

foreword

it's not possible to sum up everything that went into this in just a few words. this is and the world didn't end, a transgender zine.

the first publication was planned on october 19, 2023, and went into publication on (FILL DATE)

it was originally supposed to be published around trans awareness week, but we didn't meet that mark.

authors may have used pseudonyms for anonymity. we ask that you respect that decision.

And anyway, it's the same old story - - -

a few people just trying,

one way or another,

to survive.

Dogfish by Mary Oliver

- a storyteller

down the winding road, part 3

By midnight

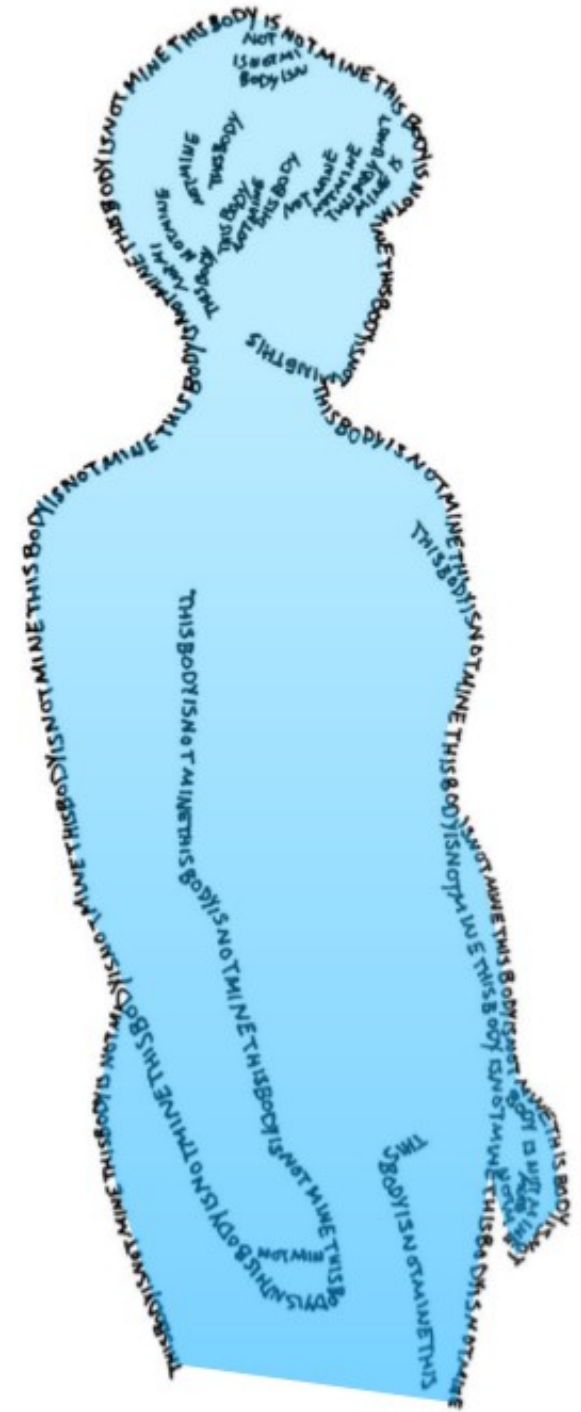
The skies mend themselves again. It's almost a miracle, watching the world walk the same journey I do.

I can see where I journey to - or at least I believe I can. I have a long ways yet to walk, but I know where I will be when I am there.

A small creature crosses my path. It is the first soul I have seen since starting my journey.

Starlight pours into the valley in front of me as I rest again. I laugh, and I miss those that would enjoy my company on this journey.

I take my final step on this journey of mine. I am almost a child again - one of the sun, and the moon, and the stars. I sit, and the horizon stretches infinitely in front of me.



Miscellaneous Definitions

By Paul and Simon

Definitions, what do we mean when we talk about things? That is an ancient question highly reliant on who, where and when you are. The following definitions are highly subject to change and may mean different things to different people, these just seem like the best ones.

