Dean Kotula

Tribute to Bill Parker: *Consulting Editor, Mentor, and Friend*

In 1996, I began a book about female-to-male transsexuals (FTMs)—a group nearly absent from public discourse. Authentic narratives were scarce. I was determined to create the resource I had always needed —one that could have eased years of confusion and isolation.

The early draft of the manuscript included essays, portraits, and photographic documentation of every available FTM surgical option. But I knew the project needed something more—and someone wiser.

Sonsie, Newbury Street, Boston — September 9, 1997:

Enter Bill Parker—artist, educator, editor, and fierce advocate for authenticity—asked, "What gives you the authority to write this book?"

"The fact that I am an FTM."

He smiled. "All the better!"

Bill's Jungian lens, along with his deep respect for marginalized lives and lived experiences, aligned with my vision. He joined as consulting editor, pro bono, and helped expand the book's scope. It was Bill who suggested key contributors, including the late Rachel Pollack, who reimagined the FTM experience by drawing a comparison to the Osiris myth.

We built a quiet bond over café tables and bookshelves. After his move to Florida, we stayed in touch until his passing—a profound and personal loss.

Bill was the mentor and male friend I'd always hoped for: brilliant, principled, and unexpectedly dapper. His belief in me—and people like me—was a rare gift.