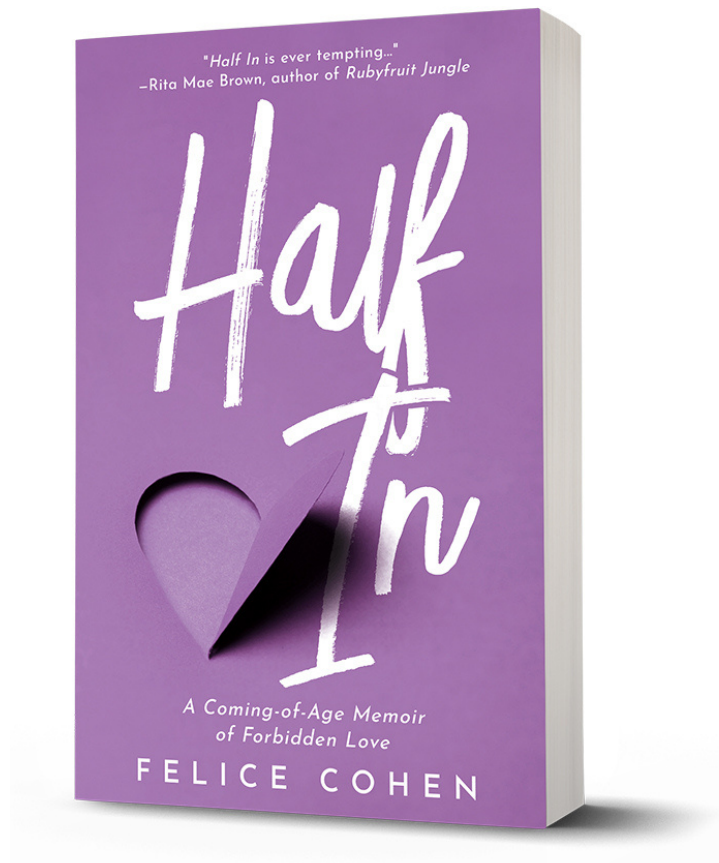


Half In

A Coming-of-Age Memoir of Forbidden Love

FELICE COHEN



MEDIA KIT

www.felicecohen.com

Half In

A Coming-of-Age Memoir of Forbidden Love

SALES ONE SHEET



ABOUT THE BOOK: What if your first love were forbidden? Mine was.

At twenty-three, Felice Cohen was, like other recent college grads, hesitant about entering the real world, with the added stress of coming out in the early nineties. Focused on how to land a full-time position as a writer, falling in love was the last thing on her mind.

But fall in love she did. With her boss, a woman thirty-four years older.

In this candid coming-of-age memoir—as compelling as a novel—Felice chronicles the happiness and heartbreak of an age-gap love affair while struggling to figure out the direction of her future. Ultimately, this is a story about navigating life’s unpredictable path while following one’s heart, and finding acceptance.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Felice Cohen, known nationally and internationally as the woman who lived in one of the world’s smallest apartments, is an author, speaker and Holocaust educator. Her second book *90 Lessons for Living Large in 90 Square Feet (...or More)*, the recipient of numerous Self Help book awards, was inspired by the YouTube video of her 90-square-foot NYC studio that went viral with over 25 million views, gaining media attention across the globe. Felice has been featured on Good Morning America, NBC, CBS, Fox5, Sirius, NPR, Time, Forbes, Globe & Mail, New York Daily News, and the Daily Mail to name a few. As the grandchild of two Holocaust survivors, Felice is also the author of *What Papa Told Me*, a memoir about her grandfather’s life before, during and after the war. The book has been endorsed by Elie Wiesel, is taught in schools across the country, has been translated into Polish, and has sold over 35,000 copies around the world.



PUBLISHING DETAILS:

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PRESS RELEASE

Woman Who Captured Global Attention by Living in 90 Square Feet Reveals Secret, Lesbian, Age-Gap Love Affair 30 Years Later

In time for Pride month, comes an LGBTQ, coming-of-age memoir that Rita Mae Brown, author of Rubyfruit Jungle, calls "Ever tempting." Half In is about navigating life's unpredictable path while following one's heart, and finding acceptance.

NEW YORK, NY, June 2022 / -- Felice Cohen, the woman who captured the world's attention by living in one of the world's tiniest apartments, is telling an untold secret she's kept for 30 years—at 23 she was in a secret lesbian, age-gap, love affair with her 57-year-old boss.