- Third gender: a traditional or ceremonial role held by someone who is not viewed as male or female by the society around them.
- Eunuch: blanket term for a third gender individual in an ancient near eastern society. The word eunuch is what is used in translations but this definition is what historians generally agree on.
- Sex: the thing on your birth certificate.
- Gender: whether someone identifies as male, female, neither, both, in between or something

else, may align with sex or may not. (can be argued as a social construct)

- Transgender: when someone's gender (what your brain perceives you as) does not align with their sex (what you were assigned at birth). (around 5% of the population, exact numbers are not known and different studies say different things, this also uses what the authors call the left handed theorem which uses the most recent generation as a basis for information on population trends).
- Cisgender: someone whose gender identity aligns with the gender they were assigned at birth.
- Nonbinary: someone who identifies as neither male nor female, can be used as an umbrella term for any non male or female person. (around 1.6 percent of the population, can also identify as Trans).
- Gender dysphoria: when someone experiences conflict between their own body and desired gender identity. If you were put into a body of the opposite sex and gender you would feel pretty awkward right?
- Intersex: (medically referred to as a condition called Developmental Sex Disorder or DSD) when someone has sex organs that differ from their sex assigned at birth, appears to have sex organs that differ from their sex assigned at birth, has chromosomes that differ from their sex assigned at birth (e.g. XXY or XYY.), or has irregular hormone production for their sex assigned at birth. (around 2% of the population).
- Genderqueer: if male and female are boxes then genderqueer people are liquids that don't fit into those boxes, some nonbinary or trans people do not identify as genderqueer, some do.

Organizing and Direct Action

By midnight

What is direct action?

Direct action is any action that cuts out the middle man and solves problems directly. It doesn't petition the authorities or rely on external institutions, and it doesn't ask for permission.

Why use direct action?

Absolute power corrupts absolutely. While there's no reason the strategies of voting and direct action can't both be applied together, the problem comes when people see voting as their *only* method of change. Voting will work for small, short-term change, but it doesn't have the power to significantly change the status quo. Government, despite appearances, is not actually open to significant change via voting - it's actually the opposite. Voting ensures that social change must be slow and gradual, working within the confines of the systems provided to us. Direct action allows for rapid, radical change that wouldn't be possible under purview of the state.

How do you organize direct action?

Direct action isn't necessarily violent - and in our case, it probably shouldn't be. Any type of protest is direct action, whether that be picketing while on strike or marching against a new rule or law.

1. Figure out who you're working with.
 - It's almost always easier to organize when you have people to bounce ideas off of.
2. Figure out your plan of action.
 - What are you trying to do? Is it a protest? Are you trying to communicate new ideas?
 - Make backup plans. Things can always go wrong, or take a turn for the unexpected.
3. Figure out promotion
 - How will people find out about this? Do people need to know about this?
 - Posters
 - Word of mouth
 - Newspapers
 - Other events
4. Do the event!
 - Make sure to communicate with the people you're working with! Just because you got here doesn't mean you're home free yet.
5. Cleanup
 - Physical cleanup
 - Meet with your team to discuss what went well and what lessons can be learned

Agate

By SKYR4Z3R

It's a big deal, clearly,
just large enough of a tremor
to cause a single drop of water from yesterday's rain
to roll down from the window
onto tomorrow's tomatoes,
which have been ready to eat since last year



down the winding road, part 1

By midnight

It gets old sometimes, waiting for things to happen. The skies break and mend themselves again, and things stay the same.

A pond ripples in the forest, ever-clear and shimmering. Its waters reflect my face- or perhaps it belongs to someone else now.

A rock breaks the surface, thrown by my own hand. I cannot bear its image.

Sunlight filters through the trees, beaming from the setting sun. It shines on my face, though there is nobody here to see it.

I rise from my place at the water's edge, and slowly begin down the road.

Part Two: Elagabalus. Elagabalus (who will be referred to with they/them pronouns) was a roman emperor who took power in 218 CE but was assassinated after four years, their one claim to fame was that they might be transgender or nonbinary. Born male, Elagabalus expressed an unusual amount of attraction to men, for context Roman (and Greek) men were supposed to be attracted to men and would regularly have romantic and sexual relationships with men and women, Elagabalus (at least from what we've heard) would only have relationships with men and in fact married a man and would call themselves his wife, he later, when meeting a man who he hoped to add to his collection of lovers, would request to be referred to as a woman, wore jewelry and makeup (which was not the norm for men) and requested the invention of bottom surgery so he could receive it.

