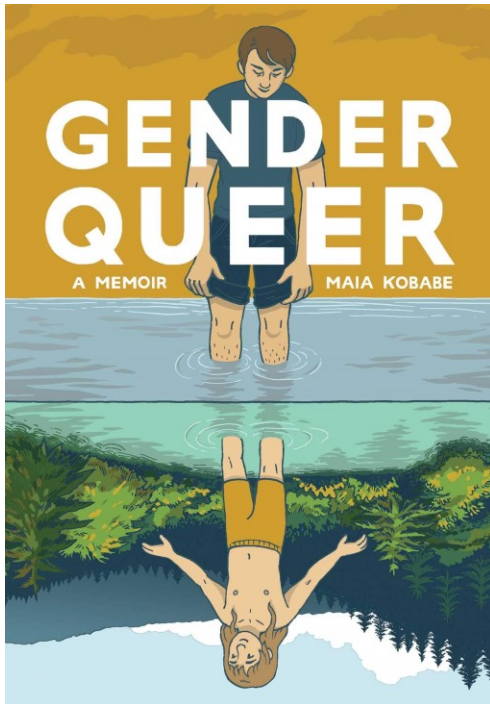


GENDER QUEER



Adult Graphic Novel

By Maia Kobabe

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Summary of Concerns:

This book contains obscene sexual activities and sexual nudity; alternate gender ideologies; and profanity.

CONTENT WARNING

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4 /5

Not For Minors
BookLooks Review Rating

Page	Content
6	<p>"Try writing down some of the things you consider your 'demons.'"</p> <p>"Um, ok..."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Girly clothes -Getting my period -Swimming -Bathing suits -Boobs <p>"All of these are about gender."</p>
13	<p>One of the illustrations on this page depicts a boy urinating with his pants around his legs and his buttocks exposed. There is also a girl squatting and urinating without pants on. Her buttocks exposed. The text next to this image reads: Galen and I often just peed in the yard.</p>
19	<p>"What even are you, a boy or a girl?"</p> <p>LATER</p> <p>"I'm glad he couldn't tell."</p>
20	<p>I took my shirt off too, and walked in the shallows just wearing my shorts.</p>
21	<p>SOME OF MY CLASSMATES NOTICED.</p> <p>"Look! Maia took her shirt off LIKE A BOY!"</p> <p>...MY TEACHER INTERVENED</p> <p>"Maia, dear, you should put your shirt back on."</p> <p>"Why?"</p> <p>"You just- you need to. Come put it back on now."</p>
22	<p>I walked back to put my shirt on again. But I didn't feel that I had done anything wrong.</p> <p>It was everyone else being silly, NOT ME.</p>
23	<p>NEITHER OF MY PARENTS WERE INTERESTED IN ENFORCING GENDER ROLES</p>
26	<p>I WAS GRUMPY AND EMBARRASSED TO ENCOUNTER YET ANOTHER THING I WAS APPARENTLY SUPPOSED TO KNOW BUT DIDN'T.</p> <p>EVERYONE AROUND ME- BUT ESPECIALLY GIRLS- SEEMED TO HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION I LACKED.</p>
29	<p>One of the illustrations on this page depicts a streak of red on the groin area inside of a pair of underwear that has been pulled down.</p>
30	<p>My favorite fictional character at this time was ALANNA THE LIONESS- a short, stubborn girl who disguised herself as a boy to train as a knight. I listened to the audiobooks by TAMORA PIERCE and read by TRINI ALVARADO over and over throughout my childhood.</p> <p>"Alanna's first question on starting her period was "How long do I have to put up with this?"</p> <p>"I didn't ask to be born a girl. It's not fair."</p>
31	<p>BECAUSE OF THE ALANNA BOOKS I KNEW:</p> <p>periods involved bleeding every month, were related to the ability to become pregnant, and were a totally normal and natural thing to happen to young girls. But I NEVER thought it would happen TO ME.</p>

