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Sommario/riassunto	Every woman - indeed every member of an oppressed group - will find this topic resonant. Dolezal argues that, while 'acute' body shame is necessary to socialization (what Norbert Elias called 'the civilising process'), 'chronic' body shame is undermining; its destructive potential is exemplified in the case of cosmetic surgery. Dolezal skilfully weaves together social theory (Elias, Foucault, Goffman) with phenomenology (Sartre, Merleau-Ponty) to outline a theory of the socially shaped body that will be required reading for feminists and social theorists alike.