Part Three: indigenous societies and third genders. Before the advent of colonization, many societies had genders other than male or female which held ceremonial or traditional roles (like in mesopotamia). While they might not identify as nonbinary, trans or genderqueer in the "traditional" sense they are an important reminder of the prevalence of gender nonconformity in society.

- Hijras are a third gender present in hinduism, they are made up of people who are born male or are intersex and receive religious education as they are seen as religious figures. Their existence has resulted in protections for nonbinary people in portions of southeast asia.
- Muxes are a group in Mexico of people who are born males but typically have a female gender identity, often holding a traditionally female role in the household. They originate in indigenous Zapotec culture.
- Bakla is a word originating in the Philippines to describe born males who present a feminine identity, many are LGBTQ+ and traditionally served as leaders in the community even though this faces opposition due to the effects of colonization.
- Two-Spirit is a term used to describe people in Native American communities who traditionally are thought to hold both a male and female spirit in them, they are seen as having a unique perspective and were traditionally leaders, they were actively suppressed during colonization. Two-Spirit is a blanket term and does not belong to a specific tribe or group.
- South Sulawesi third genders, in Indonesia the island of South Sulawesi has multiple traditional third genders (it is not a literal term). There are the Calabai, who are born male but occupy a traditionally feminine role, The Calalai are the opposite, they are born female but occupy a role similar to that of traditional male roles. And finally there are the Bissu, which are seen as both male and female, they perform religious ceremonies and are seen as religious leaders.
- The Sekrata are a third gender that originates in the Sakalava people of Madagascar, they are born male but present female and hold a third position within society. They are seen as sacred.

Trans People throughout history

By Paul and Simon

Throughout history transgender and third gender individuals have been prevalent and accepted in a large amount of history, whether for ceremonial/traditional purposes to people literally seeking out gender affirming care or simply socially transitioning all are present in the historical record.

Disclaimer: there are very secondary sources for this. Any source we use is at most a tertiary source (might not be a real term). A lot of primary sources were translated centuries ago and words have changed meaning since then, also some languages (like sumerian) don't use gendered pronouns and gender is conveyed in other ways, also a lot of context is missing (just google sumerian dog + bar joke and see what comes up).

Part One: Mesopotamia and ancient history. In ancient Mesopotamia (at least during the sumerian period) gender was a concept very similar to our own concept of gender back in the 50's, with the exception of one thing. Some religious and governmental roles either may have been considered part of a third gender or definitely were not traditionally male or female.

For example the cult of Ishtar (also known as Inanna), who later migrated to Greece and became Aphrodite, was the goddess of war, sexuality, fertility, love, and being the queen of heaven, she was uniquely associated with transgender identities and multiple members of her following and priesthood held third-gender identities, such as the Gala, which were musicians who sang for Ishtar, it was a group that may have been made up of those who were assigned male and female at birth, however all sang in a dialect reserved for women imitating the goddesses, in addition to this a poem made for Ishtar has the following quote in reference to her (referred to as Inanna) "to turn a man into a woman is and a woman into a man is yours Inanna." there are also myths where someone referred to with a female adjective is described as being transformed by Ishtar by the goddess handing them a spear "as if they were a man" and renaming them, they are then referred to with the epithet of "transformed". There are also possible third gendered individuals in the historical record for example a statue of someone who appears androgynous or possibly born female but has a male name (this statue was also dedicated to Inanna). And also "Silimabzuta of Inanna" who is described as a hermaphrodite (in translation over a century ago) but may be better literally described by other people as Person-Man-Woman. See source for more information on all topics. Also, in the myth of Enki and Ninmah, Nimah makes people she sees as broken or flawed and her husband Enki gives them a good life, one of these is a person with quote "neither penis or vagina" this intersex person may have held a third gender role but we don't know as the translation is unclear.

Fruit Salad

By SKYR4Z3R

fruit salad

I push it around my plate with a fork

hearing it scrape and wishing it was so simple

as to put the tomatoes and mangos in my mouth

but the mangoes are fuzzy and the former have stems,

and no one seems to care save for me.

what kind of fruit salad has tomatoes in it, anyway?

