



# An Intimate Life: Sex, Love, and My Journey as a Surrogate Partner

By Cheryl T. Cohen-Greene

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For the past forty years, Cheryl Cohen Greene has worked as a surrogate partner, helping clients to confront, consider, and ultimately accept their sexuality. In this riveting memoir, Cohen Greene shares some of her most moving cases, and also reveals her own sexual coming-of-age. Beginning with a rigid Catholic upbringing in the 1950s, where she was taught to think sex and sexual desires were unnatural and wrong, Cohen Greene struggled to reconcile her sexual identity.

*An Intimate Life* offers a candid look into the personal and professional life of a surrogate partner, examining the cultural and emotional ramifications of pursuing something most people do not immediately understand.

The memoir opens with Cohen Greene's work with Berkeley-based poet and journalist Mark O'Brien, whose essay "On Seeing A Sex Surrogate" was adapted into a major motion picture titled "The Sessions," which was released nationwide in October 2012.

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### Editorial Review

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Thanks to the movie *The Sessions*, starring Helen Hunt and John Hawkes, the story is well known. Greene is a surrogate partner, not a sex surrogate, yet the first line is an eye-opener, I have had over nine hundred sex partners. As a surrogate partner, she explains, she uses hands-on methods to help clients to overcome their sexual problems. She admits that some people may still equate what she does with prostitution. Whereas prostitution is one of the world's oldest professions, she counters, surrogacy is one of the newest. Although Greene has been a surrogate partner since 1973, today few people practice it. According to Greene, the International Professional Surrogates Association only has 50 members. Greene's clients come from all walks of life and socioeconomic levels, including CEOs, truck drivers, attorneys, and carpenters. The youngest was 18; the oldest, 89. Greene interweaves her own story with stories of her clients (names, physical characteristics, and mannerisms have been changed to protect their privacy) to create a provocative and unusual book about a provocative and unusual profession. --June Sawyers

#### Review

#### Praise for *An Intimate Life*

"Cheryl Cohen Greene's book allows us to share in her beautiful work. We read about sexual healing and we are healed ourselves. Give yourself the gift of reading this book and getting a glimpse of what is possible."  
—Helen Hunt

"A rare look at a worthy and fascinating subject. At its core a love story, Cheryl Cohen Greene's memoir demystifies surrogacy and debunks its creaky myths with an empowering sense of dignity and truth. Raw, brave, touching and above all unflinchingly honest." —John Hawkes

"A woman's compelling memoir of her unusual career...Baring it all in a sexually explicit but clinical, non-erotic way, Cohen Greene opens a door onto an intimate life... Her work with one handicapped man [Mark O'Brien] is the basis of the film *The Sessions*, starring John Hawkes and Helen Hunt. An illuminating revelation of the unfamiliar." —*Kirkus*

"For more than 30 years of our personal and professional association I have urged Cheryl Cohen Greene to tell her story to the world. Finally here it is. "An Intimate Life" is bolder, more sensitive, more touching, more entertaining, more informative, and just plain more fascinating than I ever could have hoped. This is a wonderful book on so many levels I can honestly recommend it to anyone." —Isadora Alman, author of *Doing It: Real People Having Really Good Sex*

"*An Intimate Life* could easily fall into the realm of sensationalism that plagues most media depictions of Cohen Greene's career, but in Cohen Greene's memoir, there are no sexual freaks or failures. Her clients are everyday people with universal problems, and Cohen Greene confronts their sexual hangups with the frank assessment of a nurse." —*Windy City Times*

#### About the Author

Cheryl Cohen Greene has been in private clinical practice as a surrogate partner and Consultant in Human

Sexuality since 1973. She was trained in the Masters and Johnson modality and was on the training staff of San Francisco Sex Information for 19 years. Cohen Green is a certified Sex Educator and Clinical Sexologist, and in 2004 she earned her DHS (Doctor of Human Sexuality) from the Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Sexuality in San Francisco. She is currently the Vice President of IPSA (the International Professional Surrogates Association). She was one of the founders of BASA (the Bay Area Surrogates Association). Cohen Green is a frequent media guest, who has been interviewed on Larry King Live, the National Geographic Channel, the WE Channel, and CNN, among others.

Lorna Garano is a freelance writer and publicist.

## **Users Review**

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#### **Paul McKinney:**

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#### **Scott Tucker:**

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#### **Dona Cole:**

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