

They Beat The Girl Out Of My Boy...Or So They Tried

Introduction

As part of Eve's work to include the voices of all women who face violence, she interviewed a diverse group of transwomen in preparation for creating this piece. This piece was performed for the first time by and all transgendered cast in LA in 2004.

Woman 1 (Calpernia)

At five years old
I was putting my baby sister's
diapers on.
I saw her vagina.
I wanted one.
I wanted one.
I thought it would grow

Woman 2

I thought I would open
I ached to belong
I ached to smell
like my mother
her sweet aroma lived in my hair
on my hands, in my skin
I ached to be pretty
Pretty

Woman 3

I wondered why I was missing my
Bathing suit top at the beach
Why I wasn't dressed like the other girls
I ached to be completed
I ached to belong
To twirl the baton

Woman 4 (Andrea)

They assigned me a sex
The day I was born.
It's as random as being adopted
or a being assigned a hotel room on the 30th floor.

It has nothing to do with who you are
Or your fear of heights.
But in spite of the apparatus
I was forced to carry around
I always knew I was a girl.

Woman 5

They beat me for it.
They beat me for crying.
They pummeled me for wanting

1

To touch

2

To pet

3

To hug

4

To help

5

To hold
Their hands

1

For trying to fly in church
like Sister Batrell

2

For doing cartwheels.

3

Crocheting socks

4

For carrying purses to kindergarten

2

They kicked the shit out of me every day
On my way to school.

3

In the park
They smashed my
Magic marker painted nails

4

They punched my lipsticked mouth

ALL

They beat the girl
out of my boy.

1

Or they tried.

2

So I went underground.
I stopped playing the flute

3

“Be a man, stand up for yourself
Go punch him back.”

4

I grew a full beard.

5

It was good I was big.

1

I joined the Marines
“Suck it up and drive on.”

2

I became duller.

3

Jaded

4

Sometimes cruel.

1

Butch it

4

Butch it

1 and 4

Butch it up.

3

Always clenched, inaccurate,
Incomplete.

5

I ran away from home

2

From school

1

From boot camp.

4

Ran to Miami

3

Greenwich village

5

Aleutian islands

1

New Orleans.

2

I found gay people

3

Wilderness lesbians

5

Got my first hormone shot
Got permission to be myself

4

To transition
To travel
To immigrate

350 hours of hot needles
I would count the male particles as they died
16 man hairs gone.

1

The feminine is in your face
I lift my eyebrows more
I'm curious
I ask questions.

2

And my voice
Practice practice
It's all about resonance
Sing song sing song
Men are monotone and flat
Southern accents are really excellent
Jewish accents really help.
"Hello my friend"

3

And my vagina is so much friendlier
I cherish it
It brings me joy

4

The orgasms come in waves
Before they were jerky

1

I'm your girl next door

5

My Lt. Colonel father ending
Up paying for it.
My vagina

3

My mother was worried
what people would think
of her
That she made this happen
Until I came to church

And everyone said you have a beautiful
Daughter.

1

I got to be soft
I am allowed to listen
I am allowed to touch
I am able to
To receive.

4

To be in the present tense

5

People are so much nicer to me now

1

I can wake up in the morning
Put my hair in a pony tail

2

A wrong was righted.

3

I am right with God.

4

It's like when you're trying to sleep
And there is a loud car alarm--
When I got my vagina, it was like someone
Finally turned it off.

1

I live now in the female zone
but you know how people feel about
immigrants.
They don't like it when you come from someplace else.
They don't like it when you mix.

They killed my boyfriend
They beat him insanely as he slept
With a baseball bat
They beat this girl
Out of his head.

They didn't want him
Dating a foreigner
Even though she was pretty
And she listened and was kind.
They didn't want him falling in love
With ambiguity.
They were scared he'd get lost.
They were that terrified of love.

Eve Ensler
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