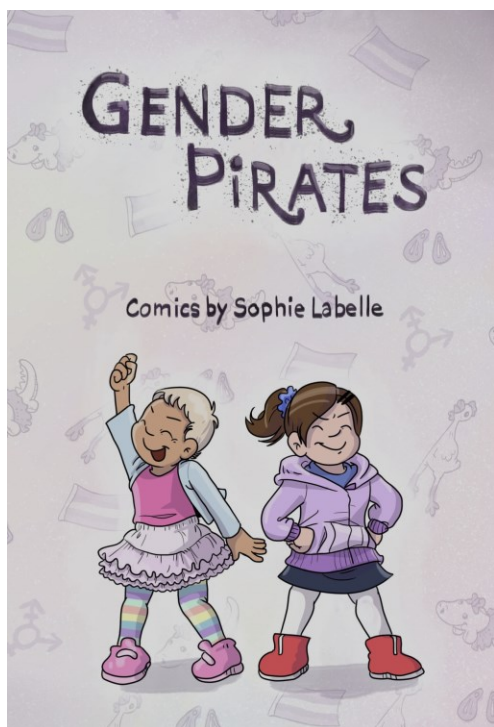


# GENDER PIRATES



*Young Adult Graphic Novel*

**By Sophie Labelle**

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## **Book Summary:**

An eleven-year-old boy declares they are a girl and frequently articulates their opinion regarding gender, sexuality, social and cultural ideas.

## **Summary of Concerns:**

This book contains alternate gender ideologies; alternate sexualities; controversial cultural commentary; and mild/infrequent profanity and derogatory terms.

**2** / 5

**Teen Guidance**  
BookLooks Review Rating

Page	Content
2	"MY CHILD IS TRANS. SHE WAS BORN WITH A BOY'S BODY." ..."I DON'T CARE WHAT SOCIETY SAYS ABOUT MY GENITALS' APPEARANCE! MY BODY, MY CHOICES!"
3	"YOU KNOW, US ADULTS STRONGLY HOLD CERTAIN BELIEFS...IT'S DIFFICULT TO LET GO OF THE IDEA THAT ALL BOYS HAVE A PENIS AND THAT ALL GIRLS HAVE A VULVA." "THAT'S WHY WHEN A GIRL COMES TO US WITH A PENIS, WE'RE A BIT CONFUSED, YOU KNOW?" "BUT CLEARLY, YOU'RE A LIVING PROOF THAT NOT ALL GIRLS HAVE A VULVA. AND TO SAY THAT YOU HAVE A BOY'S BODY IS ARBITRARY."
17	"SINCE I WAS BORN MY PARENTS THOUGHT I WAS A BOY BECAUSE OF MY GENITAL'S APPEARANCE. BUT I'M A GIRL. I TRANSITIONED THIS SUMMER."
18	"COME ON! SANDRO CLEARLY DOES NOT FOLLOW THE HEGEMONIC MASCULINITY MODEL AND HE WOULDN'T IMPOSE HIS DOMINATION ON US. FOR ALL WE KNOW, WE'RE EXPERIENCING A SIMILAR OPPRESSION DUE TO SEXISM."
20	"HETERO- AND CISNORMATIVITY MADE US DO IT!"
23	"DOWN WITH THE CIS-TEM!"
24	"WELCOME EVERYONE TO OUR FIRST MEETING OF 'GENDER PIRATES'! WE'LL START BY TELLING OUR NAMES, PREFERRED PRONOUNS, AND SOMETHING ELSE ABOUT US." ..."MY NAME IS SANDR@ (sic)- I LIKE THE PRONOUNS 'THEY' AND 'THEM'- SOMETIMES, I'M A SUPERHERO/HEROINE." ..."MILENA, YOU KNOW THA YOU'RE PRIVILEGED FOR NOT HAVING TO TELL WHICH ARE YOUR PREFERRED PRONOUNS? IT COULD BE TRIGGERING FOR SOME OF US. PEOPLE FIGHT EVERYDAY TO HAVE THEIR IDENTITY RESPECTED!" ..."IT'S SO HARD TO BE CISGENDER..."
27	THIS IS THE STORY OF A HEALTHY BABY THAT MADE DOCTORS REALLY ANXIOUS BECAUSE OF THEIR MICROPENIS. YOU SEE, IT'S BECAUSE THAT BABY CHALLENGED THE COMMON BELIEF OF DOCTORS AND SOCIETY ABOUT WHAT MAKES A GIRL OR A BOY.
28	SO DOCTORS MEASURED THE BABY'S MICROPENIS, TO KNOW IF IT COULD POTENTIALLY BE PENETRATING. IF YES, THE BABY WOULD GET ASSIGNED MALE. IF NOT, THEY'D RATHER ASSIGN THEM FEMALE AND PERFORM ESTHETIC SURGERIES ON THE BABY'S GENITALIA, CONSIDERING THESE SEXIST REASONS: 1- IS A BOY REALLY A BOY IF HE IS UNABLE TO PENETRATE? 2- ARE A GIRL'S SEXUAL SENSATIONS WORTH PRESERVING AND DO THEY EVEN EXIST?
29	"NOT A PHASE, HUH? STEPH IS ONLY 11. HE'S TOO YOUNG FOR THIS." "WHAT DO YOU MEAN, TOO YOUNG FOR THIS? YOU HAVE TO BE AN ADULT TO KNOW IF YOU'RE A BOY OR A GIRL NOW?"
30	"WELL IF SHE LIKES GIRLS, THEN SHE'LL SIMPLY BE LESBIAN, OR BISEXUAL, OR WHATEVER SHE FEELS RIGHT."
31	"ANYWAY, IF OUR BOY PREFERS TO BE A GIRL, IT'S CLEARLY FEMINISM'S FAULT." ..."WELL IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHAT ARE TRANS BOYS? THE LIVING PROFF OF SOCIETY'S PHALLOCENTRISM?"
35	"PLEASE EXCUSE MY FATHER. HE DOESN'T GET THAT I'M TRANS." "OH, YOU'RE TRANS! DOES THAT MEAN YOU HAD THE SURGERY?"

