

Transphobia

*A Collection of Gender Poetry
and other Writings*

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She/Her*

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Author's Note

Writing has helped me to cope with my dysphoria and understand my identity better. I hope my writings are helpful to others and will generate interesting conversations.

Content Warning: Dysphoria, transphobia, harassment, suicidal thoughts, references to murder

Don't Need your Permission

Dear transphobes, bigots, and doubters,

I don't need your permission. My transness does not depend on your acceptance. The only person who can decide my gender identity is myself. You saying I am "just a man" does not make me any less nonbinary. It just makes you look stupid, insecure, and rude.

Simply saying a group does not exist does not stop them from existing. If you say

trans people are not real, that does not make them any less REAL.

Who are you to say whether trans people exist or not? It is unclear why you should care. It seems almost like you are scared. Scared of how much power we had to muster to escape the immense pressures of society.

Being transgender is the hardest thing I have ever had to face in my life. There are moments of pain I do not think any cisgender person will ever understand. However, I am partly GLAD I go through this. It makes me who I am today.

It is ridiculously hard to be transgender. I have to be incredibly confident at all times. I am expected to always be extremely patient and emotionally vulnerable when it comes to questions. I am expected to be an educator at all times. I have to deal with tons of harassment - physical, psychological, and verbal. I am expected to forgive people when they caused me extreme pain.

Even though I am the victim of the society we live in, I am expected to be the strong one. I have to terraform every space I join.

I do all this ON TOP of the things everyone else is expected to do. I do this on top of work, school, socialization, and so on.

I am used to doing 150%, where 100% is what most people have to do. Eventually, I will not have to constantly think about being transgender. My 50% will be equivalent to 100% of others.

Someday I will be able to focus all that extra energy into whatever I want. I will have incredible strength and power. It will be incredible.

Being trans has forced me to be strong.
My trauma does not define me, but I have
made it build me inside of tear me down.

I do not need your permission to be trans
and you cannot stop me from being
strong and who I am.

Sincerely,

An Engiqueer

Binary Society

Male or female

Accepting or bigoted

Right or wrong

No in between, no grey area.

In a futuristic tech world,
complex topics are simplified.

Simplified to such an extent that all
granularity and detail is lost.

Blanket labels created that fit no one.

What is the point of definition and
structure if it solves nothing?

Striving to strictly categorize all results
only in the definition of none.

Our thought structure creations are the most hazardous of all.

They remove our individuality, eroding the aspect that make us human.

We will simply cease to be human.

Commentary: I am often frustrated by how our society views things in a binary. Despite how advanced we have become as a species, our definitions of social identities and constructs have only gotten worse. We spend time trying to define things that can only be defined by the individual. We are going backwards when we should be going forwards.

An Open Letter to TERFs

Dear TERFs (or those who call yourself
'Gender Critical'),

You are hypocrites.

You push the same misogyny that was
pushed onto you,

You hate that society does not understand
your own struggles, but then you fail to
understand any struggles that are not your
own.

You are putting women back.

You are stopping progress.

Your effort and hate is misplaced.

You are invading your own spaces,
dividing your own community.

I just wanna live my life, you just want to
live yours.

Spend less time trying to be the
“ultimate” victim, and more time working
to dismantle the oppressive structures
that affect us ALL.

Sincerely,

A Trans Person who wants my fellow
humans to find their way again.

*Commentary: I am fed up with TERFs, I just
wanna be able to live my life like anyone else. I
wish they spent more time living their own lives
and dealing with their own struggles instead of
wasting both of our mental energies by
attacking trans people.*

Dear TERF

Dear TERF,
My harasser,
My biggest point of trauma,

I am done being scared.
I have accepted that justice will not be
done upon you.
I have recognized that I will never be free
from you.

FUCK YOU
For harassing me
For stealing innocence
For hitting me when I was down

I HATE
You more than anything
How you cause so much pain with no
remorse

I WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU

But on some level I pity you,
Tansphobia turned outwards.
You are infected with the same venom
you shot into me.

I AM DONE

With you being in my head,
Waking from nightmares,
Letting your venom continue to circulate
inside me.

YOU CANNOT WIN

If you kill me, I have accepted it.
If you assault me, I will fight back.
I am no longer innocent and vulnerable,
but I am seasoned and strong.

You hurt me SO MUCH, but you made
me stronger.

You stole my innocence, but you made me a fighter.

You made the stupidest decision possible:
I will stop at nothing to dismantle the structures of hate you try to build.

In the end, I will win and you will lose.
I am going to show love where you showed hate.

Whatever you do, as long as it is done through the vein of hate, you will lose.
You will scratch at the side of the cliff, but you will fall.

I will persevere.

Commentary: The TERF that harassed me is still my biggest point of trauma. I think about it everyday. I want to be free from her, I want to move on with my life. I thought she would get

removed from campus, but that does not seem it will happen. I must find other ways to move on.

Gender Presentation

What does it mean to *perform* gender?

Is a cis woman wearing pants performing her gender? Wearing a dress? Does her gender depend on what she is wearing? Of course not, a cis woman is seen as a woman no matter what she wears.

But yet, a trans woman is expected to present her gender at all times.

Trans women are expected to present uber feminine. Expected to always be wearing dresses and makeup. Expected to make it easy for cis people to gender them correctly.

Why should I be expected to present my gender? Why is it more acceptable to misgender me if I am not dressing in a way to make my gender obvious to cis people? Why should I have to concern myself so much with how my clothes *express* my gender?

Why is it assumed that my clothes have anything to do with my gender at all? They can be completely separate for cis people, why not trans people?

Commentary: I am frustrated on how people assume that my clothes are my gender identity. I am frustrated by the number of times I have been told wearing certain clothes makes it easier to gender me correctly.