

5
WHEN I STRAP DOWN MY TITS, I
CAN'T TAKE A BREATHER, BUT I
BREATHE THE FASTER SUFFOCATING IN
LAYERS THAN NAKED UNDER
ANOTHER'S EYES.

BOY OH BOY, JUST MORE PROOF THAT CO
ITTING POWDER AND HAND BUZZERS AND
INGESTED IN PLACE OF INJECTED RELIEF
FROM VOICE CHECKS, LONG STARES, AND
COPY IN MY MIND AND MY BODY IN THE
THROUGH EVER MIRROR THAT I SEE
E PAIN OF SHREDDING MY HAND CAN
IN MY CLOTHES OUT OF THIS MAN'S
MIND.



3
SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE IN LOVE WITH
LANGUAGE, SEARCHING FROM THE AGE OF
THREE FOR THE WORD FOR ME. I ONCE
TOLD A FRIEND I COULDN'T GROW UP
BECAUSE I CAN'T BE A WOMAN, AND I
HAVEN'T BEEN A GIRL IN YEARS. TRYING ON
DYKE, I AM BUTCH, I AM QUEER, MAYBE I
AM, ONLY TO FIND MYSELF RIGHT IN
FRONT, SECOND WORD IN ANY ALPHABET
BOOK, "BOY," AND I DON'T BEGRUDGE
LESSONS LEARNED IN THIS FEMALE BODY,
BUT IT'S WRONG LIKE SKIN ON INSIDE OUT,
THEY DON'T TEACH YOU TO ASK.
SHOULD HAVE BEEN RAISED ROUGH, BUT

2
NEVER INJECTED WITH SEMEN, BUT I
WOULD SHOOT UP SOME GUY'S SPIT IF I
THOUGHT IT HELPED ENOUGH
TESTOSTERONE TO BURN OFF THE BODY
THAT GROWS AROUND MY SELF. I CAN'T
COVER IT WITH TATTOOS, THE INK ONLY
DRAWS ATTENTION TO MY TOO-SOFT
SKIN, BUT I CAN'T HELP TRYING TO
DEFACE REALITY, TEASING MYSELF WITH
THE ARTIST'S LITTLE NEEDLES, TRYING
TO DECIDE IF I WOULD HAVE THE BALLS
TO KEEP STABBING MYSELF WITH
GENDER SOLUTION.

6
SO THE JOKE'S ON ME, TAKE A LOOK
AND LAUGH AT MY DISGUISE, GODDAM
LIFE WAS EASIER WHEN I WAS JUST A
DYKE AND DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT WALKING WELL ENOUGH TO PASS,
ENVYING THOSE SKINNY-BOY BUTCHES
WHO CAN BIND THEIR TITS, AND SINCE
I'M A MAN AM I STRAIGHT? AND WHAT
THE FUCK DOES THAT MEAN WHEN I CAN
STILL GET FISTED, AND WILL MY
THERAPIST BELIEVE ME WHEN IT COMES
TIME TO SIGN MY FORMS, AND WHY
SHOULD I HAVE TO PROVE WHAT SEEMS
SO TRUE?

7
AND I'M SET UP BY MY OWN BIOLOGY TO
FIGHT FOR MY DESTINY, TO EITHER GIVE UP
THE DREAMS OF BEING RIGHT AND SAY
"FUCK THE TRUTH" OR BE JUNKY-FOR-LIFE,
KEPT IN THE LITTLE GIRL'S ROOM BY A
SYSTEM THAT BARELY PAYS ME A
WOMAN'S WAGE FOR A MAN'S DAY OF
WORK, WORKING FOR THE STATE AND STILL
TO BROKE TO AFFORD A HABIT LIKE
HORMONES BECAUSE WHEN YOU LIVE
CHECK-TO-CHECK AND YOUR INSURANCE'S
ALWAYS LAPSED, MANHOOD'S JUST
ANOTHER ADDICTION YOU CAN'T FEED.

8
HAIR SHORT, NAILS SHORT, JOCKY
SHORTS, SQUARE STANCE, SHIRT-AND-
TIE, NAME CHANGE, MAN'S BOOTS,
UNDERSHIRTS, BULLRING, AGGRESSION,
HARD-ON, SWAGGER, STRAIGHT LOVER,
LEATHER BELT, BLUE JEANS, AND
WHY THE FUCK WON'T MY CLOTHES
FIT ME RIGHT, WHY THE FUCK AM I
STUCK LIKE THIS?

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