

SYNOPSIS

Title : Stone Butch Blues
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Stone Butch Blues is a story about the life of Jess Goldberg. Growing up as an unwanted child, Jess has to face the fact that she is different with other girls around her. She likes to wear masculine attire. Her sexual orientation is toward women. She often becomes the subject of discrimination because of her appearance. One day her parents find her wearing her father suits and a couple days later, she is sent to the hospital. In hospital for three weeks, Jess makes a decision to escape from home. One day, she is raped by six members of football team in her high school. This traumatic event becomes a decision to become a stone butch and escape from home.

Jess goes to bars where she heard many people whose appearance is look like her are gathered. There, she makes friends with older butches and gets a place to live. From the older butches, she learns how to be a butch, from appearance, mannerism, and how to threat the femmes. At that time, the bars are often become the target of police inspection. At that period, performing cross dressing is illegal and against the law. Many of the butches and femmes are beaten, abused and raped by the police officers, includes Jess.

Jess and her butch friends get jobs in a plant where the workers are protected by the union. Thus, they can not be fired because of their appearance.

The complication comes from the worker itself. They often being humiliated because of their appearance. Moreover, when Jess is promoted for a higher position, one of the male workers intentionally hurt her.

After the plant closed, the butches are difficult to find a job because of their appearance. Some of the butches try to wear feminine wigs and put a make up on in order to get a job in department store, but Jess refuses to do it. She then prefers to alter herself by hormone therapy and passes as a man. Jess breaks with her femme because of that. Moreover, after she has enough money, she decides to have breast reduction surgery.

Jess moves to New York where nobody knows her as a butch and begins to live as a man. In the new town, she falls in love with Anna, a woman who hates lesbians. Anna does not know that the man she dated with is a transgender woman. Afraid of being exposed, Jess ends her relationship with Anna. Tired of pretending that she is a man, Jess stops her hormone therapy, so her face and body slowly become softer. Although people often mocks and discriminates her, she feels more comfortable with her body and feels relieved because she does not have to pretend anymore.

Jess sees a demonstration of gay and lesbian from the police harassment used to happened to them one day. Although she is not part of the lesbian or gay community, she steps forward and makes a speech in front of the people. She encourages that all the non straight people must gather and stand up for their right. From that time, she feels that it is the time she has to do something for her and for her community by becoming an activist.