Page	Content
36	"DAD...CIS PEOPLE DON'T GET KILLED BECAUSE THEY ARE CIS. TRANS WOMEN, AND ESPECIALLY TRANS WOMEN OF COLOR, LIVE UNDER THE FEAR OF BEING MURDERED. WE FACE ALL SORTS OF VIOLENCE ON A DAILY BASIS BECAUSE WE ARE TRANS."
39	"I FEEL GREAT. BUT BEING PREGNANT IS A VERY PARTICULAR SITUATION FOR A MAN." "PEOPLE USE MY PREGNANCY TO INVALIDATE EITHER MY GENDER IDENTITY OR MY SEXUAL ORIENTATION. I HAVE A HEALTHY UTERUS, SO WHY SHOULDN'T I USE IT?" "MY MOTHER ACTUALLY SAID THAT AFTER ALL, WE'RE 'KIND OF' A HETEROSEXUAL COUPLE, SINCE WE CAN REPRODUCE. I GOT REALLY ANGRY. IT'S LIKE I WAS JUST 'HAVING A PHASE' AFTER ALL, BECAUSE I DATE A MAN WHO CAN CARRY BABIES."
40	"MY BRAIN IS BUSY UNDOING BELIEFS THAT WERE FORCED INTO IT ABOUT THE RELATION BETWEEN HETEROSEXUALITY AND REPRODUCTION." "IS THAT A SIDE EFFECT OF HETEROSEXISM, MOM?" "WELL, THOSE BELIEFS ARE, AND THEY DO LEAD TO HOMOPHOBIA."
41	"SANDRX TOLD ME ABOUT YOU. YOU'RE THE GIRL THAT WAS BORN A BOY, RIGHT?"
42	"I JUST WANTED TO SAY THAT I WASN'T 'BORN A BOY,' AS MADISON STATED. I WAS ALWAYS A GIRL. EVEN WHEN I HAD A BOY'S NAME AND DRESSED IN BOY'S CLOTHES, I WAS A GIRL." ..."I WAS BORN WITH A PENIS, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW. A PENIS IS NEITHER MALE OR FEMALE. IT'S A PENIS. IT'S MADE OF FLESH AND BLOOD." ..."IT'S NOT 'AS I WISH'! PEOPLE USE THAT 'BIOLOGICAL SEX' RHETORIC TO INVALIDATE TRANS PEOPLE. IT'S DANGEROUS."
43	"SEE? I TOLD YOU THAT THE FREE MARKET FAVORED THE GENDER BINARY."
46	"YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. YOU'RE LIVING THE DREAM. YOU WON'T GO THROUGH THE TRAUMA OF PUBERTY. YOUR VOICE WON'T BREAK. YOU WON'T GROW A BEARD."
53	"STEPHI, YOU'RE NOT A TRUE TRANSSEXUAL, SINCE YOU DON'T FEEL DYSPHORIA! GO AWAY, TRANSVESTITE!"
55	"I SUGGEST THAT OUR GROUP FOCUSES ON ACCESS TO PREFERRED RESTROOMS FOR TRANS STUDENTS AT OUR SCHOOL."
56	"ALSO, SAYING THAT THERE ARE MALE BRAINS AND FEMALE BRAINS IS NEUROSEXIST. I HAVE BOOKS ON THE SUBJECT IF YOU WANT."
60	"I'M SCARED MY VOICE WILL CHANGE SOMEDAY." "ALRIGHT. I THINK IT'S TIME WE TAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH AN ENDOCRINOLOGIST." ..."ENDOCRINOLOGIST, STEPHIE, NOT ENTOMOLOGIST. FOR HORMONE TREATMENT."
66	"I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE TO YOU TWO THAT THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION HAS DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH SOME CHANGES, FOLLOWING STEPHIE'S COURAGEOUS APPEARANCE ON TV." "HERE IS OUR NEW GENDER-NEUTRAL RESTROOM FOR OUR TRANS STUDENTS. USE IT AS YOU LIKE!" "BUT I AM NOT GENDER-NEUTRAL, I AM A GIRL." "HAVING SPECIFIC RESTROOMS MARGINALIZES US MORE THAN ANYTHING."
67	"SADLY, PARENTS WILL OPPOSE THE IDEA THAT BOYS COULD HAVE ACCESS TO THE SAME RESTROOMS AS GIRLS. WE DON'T WANT ANY AGGRESSION TO HAPPEN..." "AWW, I ALWAYS FORGET ABOUT THE RAPE CULTURE WE LIVE IN..."

