



## A UNIQUE DIALOGUE REVEALING ONE WOMAN'S QUEST TO LIVE HER OWN TRUTH

Martina Ramirez first started wearing her mother's shoes in secret in second grade, when everyone still knew her as Martin. Growing up in a conservative household as an adopted Mexican-American in a racially segregated city, she swore she would not be just another crime or teen pregnancy statistic. Martina lived up to that promise when she was named high school valedictorian, became a tenured professor at a prestigious university, and had a family. It was only then, after she had become established in her life and career, that she was able to finally be her true self.

*Happier as a Woman* is not just a story of one woman's transition. It is a story about relationships: those she fostered with herself, those that were hurt, those that were saved, and those that would not have existed if not for Martina's desire to be a mentor, to be the change. Martina made it her mission to pave the way for all of

those that would come after her, from women seeking to break through the glass ceiling to fellow victims of emotional abuse, regardless of who they appeared to be on the outside.

As though all the emotions she had to bottle up in her youth became more potent with age, they now tell a compelling journey of self-discovery, acceptance, and self-love. Martina's story is artfully expressed through letters, anecdotes, and powerful interviews conducted by and written alongside her renowned co-author, human rights advocate, and memoirist Alicia Partnoy.



**MARTINA GISELLE RAMIREZ** is director of the Center for Teaching Excellence and professor of biology at Loyola Marymount University. She has won awards for her scholarship and mentorship, including the LGBTQ+ Mentor Award from LMU's LGBTQ Student Services Office in 2016. She medically transitioned to female on December 22, 2016 and has never been happier.



**ALICIA PARTNOY** is a poet, human rights activist, professor, and a survivor. Her book, *The Little School*, was evidence in the trials against the genocide perpetrators in Argentina. She is the author, editor, or translator of twelve books. She was on the Board of Directors of Amnesty International USA, and PEN-West.

**HAPPIER AS A WOMAN**  
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Biography/Autobiography/LGBTQ+/Transgender/Chicana  
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