Oh Transcendental Youth We're Really Things that are trans In It Now

By Jericho Z

Or as I like to call it, Trans Youth. The album cover is painted mainly in blues: sketchy drawings of demon faces in the night sky, stars, the moon, and people flying toward it all, lifted up on clouds. All of them blue. It's that kind of album. / I am trans. On occasion, I think of killing myself. I'm used to it. I've had the blood on my hands. / Sometimes you do something horrible and drastic, JD says, on an outdoor stage or bar or concert hall. / This is a song about Judas, who did a terrible thing and killed himself and it's pretty sad so you have to cry for him. / Being trans is a little like being suicidal. But I am not Judas. Being trans is like daydreaming of shoving my girl self off a skyscraper, or more violent ends than that. / Trans Youth is a sad album, because it is about sad people. John Darnielle knew what that meant. He was one, as a child in an abusive home, as a young adult grappling with addiction, lost in himself, and later in life, as a nurse, caring for people afflicted with all kinds of awful, sad things. / Everyone in Trans Youth is alive and alive and alive. Everyone in Trans Youth is struggling with this state of being, but they are alive, at least in the three minutes they exist in song. You see, this is a great victory. / Transcendental means to relate to the mind, to not only escape but to escape to something good. To leave behind your body, its tiredness, your ugly flesh. So much is carried in the body, most of it not good. Physicality means vulnerability means permanence, you drag it forward day by day and it trails behind you picking up dirt and scrapes and things to be sad about. / At the height of my suicidality I have mostly felt tired, felt like there was nothing left, no more space on my body. Like a chewed up popsicle stick. An overplayed song. / Amy, AKA Spent Gladiator 1, is the first song on the album / I like to think I believe in trans joy but instead I mostly end up trans everything else. / The most transgender song in Transcendental Youth is White Cedar, wherein the narrator exudes this immensely collected patience, wise not in the old-professor ancient-grandmother kind of wise but a wise which here I mean clarity, clarity after a breakdown or after emerging from a depressive episode

By Jericho Z

- robots
- cats
- catboys
- catgirls
- all cars
- except for tesla
- my cool friends
- bugs that look cool
- miku
- celeste (from celeste) (that's her name)
- mechas and TRANSformers
- trains
- cannibalism but when it's done in a super hot and gay way
- like on hannibal
- Jenny from my life as a teenage robot
- some guy from big hero 6
- Jesus Christ
- clownfish
- crocodiles (on account of being cool)
- mountain goats fans
- dungeons and dragons
- YOU.

The 5 Best (Worst) Ways to come out

By Anonymous

1. Hide and go seek

Step one: Buy a 100+ pride pins.

Step two: Proceed to hide said pins in increasingly inconvenient places around your house.

Step three: profit

Additional step four: after about 50 or so pins have been found, tell them you hid exactly one more than you actually did.

2. Kahoot

Make a kahoot. Doesn't matter the topic. The more unrelated, the better. At the very end, add the question: "What is my sexuality." Sit back and watch.

3. Host a gender reveal party

It's not your fault they assumed you were talking about a baby.

4. Cover everything they own in rainbow wrapping paper

Remind them that you are a gift and it is about time they started treating you like one.

5. Set the forest on fire.

You all saw that one gender reveal party. If they can do it so can you.

where everything feels like it is choking you and it is loud and all your memories bleed into each other until all of it is a brown muddle and you have just lost a week, a month, half a year of your life but you are still here, for the first time in who knows how long taking a breath and finally feeling the air hit your lungs. And the White Cedar narrator says I'll be reborn, someday, someday / if I wait long enough and with the faith of someone who has played tug of war with their lifeline held in the hand of God and found that He did not let go, says you can't tell me what my spirit tells me isn't true, can you? / Trans Youth is an album about almost slipping away from the world and that is why it is a sad album and Trans Youth is about that not happening, at least not today / I love my friends but am frequently lonely and being trans sometimes feels like being in a very large building where there is no one and just space, and being trans and retreating frequently into my closet is like being in a panopticon prison where the wall facing the outside is glass and I watch the people on the street and wonder when the warden goes to sleep, if the warden goes to sleep at all / I am familiar with the concept of living for other people but very soon I think, it will be just me and the liner notes of Trans Youth say this is an album of people living for themselves not out of any love for themselves because overall they are not always the greatest people sometimes they are Judas Iscariot and sometimes people just find them strange too strange or too sad to bear or hopeless and it is hard to love someone you feel you cannot help, I know, but it doesn't matter and Amy the first song on the album says just stay alive, whatever you need to do. Just stay alive / If I am reading this to you, if you are reading this, I am still here. / And you see, this is a great victory.