Page	Content
34	One of the illustrations on this page depicts several boxes. The text on the boxes read: BLOOD MANAGEMENT WEEK -PMS -CRAMPS, Bad Sleep for a week NIGHTMARES, Acne and depression!, Stains on undies, sheets, and PJs...
35	The top illustration on this page depicts a maxi pad with red splotches on it. The text surrounding the image reads: I'd often wear the same pad for so long that the dried blood turned to dark crumbles resembling coffee grounds. TO THIS DAY A HUGE NUMBER OF MY NIGHTMARES INVOLVE MENSTRUAL BLOOD. The image at the bottom of the page depicts bare legs with red coloration on the top and inside of the thighs. The text at the top of the image reads: When I make it to the bathroom I'll find my legs smeared with blood from waist to knees.
36	The illustration at the top of the page depicts a person sitting on a toilet with their pants down and red on the inner thighs and knees. The image in the middle of the page depicts a toilet with blood inside the toilet, on the toilet seat, and on the floor around the toilet. The text next to the image reads: Or the only available toilet is overflowing with a soup of blood and shit.
38	IN SEVENTH GRADE MY MOM BOUGHT ME MY FIRST BRA. I liked that it flattened my tiny boobs into non-existence but I hated that I needed it at all. I STARTED DAYDREAMING ABOUT GETTING BREAST CANCER THINKING IT WOULD GIVE ME THE PERFECT EXCUSE TO HAVE MY BREASTS REMOVED. ...THE BOYS AROUND ME SEEMED AS YET UNRAVAGED BY PUBERTY. I WISHED I WERE ONE OF THEM.
41	I REMEMBER WHEN MY MOM TOLD ME "For a long time I planned on naming you Robin, whether you were a girl or boy." ..."I wish I had been named Robin!" "I wish I had ANY gender neutral name..." "Maybe I can change my name to Robin...or Sammy or Taylor or Skyler or Alex?"
43	My fourth crush, in 8th grade, was on a girl who had a Lord of the Rings nickname. It was around this time that I looked up "gay" and "lesbian" in the dictionary.
44	BUT I SOON DEVELOPED MY WORST CRUSH YET ON A GIRL IN MY NEW CLASS. BUTCH. PUNK. USED A BOY'S NAME. ...TWICE OVER THE NEXT YEAR THIS FRIEND ASKED ME: "Are you still FREAKING OUT about being a Lesbian?" "No."
46	"Hi! Some of you know me, I'm a senior here." "I'm also the only openly gay student on campus." "I want to start a Queer-Straight Alliance!"
47	The table where my friends and I at lunch every day was not more than 50 feet from the QSA meeting the next Friday afternoon. My friends chatted as usual while I vibrated with nervous energy. FINALLY I GOT UP THE COURAGE TO SAY: "I'm going to go check out the QSA meeting..."
49	The QSA meeting was full of familiar faces. Over half the members were girls from my own class.

Page	Content
	...LATER I WOULD LEARN THAT THREE OF THEM CAME FROM FAMILIES WITH LEBIAN MOMS; THEY AND THEIR FRIENDS CAME AS ALLIES.
50	"And the Central Park Zoo gave an egg to a pair of gay penguins and they raised a chick together named Tango." "Aww!!! Gay penguins!"
51	One day my best friend gave me a note: DON'T READ ANY MORE GAY ROMANCES YOU GET ABSOLUTELY UNBEARABLE FOR DAYS AFTER. But by the end of the year she had started coming to QSA meetings with me. This group morphed into an LOTR fan club, with meetings devolving into hours of discussion about which of the Lord of the Rings actors were MOST LIKELY TO BE GAY.
60	I WAS 11 OR 12 YEARS OLD THE FIRST TIME I CAN REMEMBER FANTASIZING ABOUT HAVING A PENIS. I WAS LYING, FULLY CLOTHED, ON A HILLSIDE UNDER AN OPEN SKY. The illustration the bottom of the page depicts a pair of legs open. A hand is holding a handful of grass extending out over the groin. The text under the image reads: I HELD A FOLDED HANDFUL OF GRASS BETWEEN MY LEGS. The page goes on to read: Safe in the knowledge that if discovered, I could release my imaginary member and it would disintegrate back into scattered stalks.
61	The illustration at the top of this page depicts a hand grasping a bulge inside of jeans. The text next to the image reads: FOR YEARS MY STANDARD METHOD OF MASTURBATION WAS STUFFING A SOCK INTO THE FRONT OF MY PANTS AND MANIPULATING The Bulge. The image in the middle of the page depicts two young men, naked, kissing. One of the men is laying back on a bed with his legs spread while the other man is laying between his legs, his buttocks exposed. The text next to the image reads: THIS WOULD EVOLVE INTO HIP-THRUSTING WHILE THINKING OF MY LATEST GAY SHIP... The bottom illustration depicts a person from the shoulders downward, sitting in a car with a seatbelt on while driving. Their left hand is cupped over a bulge in the groin of their jeans. The text around this image reads: MEMORABLY, I GOT OFF ONCE WHILE DRIVING JUST BY RUBBING THE FRONT OF MY JEANS AND IMAGINING GETTING A Blow JOB. <i>See Figure 1.</i>
62	WHEN I FINALLY GOT OLD ENOUGH TO NOT BE EMBARRASSED TALKING ABOUT THIS STUFF WITH MY SISTER: "It really never occurred to you to put something into your vagina, not even a finger?" "It really didn't." "So you never tasted yourself?" "What? NO! Ew!" "WAIT- you have?" "HAHA, of course! You should try." AND SO: Vagina slime
64	The MAIN TRAIT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ATTRACTED TO IS ANDROGYNY DID THE GIRL WITH A BUZZ CUT CATCH MY EYE BECAUSE SHE WAS A GIRL OR

