

WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A TRANSGENDER

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This poem is about what it is like to be a transgender in a highly gendered culture. It powerfully addresses the gender identity issues in the context of transphobia and the increased suicide rates among the transgender people. It is an autobiographical poem about the history of one's gender expression.

- Where did the speaker make a prayer for the first time?
 - From a glass-stained cathedral
- "I treat it like a house." What?
 - Speaker's body
- Who is the transwoman shot dead by the police in Baltimore?
 - Mya Hall

- Who is the Olympic gold winning athlete mentioned in the poem?
 - Bruce Jenner.
- What did the speaker ask Jesus in the first prayer?
 - She asked Jesus to fix his gender.
- Explain: "But shame lingered as an aftertaste".
 - The shame of being neither a boy nor a girl continued to bother the speaker just like the taste of something remains on the tongue even after finishing eating something.
- What did the mother do to reintroduce the speaker to sanctity?
 - The mother reintroduced the speaker to sanctity by telling the speaker that he was a miracle and could grow up to be anything he wanted.
- How did the speaker describe the phase 'I decided to be a boy'?
 - The speaker described the boy phase as cute. He had snapback, toothless grin, and used skinned knees as street cred.

- Explain: 'I was the mystery of an anatomy'.
 - It means that even the anatomy doesn't explain why people are born as transgenders.
- How did the narrator observe the boyhood phase at the age of twelve.
 - The boyhood was not cute anymore at the age of twelve because his body started to appear more like a girl since it was puberty time
- What did the nostalgic aunts reminded the speaker at the age of twelve?
 - They reminded him that his kind of attitude would never bring a husband home.
- How was the speaker called a lesbian?
 - The kids in the school had found some truth about the speaker and they called him lesbian.

- What is meant by the expression 'I was more Ken than Barbie'?
 - Ken and Barbie are dolls, fictional American characters. Ken is Barbie's boyfriend. He means that he is more like a boy than a girl.
- She (my mother) fears that I will die without a whisper. Why?
 - His mother fears that he will die without a whisper because she heard that many transgenderd people in the same way.
- Who was Mya Hall?
 - Mya Hall was a 27 year old transgender woman who was shot dead by police in Baltimore, , USA for taking a wrong turn on the road.
- Who was Leelah Alcorn?
 - Leelah was an American transgender girl who committed suicide at the age of 17, to stop descrimination and abuse.