Tincture

By SKYR4Z3R

I never really liked church

even though the stained glass was beautiful

and shone in the sun from angles zero to three sixty

tanning our faces when we left service and

banishing the darkness, or so the minister said.

I never really liked church,

even though the youth group had little finger snacks

and I felt like a rich lady with a feathered coat

that was just large enough to hide the bruises in.

Like pinpricks from a needle,

if needles could talk and move and see

and crush and grab

and hate; intense like a blaze

licking up at me with a roiling anger because I wasn't so easy to control

gripping me, setting my nerves off like fireworks

leaving marks like the associated strontium scarlet

blooming across my skin and blocking out the sun,

leaving me in the darkness that was supposed to have gone.

I never really liked church,

and there's a very certain freedom one gets from leaving

holding a shard of the symbol withing my palm,

sable, gules

now obscured by my knuckles and smashed between my fingers,

glass being carried away by the torrent of red

blood without the body.

down the winding road, part 2

By midnight

The road winds, as all roads do. Stars shine on open fields and vast plains all the same, and my journey stretches ever onwards.

I continue moving, all the same. My lantern battles against ever-encroaching darkness, shining its light upon the path in front of me. I must keep moving.

The sun rises again. Its light eclipses that of my lantern, and I stop under the light of the dawn.

Tides ebb and flow under purview of the pale moonlight. I smile, and I do not think I would mind if there was anyone here to see it.

I rest at the edge of a tall peak, and view the road stretching out far below. I cannot see where I came from, nor can I see where I journey to. I rest at the edge of the tall peak.

דער ווערעוואלף - און די ווערעוואלפן

ווערעוואלפן זענען דאס זעלבע ווי א מענטש, און זיי זענען אויך מענטשן.

ווערעוואלפן זענען נישט געווען שטענדיג, און זיי זענען נישט געווען א ווערעוואלף.

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Some completely true facts about werewolves

By moth

1. A werewolf cannot be distinguished from people who are not werewolves by their appearance. "Oh!" You might say, pointing to a random person you don't even know the name of, "that person is a werewolf! They have hairy legs!" No, that's just a person. While werewolves have a tendency to have more hair on their bodies, not every person with hairy bodies is a werewolf, and frankly? It's none of your fucking business.
2. Werewolves do not choose to be werewolves. It is not something they can control. While some werewolves may choose to never transform, this usually ends up with their quality of life going down severely. Not transforming every full moon hurts. A werewolf who cannot or is not allowed to transform may fall into depression or act in self destructive ways, especially as they may feel that their family and friends may abandon them if they transform.
3. Werewolves transforming every full moon does not hurt anyone. There are many stereotypes and prejudices out there that werewolves are predatory monsters. These are not true! Many people are afraid of what they do not understand, and werewolves are some of the most misunderstood people out there. Most werewolves are just normal people, and they retain their personality and values when they transform.
4. if one of your friends or family or children has come out to you as a werewolf, they are still the same person they were before. You do not need to grieve them. They are still there. The only change is that they have decided to be truer to themselves.
5. being a werewolf is more common than you realize. You might have coworkers who are werewolves. The person standing in front of you in line at the store might be a werewolf. Some people who you pass in the halls might be werewolves. You will not be able to tell, and that's okay. Werewolves existing do not harm you, and everyone is just trying to get by.
6. Werewolves are not a new thing. Werewolves have existed in folklore and been honored in cultures all around the world for thousands of years. They are not an invention of social media, or of the "radical left." They have always existed.
7. If you couldn't already tell, all trans people are werewolves.