my girlfriend and i

we were looking for something to do

being us, we always look for poetry

there were a few listings

the usual collection of open mics

one caught my eye

something labelled performance

hoping for something fresh

i jumped to the page and read the title

something something something

something sexuality something

i’m all about sexuality

i read on, hoping for a night of verbal foreplay

something challenging gender identities

something questioning sexual roles and politics

something foremost queer theorists

something else member of collective dedicated to alternative sexualities

i sighed

why is everyone always challenging my gender identity?

i sighed again

why is everyone always questioning my sexual role and politics?

i am 46 now

my gender identity has been under challenge for decades

i am going on 47

my sexual roles and politics are who i am

i am approaching 50

i want to like who i am

my penis is as old as i am

there are no alternatives you can teach me

been there, done that

found it boring

just once

i would like to see this

something supporting gender identities

something making people comfortable with sexual roles and politics

something foremost monogamy theorists

something else member of collective dedicated to absolute love