Page	Content
	BECAUSE SHE WAS DRESSED AS A BOY? WHICH MADE CATEGORIZING MY SEXUALITY DIFFICULT WAS IT HIS SEEMINGLY "FEMININE" OR "MASCULINE" QUALITIES THAT DREW ME TO THE LONG-HAIRED BOY IN CHOIR?
65	MY DEEPEST EMOTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WITH WOMEN. DID THAT MEAN I WAS A LESBIAN? BUT MY SEXUAL FANTASIES INVOLVED TWO MALE PARTNERS. WAS I A GAY BOY TRAPPED IN A GIRL'S BODY? The knowledge of a third option slept like a seed under the soil.
66	THIS SEED PUT OUT MANY LEAVES BUT I DIDN'T HAVE THE LANGUAGE TO IDENTIFY THE PLANT I wish I had a gender neutral name I wish I was a boy I never want to have sex I wish I had short hair I never want kids I hate my breasts I feel like something is wrong with me.
67	IN HIGH SCHOOL I BEGAN TO THEORIZE THAT I HAD BEEN BORN WITH TWO HALF SOULS- ONE FEMALE AND ONE MALE.
69	THE WORD "TRANSGENDER" ENTERED MY VOCABULARY IN THE SUMMER BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL. ...Including a profile of a lesbian whose partner was taking testosterone and had switched to male pronouns. Over the next year, I also found articles on transgender magic in my mom's pagan magazines and gender rants in a pile of feminist zines given to me by a friend. "But where do I fit into all of this?"
70	If I was trans, wouldn't I be saying, "I am a boy" not "I wish I was a boy?" Wouldn't I want to be SURE? And if I am trans... Am I a gay boy Or a straight boy Or a bisexual boy Except I'm not sure if I ever want to have sex... Does that mean I'm asexual? If I'm asexual does my gender even matter? So I can just be a girl But I don't FEEL like a girl What am I?
75	INCLUDING THE FAKE SERIES BY SANAMI MATOH AND THE LAST HERALD MAGE TRILOGY BY MERCEDES LACKEY BOTH OF WHICH INCLUDE VERY TAME GAY SEX SCENES.
76	THE MAIN KIND OF SEX DISCUSSED IN MY FOUR DIFFERENT SEX ED CLASSES WAS SEX INVOLVING A PENIS AND A VAGINA. The illustration at the top of the page depicts a girls holding a banana with a

Page	Content
	<p>condom over the top of it. ...THAT KIND OF SEX SOUNDED RISKY AND UNAPPEALING.</p>
81	<p>"If only I could get rid of my breasts this quickly." TWICE OVER THE SUMMER, I GOT ASKED: "Are you Phoebe's older brother?" AND AT RESTAURANTS: "What can I get for you today young man?" I LOVED IT.</p>
85	<p>"That's good because you never act like a boy or a girl. I think you're a genderless person." ...SHE KNEW BEFORE I DID.</p>
93	<p>One of the illustrations at the top of this page depicts a boy's waist with a bulge in his shorts. The text reads: I then dreamed about having a massive painful boner that lasted all day long.</p>
94	<p>My High School Coming Out Journey Began wondering if I was gay, age 13 Told one friend I had "liked a girl," age 14 Joined QSA! Told a second friend I liked boys and girls Saw The Laramie Project, age 15 Decided I was a lesbian Immediately got a crush on a boy Much confusion Decided I was bisexual Decided I was asexual Started hanging out with the theater kids, age 16 Got asked directly "Are you gay?" and answered "I don't know" Decided to never have a crush again because they are stupid Came out to a handful of other friends as bi, age 17 Decided I wanted to come out to my parents Clouds of background GENDER CONFUSION</p>
95	<p>"Uh, Mom, I'm pretty sure I'm bi." "I always thought you were one of those kids who could go either way."</p>
96	<p>AT MY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION IN 2007, I WAS THE ONLY A.F.A.B. (ASSIGNED FEMALE AT BIRTH) GRADUATE WHO WORE PANTS.</p>
102	<p>I have spent so much time looking at boys in button-up shirts- JEALOUS of the flatness of their chests. If I didn't have boobs I'd take my shirt off all the time. And feel delicious sunshine on my back. But I can't stand the feeling of air on my breasts. My boobs are hold my back hostage.</p>
104	<p>"Have you ever kissed a girl?" "Um...no, I haven't but...I am bisexual..."</p>
107	<p>My two favorite coworkers, AJ and Fish, both out gay men.</p>

