

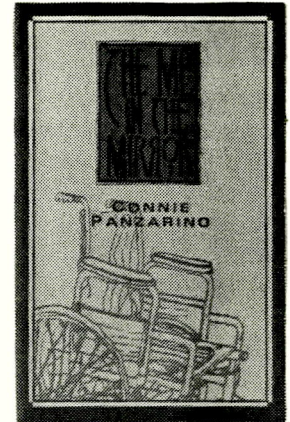
A Memoir Filled with Spirit and Defiance From Seal Press!

The Me in the Mirror

Connie Panzarino

"In narrating her personal experiences of disability, Connie Panzarino touches on a host of issues – among them self-image, care-giving and -taking, equality in education and employment, sexuality and reproductive rights, and health care – which no humane and inclusive society can afford to ignore. Her candor and energy provide a model for truly enabled living."

–Nancy Mairs



This is the dynamic and moving memoir of a severely disabled activist and artist who has been living with a rare muscular disease, Spinal Muscular Atrophy III, since birth. Beginning in early childhood, the author tells of the complexities and challenges of growing up disabled and offers a fascinating exploration of her family relationships – in particular, with a mother on whom she was dependent for survival and a sister who also had SMA. She then recounts her teenage and early adult years – a time in which her sexuality and political activism emerge and a period of great personal growth. Reflecting on recent years, Panzarino explores her long-term relationship with Ron Kovic (author of *Born on the 4th of July*), her eventual turn to lesbianism, and her continuing work as a disability rights activist. Filled with spirit and passion, *The Me in the Mirror* tells the story of a remarkable life.

Connie Panzarino is an art therapist, a writer and a disability and lesbian rights activist. She has published numerous articles on disability and has been featured in several anthologies including, *Lesbian Land*, *Time Without Work* and *Riding Desire*. *The Me In The Mirror* is her first book. Born and raised in Long Island, New York, she now lives in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts.

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