated. Narrative agency refers to who supplies the narration, point of view refers to whose vision determines what is being narrated.

3. The subtitle, “An Authentic Record of a Change of Sex,” suggests this story is factual. How does the narrative attempt to present itself as an “authentic record”? Where does the story seem to be fictional?
4. Note places where pronouns seem to falter as characters and even narrators wrestle with what gender to attribute to the subject of the narrative.
5. Missing in MIW is any critique of gender as a cultural concept or a social category of experience; instead, gender is ontology, and destiny. Note places where gender is accepted as “natural.”
6. In the genre of “sex change stories” in the popular press in the 1930s, “appropriate gender role behavior and heterosexuality were both key tests of true sex” (Alison Oram, *Her Husband Was a Woman* 116). Note places in MIW where we see proper gender role behavior. What makes a woman, according to this narrative?
7. How does Lili Elbe perceive Professor Kreutz, the doctor who treats her?