Page	Content
116	INTEREST IN EROTIC GAY FICTION HAS BEEN SO PREVALENT IN MY FRIENDSHIPS, ONE COULD MISTAKE IT FOR A PREREQUISITE.
117	<p>"I thought gay porn was UNIVERSAL!"</p> <p>LATER SHE DESCRIBED HERSELF AS HETEROFLEXIBLE AND TRIED TO EXPLAIN WHY SHE LIKE LESBIAN PORN MORE THAN GAY PORN.</p> <p>"I think it's because- I just don't know how to assign a sensation to a body part that I don't have."</p> <p>I assign a sensation to a body part I don't have all the time. Sometimes I can almost feel where it would be...resting on my thigh.</p>
120	<p>THE CLEAREST METAPHOR I HAD FOR MY OWN GEDER IDENTITY IN COLLEGE WAS THE IMAGE OF A SCALE.</p> <p>A HUGE WEIGHT HAD BEEN PLACED ON THE SID, WITHOUT MY PERMISSION. I WAS CONSTANTLY TRYING TO WEIGH DOWN THE OTHER SIDE. "ASSIGNED FEMALE AT BIRTH"</p> <p>BUT THE END GOAL WASN'T MASCULINITY- THE GOAL WAS BALANCE. "SHORT HAIR," "BAGGY BOY CLOTHES," "NAME," "PRONOUNS," "HORMONES," "TOP SURGERY"</p>
121	<p>DRESSING UP AS A MALE CHARACTER LET ME PLAY WITH THE IDEA OF HOW I WOULD CHOOSE TO PRESENT MYSELF IF THE WEIGHT OF ASSIGNED SEX HAD BEEN PLACED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SCALE</p> <p>"If I had been born a boy I would play with this stuff every day!" LONG HAIR, JEWELRY, MAKEUP, BRIGHT COLORS, FLORALS, SPARKLES, SKIRTS, DRESSES, NAIL POLISH, SCARVES, TASSELS, CUT SHOES</p>
124	<p>The illustrations on this page depict a female taking off her shirt. Then depicted standing topless in a full frontal view. The next illustration is a profile view of the woman fully nude partially bent down. The fourth illustration depicts a nude woman in full frontal view putting on a rob that is open in the front.</p>
126	<p>"Yeah, why don't I feel like a girl?"</p> <p>"Why do I get so turned on by gay sex?"</p> <p>"Is there a physical attribute o my body, like an overlarge clitoris or something, that makes me feel like I should have a penis?"</p>
128	<p>The illustration on this page depicts a naked woman bent over with a giant spike going through her abdomen. The text surrounding the image reads: I FELT AS IF I HAD BEEN STABBED THROUGH MY ENTIRE BODY AND WITH THIS CAME A WAVE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL HORROR AT THE REALIZATION THAT THINGS CAN GO INSIDE MY BODY</p>
129	<p>The illustration on this page depicts a naked woman impaled on a spike from behind. The text surrounding the image reads: OF COURSE I ALREADY KNEW THIS FACT INTELLECTUALLY; embodied KNOWLEDGE IS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT MATTER.</p> <p>WHAT MY BODY TOLD ME WAS THAT THIS INTRUSION OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD INTO MY INTERNAL PHYSICAL BEING WAS WRONG ON A LEVERL TOO DEEP FOR WORDS.</p>