Half In: A Coming-of-Age Memoir of Forbidden Love is a unique coming-of-age memoir—as compelling as a novel—about Felice, then 23, who, like other recent college grads, is hesitant about entering the real world, with the added stress of coming out in the early nineties.

Focused on how to land a full-time position as a writer, falling in love was the last thing on her mind. But fall in love she did.

Felice and Sarah embarked on a high-stakes, year-long love affair. Addicted to the high of first love, Felice was enthralled by Sarah's attention and content to hide their love in the shadows. Sarah, meanwhile, threw caution to the wind, risking her comfortably established life that included a prestigious job and long-term girlfriend.

In this candid memoir, Felice chronicles the happiness and heartbreak of an age-gap love affair while struggling to figure out the direction of her future.

Related Link: <https://www.felicecohen.com>

“This book began as a therapeutic exercise after the first love of my life had died. I was forced to mourn her exactly as I had loved her: in secret.”

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PRAISE FOR HALF IN

RITA MAE BROWN, AUTHOR OF *RUBYFRUIT JUNGLE*

"*Half In* is ever tempting. But the only way to live is all in, pedal to the metal. Felice Cohen's journey is full of potholes, bumps, sharp curves but she makes it home."

FOREWORD REVIEWS

"Filled with the exquisite joy of new love..Half In is an intimate memoir about growth toward self-awareness—and toward the poignant realization that love calls for a wholehearted commitment."

KIRKUS REVIEWS

"*Half In* moves quickly, and Cohen holds her audience's attention to the end."

LAMBDA LITERARY

Half In was selected as one of their Most Anticipated LGBTQIA+ Books of September

BESTSELLER

Half In was an Amazon Bestseller in 7 New Release Categories

TALKING POINTS

WHY DID YOU WRITE THIS BOOK?

I started writing *Half In* a way to get over the death of the first love of my life. It was for therapy, not publication. On a whim I entered it into a first chapter writing contest. When I won I thought, "Maybe there's something here."

GIVE US A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE BOOK.

The memoir looks back at the secret love affair I had with my boss just after college when I was 23 and she was 57. It's also about me trying figuring out what to do with my life in the real world.

WHAT WAS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF WRITING THE BOOK?

Finishing it. I worked on this book, off and on, for almost 18 years. It wasn't the writing process that kept me from finishing it, it was the healing one. I wasn't ready to share my story.

WHAT CAN READERS HOPE TO LEARN FROM THIS BOOK?

While it's a memoir about a particular experience in my life, the journey and the message are universal. I'm hoping by sharing what happened to me will ease the pain for others who had similar experiences in their struggle, not just in accepting their sexuality, but in who they chose to love.

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INDUSTRY PRAISE

KIRKUS

HALF IN

A COMING-OF-AGE MEMOIR OF FORBIDDEN LOVE

A writer recounts her controversial affair with a much older woman in this debut memoir. Cohen first met Sarah when she was still a closeted undergraduate with dreams of one day being a writer. The author took a summer job on campus as a counselor helping to orient incoming students. Sarah was her boss, a hard-nosed woman in her 50s who quickly took a shine to Cohen—and the author worked hard to impress her. After graduation, Cohen found a job in admissions and remained on campus, continuing to run into Sarah now and then. The connection between the two was enough to draw the attention of the author's first girlfriend, who commented on the impropriety of Sarah being attracted to a woman one-third her age. The attraction, though, was mutual. "That night I woke from a dream in which Sarah showed up at my apartment, told me her girlfriend had left her, and kissed me," writes Cohen. "I tried falling back to sleep, but my brain was hellbent on replaying the dream." Eventually, the two acted on their desires despite Sarah's long-term relationship with a woman named Linda. But the secret could only stay hidden for so long, and when the truth of their love became public, the author was forced to live with the consequences of her affair. Cohen's prose is simple but urgent, capturing the passion and confusion of her emotions: "Fifteen minutes later Sarah pulled into the driveway at my parents' house. It was pitch black out, the sky full of stars. The air smelled cold like snow was coming. I shuddered...Sarah was about to meet my parents who thought they would be meeting my former boss, not my current lover." The book moves quickly, and the author proves a sympathetic protagonist even when she recounts decisions that readers will likely wish she hadn't made. It's a compelling scenario, one that feels transgressive to both the writer and readers, and Cohen holds her audience's attention to the end.

A gripping account detailing a May-December romance between two women.

Half In: A Coming-of-Age Memoir of Forbidden Love

Felice Cohen
Dividends Press (Sep 20, 2022)
Softcover \$14.99 (260pp)
979-898570170-8

Coming-of-age and coming out collide in Felice Cohen's poignant memoir *Half In*.