Page	Content
68	"BEFORE STARTING THE MEETING, I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE OUR NEWEST MEMBER. MARTIN'S EX IS A CASTRATING FEMINIST WHO DRESSES HIS SON LIKE A GIRL." ..."I READ MANY STUDIES AND ARTICLES THIS WEEK, AND ACCORDING TO THEM, MOST DROPOUTS ARE NATIVE BOYS, BOYS OF COLOUR AND/OR BOYS EXPERIENCING ANXIETY RELATED TO THE IMPOSSIBLE STANDARDS OF WHITE MASCULINITY."
69	"HOW INCONVENIENT! IT WOULD MEAN THAT BOYS DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL WOULD BE A CONSEQUENCE OF THE WHITE PATRIARCHY THAT WE ARE PROMOTING?"
77	"AND SANDRX, HAVE YOU DECIDED IF YOU WANT TO REGISTER AS A GIRL OR AS A BOY YET?"
78	"I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK ANYMORE. I FEEL EVERYTHING WOULD BE EASIER IF SANDRX IDENTIFIED WITHIN THE BINARY, TRANS OR NOT."
83	"AS YOU KNOW, SHE STARTED HER TRANSITION IN 4TH GRADE. EVEN WHILE SHE HADN'T TRANSITIONED AT SCHOOL YET, HER TEACHER SAW A HUGE DIFFERENCE IN THE WAY SHE PARTICIPATED IN CLASS." "RECENTLY, SHE DECIDED TO STOP USING WORDS LIKE HETEROSEXISM OR MISOGYNY BECAUSE SOME WHITE CIS DUDES ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE SAID YOUNG GIRLS CAN'T SAY SUCH WORDS."
85	"SOME CIS BROS ARE COMPLAINING BECAUSE YOU DON'T SOUND LIKE AN 11 YEAR OLD."
87	"YOU'RE ALL SET! YOUR MOM WILL TELL ME IF THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG WITH YOUR HORMONE BLOCKER PRESCRIPTION. YOU'LL GET YOUR FIRST SHOT IN TWO DAYS." "CAN YOU CHANGE THE SEX MARKER ON MY ID, NOW?"
98	"WELL I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS HORMONE BLOCKER THING TO BE SO DIFFICULT FOR ME." ..."AND...OMG. LUPRON IS JUST SO EXPENSIVE. WHAT A PRIVILEGE. I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT KIND OF DISTRESS NOT BEING ABLE TO AFFORD IT MUST CAUSE."
99	SO THAT'S IT. I'M ON HORMONE BLOCKERS.
100	NOT HAVING TO CARE ABOUT TESTOSTERONE ANYMORE IS AMAZING!
103	"WELL IT'S NOT THAT I'M A CISPHOBE OR ANYTHING, BUT YOU KNOW...I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO A CIS KID."
104	"YOU'RE GONNA KISS HER?! WILL THAT MAKE YOU A LESBIAN?" "NOPE, STILL BISEXUAL."
111	"MY CHILD DOESN'T WANT YOU TO ASSUME ANYTHING ABOUT THEIR IDENTITY OR SEXUALITY, SORRY."
113	"WE'RE ONLY IN 5TH GRADE!!" "IS THERE AN EXAM TO SEE HOW WE INTERNALIZED PATRIARCHY?"
114	"WELL, SINCE WE ARE AN ACTION GROUP, OUR MONEY SHOULD SERVE THE EMPOWERMENT OF TRANS COMMUNITIES AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CISNORMATIVITY..."
127	"WELL YOU KNOW, MY MOM IS BISEXUAL, BUT SHE WAS STILL CONFUSED WHEN I TOLD HER I WAS A GIRL."
131	"NO. I WAS BORN WITH A CERTAIN TYPE OF GENITALIA THAT LED PEOPLE TO BELIEVE I WAS A BOY."
137	I'm not transitioning because I "want to be a boy"; I'm transitioning because I AM a boy.
138	I wasn't "born with a boy's body". I am a girl and my body is mine. So it's a girl's body. Girls have all kinds of bodies.

Page	Content
144	"She's too young to decide to be a girl!" ...Said no one ever to the cisgender girl!
146	Don't let cisgender "experts" tell you what it's like to be trans. Listen to trans voices.
149	TRANSITIONING ISN'T ABOUT "PASSING" AS A GENDER OR ANOTHER. IT'S ABOUT BEING MORE AUTHENTIC WITH WHO WE ARE.
152	Misgendering a trans person is VIOLENT
153	I'm not transitioning because "I want to become a girl"; I'm transitioning because I AM a girl

Profanity/Derogatory Term	Count
Faggot	2
Pussy	1