Page	Content
132	<p>"Are you gay?" ..."Bi, actually." "High five!"</p>
133	<p>"My gaydar is so bad. Before my little brother came out to me I had NO CLUE he was gay!" ..."Can you imagine being bi? What if we were both just as crazy about girls as we are about boys?"</p>
134	<p>"I think I'm asexual." "You can't be, I've seen you lust after people."</p>
135	<p>ALISON BECHDEL WRITES IN FUN HOME ABOUT DISCOVERING MASTURBATION SOON AFTER HER FIRST PERIOD (PAGE 170). I didn't know then that there was a word for the oddly gratifying motion of rocking back and forth in my chair as I drew at my desk. I DISCOVERED IT AT AROUND THE SAME AGE, FOLLOWED BY THE FURTHER REALIZATION THAT MY ABILITY TO BECOME AROUSED WAS GOVERNED BY A STRICT LAW OF DIMISHING RETURNS. An elaborate fantasy based on Plato's Symposium. The illustration at the bottom of the page depicts a naked man and boy with erect penises. The boy has his hand on the back of kneeling man's head as the man reaches for the other boy's penis. The text under this image reads: THE MORE I HAD TO INTERACT WITH MY GENITALS THE LESS LIKELY I WAS TO REACH A POINT OF ANY SATISFACTION. THE BEST FANTASY WAS ONE THAT DIDN'T REQUIRE ANY PHYSICAL TOUCH AT ALL. <i>See Figure 2.</i></p>
136	<p>"But around age 16 I felt like I'd run through literally every sexual fantasy. I'd used up all of my material." "This led to the first time I gave up wanking."</p>
138	<p>IN 2013, I DISCOVERED ERIKA MOEN'S WEBCOMIC OH JOY SEX TOY. IN A COMIC FROM NOVEMBER OF THAT YEAR SHE TALKS ABOUT THE FIRST SEX TOY SHE EVER PURCHASED A \$10 BULLET VIBRATOR. MOEN WRITES: "My first orgasm is still one of my most vivid, lovely experiences. It was the first time I ever loved my body." "The way she talks about orgasms makes me wonder if actually I've...never...had one...?" "I guess I should get one of these and try it!"</p>
139	<p>A FEW WEEKS LATER I BOUGHT ONE. I remember leaning in my bedroom doorway, imagining how good this vibrator was going to make me feel. I GOT OFF by pressing the front of my jeans, the opened box in my hand. THE TIME CAME TO ACTUALLY TURN IT ON... "I'll try the lowest setting? That's what Erika used in the comic..."</p>
141	<p>"Heyyy- Phoebe..." "What's up?" "So I bought this vibrator-"</p>

Page	Content
	<p>"Ooo!"</p> <p>..."I only used it once for, like, a minute, then I washed it super well. I'm not going to use it again but I'd feel bad throwing it away..."</p> <p>"Do you want it?"</p> <p>"Haha, sure."</p>
142	<p>BACK WHEN FB FIRST ADDED MORE GENDER OPTIONS</p> <p>"Wow, there are so many!"</p> <p>CUSTOM</p> <p>AGENDER</p> <p>ANDROGYNE</p> <p>ANDROGYNOUS</p> <p>BIGENDER</p> <p>CISGENDER</p> <p>PANGENDER</p> <p>NON-BINARY</p> <p>TRANS</p> <p>"Should I choose one?"</p>
145	<p>...I HAD A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE WORD "CISGENDER" WITH A CIS, STRAIGHT, MALE FRIEND FROM HIGH SCHOOL.</p> <p>"And if you don't know what it means, people call you an asshole."</p> <p>"It's not hard to look up the meaning of the word. Google. It!"</p> <p>"Yeah, but like- well, do you identify as cisgender?"</p> <p>"Not- not really."</p>
146	<p>"Do you feel sad that you weren't born with a dick?"</p> <p>"Lol, sometimes."</p>
147	<p>I DECIDED TO TALK TO MY MOM ABOUT IT.</p> <p>"I know I told you ages ago that I am bi, but think now that I'm probably genderqueer too?"</p> <p>"What do you mean?"</p> <p>..."But- like I've never felt female, or identified with being female."</p> <p>"Specifically things like- having breasts or having a period..."</p>
148	<p>"But I feel it goes deeper than that for me? My whole life I've wished for a magical way to switch between genders."</p> <p>"So that you could be male sometimes?"</p>
150	<p>"Plus, the thought of growing a parasite being inside my own body makes me want to vomit."</p> <p>"PARASITE?!"</p>
155	<p>"I need to make out with someone...For research."</p> <p>"I have a very strict policy of never making out with my friends, so it will have to be a stranger."</p> <p>"Where do I find a stranger who will make out with me? Tinder?"</p>
156	<p>"Yay! Will you also help me set up a Tinder profile?"</p> <p>"I need to make out with someone soon, for the fanfiction."</p> <p>"OMG. Yes!"</p>