When Cohen was a twenty-three-year-old recent college graduate, she faced her future with uncertainty. She hoped to become a full-time professional writer, as well as to write a book about how her grandfather survived the Holocaust as a gift for him. But she also knew that she needed time to discover who she really was, instead of who she was expected to be. Getting a counseling job at her alma mater bought her that time. It also brought her an unexpected, life-changing love story, one made possible by secrets and lies: Cohen fell in love with her boss, Sarah, an imposing woman who was thirty-four years her senior. The growing attraction between the women was undeniable, despite Sarah's long-term relationship with her partner, Linda, and the consequences that their discovery could have on their homes and working lives.

Cohen's story is multifaceted, emotive, and complex. She writes that her new relationship challenged her fragile and developing self-image, even as it ignited her passion. Questioning her own identity, she asked, "Why come out of the closet when I couldn't be sure my only reason for being in there wasn't just to organize it?" She was forced to confront her conditioned beliefs about family, relationships, honesty, and age. In the end, Cohen's fears about what others might think kept her from going all in. Her own self-judgment, shame, and fear, she writes, led her to a shattering decision.

Filled with the exquisite joy of new love, and the pain of walking away from it, *Half In* is an intimate memoir about growth toward self-awareness—and toward the poignant realization that love calls for a wholehearted commitment.

KRISTINE MORRIS (September / October 2022)

Disclosure: This article is not an endorsement, but a review. The publisher of this book provided free copies of the book to have their book reviewed by a professional reviewer. No fee was paid by the publisher for this review. Foreword Reviews only recommends books that we love. Foreword Magazine, Inc. is disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.



Foreword Review AUTOBIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR

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INDUSTRY PRAISE

booklife

Indie Spotlight

In this edition of our monthly thematic roundup of BookLife titles, we're celebrating memoir and autobiography.

GRIEF



Half In: A Coming-of-Age Memoir of Forbidden Love

Felice Cohen

ASIN B09XZM7FC2

About the book: What if your first love was a forbidden one? At 23, Felice Cohen was, like other recent college grads, hesitant about entering the real world, with the added stress of coming out in the early 1990s. Since she

was focused on how to land a full-time position as a writer, falling in love was the last thing on her mind. But fall in love she did—with her boss, a woman 34 years older. In this candid coming-of-age memoir, Cohen chronicles the happiness and heartbreak of an age-gap love affair while struggling to figure out the direction of her future.

Ultimately, this is a story about navigating life's unpredictable path while following one's heart and finding acceptance.

Author statement: "This book started out as a therapeutic exercise. The first love of my life had died. We had had a secretive, 10-year lesbian affair, and after she passed, I was forced to mourn her exactly as I had loved her: in secret. But the secret was fighting to come out. I wrote something late one night after she came to me in a dream. On a whim I entered it into a first chapter contest and won. A publisher came up to me and asked, 'How much of the book do you have done?' Book? I thought. What book? It took me almost 18 years to finish this book. Not because of the writing process, but because of the healing one. Finishing meant letting her go. But it was time. Time to tell our story. Time to move on. Time to fall in love again."

September's Most Anticipated LGBTQIA+ Literature

Bio/Memoir

- *The Black Period: On Personhood, Race, and Origin* by Hafizah Augustus Geter, Random House
- *Both Sides of the Fire Line: Memoir of a Transgender Firefighter* by Bobbie Scopa, Chicago Review Press
- *Boy with the Bullhorn: A Memoir and History of ACT Up New York* by Ron Goldberg, Fordham University Press
- *Crybaby: Infertility, Illness, and Other Things That Were Not the End of the World* by Cheryl E. Klein, Brown Paper Press
- *A Girlhood: Letter to My Transgender Daughter* by Carolyn Hays, Blair
- *Half In: A Coming-of-Age Memoir of Forbidden Love* by Felice Cohen, Dividends Press



www.felicecohen.com

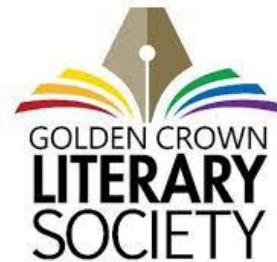
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AWARDS

winner

General Non-Fiction
Golden Crown Literary Society
2023



winner

Book of the Year
"Outstanding LGBTQ"
Fiction and Non-Fiction LGBTQ
2023



finalist

LGBTQ Non-Fiction
American BookFest
2023



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