Page	Content
157	<p>I ALSO SCROLLED THROUGH MANY "YES/NO/MAYBE" LISTS ONLINE, TRYING TO DECIDE IF MY SHIPS WERE SEXUALLY COMPATIBLE (AS YOU DO). ONE DAY I FOUND THIS KINK DEFINED ON WIKIPEDIA: AUTOANDROPHILIA: Refers to a person assigned female at birth who is sexually aroused at the thought or image of having male genitalia or being a man.</p>
162	<p>"In the interest of transparency, you should know I'm 25 years old and I've never had sex. I haven't kissed anyone since elementary school. My main kink is autoandrophilia. Penetration is a HARD NO for me. And I'm weirdly grossed out by some bodily fluids, so, unfortunately, I probably wouldn't feel comfortable going down on you..."</p>
166	<p>...WE'VE MADE OUT, WE'VE HAD SEX, WE'VE MOVED ON TO SEXTING AT WORK. "I got a new strap-on harness today." "I can't wait to put it in you it will fit my favorite dildo perfectly." "You are going to look SO HOT." "I can't wait to have your cock in my mouth- I'm going to give you the blow job of your life...then I want you inside me." "HOLY SHIT" "This is the most turned on I've ever been in my life. I am DYING."</p>
167	<p>The illustration at the top of the page depicts a woman kneeling with a penis in her mouth from a top-view. The text next to the image reads: This is the visual I'd been picturing... The illustration on the middle of the page is a woman standing with a shirt on. Her pants are unbuttoned and she is wearing a strap-on penis over her underwear. There is another woman, topless, kneeling with the strap-on penis in her mouth. The text in the image reads: But I can't feel anything. This was MUCH HOTTER when it was only in my imagination. <i>See Figure 3.</i></p>
168	<p>Everything we did today was a good experience. But now that I've had sex a few times, I'm not sure I really need any more? Trying to get off in front of someone is kind of weird. I think when I do orgasm, it's not because of my body but in spite of it.</p>
169	<p>Sex just throws this into high relief because it involves contact with genitals.</p>
171	<p>I CAN'T REMEMBER WHEN I FIRST STARTED SEEING PRONOUNS LISTED ON PEOPLE'S PROFILES ON TUMBLR- 2015? EARLIER? BUT THE FIRST PERSON I REMEMBER GETTING TO KNOW WHO USES THEY/THEM PRONOUNS WAS ONE OF MY CCA TEACHERS.</p>
173	<p>They teach our class. They are nonbinary. ...Actually, Rob uses they/them pronouns now.</p>
174	<p>AT THANKSGIVING IN 2015, MY SISTER BROUGHT HER NEW BOYFRIEND TO STAY WITH ME AND MY PARENTS FOR THE FIRST TIME. ...AMILA IS THE FIRST PERSON I'VE WATCHED TAKE TESTOSTERONE. "So your period stopped- ?" "Months ago."</p>

Page	Content
175	<p>"So why do you identify as nonbinary rather than as a trans man?"</p> <p>"Because really, I want people to be confused about my gender at all times."</p> <p>"I don't want a beard, and I don't want my voice to change."</p> <p>"I don't want MORE gendered traits, I want LESS."</p> <p>"If T makes you grow a dick though..."</p> <p>"I'll let you know!"</p>
177	<p>"Hey Ashley- would you please write all of the sex scenes for my fic? Obviously I'd credit you as a co-author on AO3 and owe you eternal gratitude."</p>
185	<p>How could I help support a young person who came to me with the same feelings I have about gender?</p> <p>Reading <i>The Gender Creative Child</i> by Diane Ehrensaft</p> <p>...Obviously I would listen and believe them. I'd ask if they wanted to some level of social transition.</p> <p>If the kid hadn't hit puberty yet, I'd say try hormone blockers, but it's too late for that for me, sadly.</p> <p>...I don't want to change my name, but I like the idea of changing pronouns.</p>
188	<p>"What have you been up to for the past decade?"</p> <p>"I've been ordained as a pagan priestx!"</p> <p>"And I identify as nonbinary now."</p> <p>"Wow, me too! Tell me more!"</p> <p>"...But for a lot of my life, I've felt like a drag queen in a female body."</p>
189	<p>"I use the Spivak pronouns e, em, eir, as in "Ask em what e want in eir tea."</p> <p>"E, em, eir?"</p> <p>"I love those pronouns! I just got the biggest tingle down my spine."</p>
190	<p>"I'd love to use these pronouns but I don't want to inconvenience people..."</p> <p>"So instead of asking people to do something to make you feel more comfortable, you'd rather just feel a little uncomfortable all the time?"</p> <p>"You'd rather internalize and carry that discomfort every time someone who loves you misgenders you?"</p>
191	<p>AS I PONDERED A PRONOUN CHANGE, I BEGAN TO THINK OF GENDER LESS AS A SCALE AND MORE AS A LANDSCAPE.</p> <p>Some people are born in the mountains, while others are born by the sea. Some people are happy to live in the place they were born, while others must make a journey to reach the climate in which they can flourish and grow.</p>
192	<p>My aunt Shari, who came out as a lesbian feminist before I was born.</p>
195	<p>"Your happiness is very important to me. But I have a hard time seeing this trend of FTM trans and genderqueer young people as something other than a kind of misogyny."</p> <p>"A deeply internalized hatred of women."</p>
197	<p>Our society's treatment of women is SO TOXIC.</p> <p>Have I just been brainwashed into hating parts of myself?</p>
198	<p>SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE MY SEXUALITY IS BROKEN AND MY GENDER IS BROKEN.</p>
204	<p>LATER, I FOUND SCOUT TRAN'S PRONOUN PATCHES AT THE DEGENDERETTE BOOTH</p>

Page	Content
213	At 28 I daydream not of tattoos but of top surgery.
219	"I identify as gender nonbinary and I use the pronouns e, em, eir." "I have a lot of gender dysphoria around me genitals and I've been actively avoiding this exam for years."
220	I think this would be easier if you took a pain medication and maybe an anti-anxiety pill first."
222	AT THE PHARMACY I RECEIVED 5MG OF OXYCODONE AND 1MG OF LORAZEPAM. THEN I WENT HOME.
225	...I ATTENDED A MARCH FOR TRANS RIGHTS IN MY MIDDLE-SIZED LIBERAL HOMETOWN.
226	"I don't want to spend this year looking straight." "But how do I look more queer, specifically more genderqueer?"
231	"I don't know a good gender-neutral term for 'aunt.'"
234	EVERY TIME I GET READY TO MEET A NEW GROUP OF STUDENTS, I WONDER: "Should I introduce myself to this batch using my pronouns?" "I wish I didn't fear that my identity is too political for a classroom."
235	"When I was a girl I had no role models who looked like me...There were no women doctors, no professors, no CEOs..."
236	THE KIDS I TEACH ARE PRIMARILY A.F.A.B. AND THEY REANGE IN AGE FROM 11 TO 14. Those were my first big years of gender confusion,...
237	"I wonder if any of these kids are trans or nonbinary, but don't have words for it yet?" "How many of them have never seen a nonbinary adult?" "Is my silence actually a disservice to all of them?"
238	"Having a nonbinary or trans teacher in junior high would have meant the world to me."

Profanity	Count
Ass	1
Dick	1
Fuck	1
Shit	6



Figure 1

ALISON BECHDEL WRITES IN FUN HOME ABOUT DISCOVERING MASTURBATION SOON AFTER HER FIRST PERIOD (PAGE 170).



I DIDN'T KNOW THEN THAT THERE WAS A WORD FOR THE ODDLY GRATIFYING MOTION OF ROCKING BACK AND FORTH IN MY CHAIR AS I DREW AT MY DESK.

I DISCOVERED IT AT AROUND THE SAME AGE, FOLLOWED BY THE FURTHER REALIZATION THAT MY ABILITY TO BECOME AROUSED WAS GOVERNED BY A STRICT LAW OF DIMINISHING RETURNS.



An elaborate fantasy based on plato's Symposium.

THE MORE I HAD TO INTERACT WITH MY GENITALS THE LESS LIKELY I WAS TO REACH A POINT OF ANY SATISFACTION. THE BEST FANTASY WAS ONE THAT DIDN'T REQUIRE ANY PHYSICAL TOUCH AT ALL.

Figure 2



Figure 3