

Sources and Key:

["Florida's 'Don't Say Gay' Bill Will Hurt Teens Like Me" by Will Larkins](#)

[VE Scwab on Coming Out](#)

[Why Plus Sized Women Should Wear Bright Colors by Jen Anderson](#)

[Article on Trans Participation in Sports in the Washington Post by Diana Nyad](#)

[On Apologizing After the Earth has Circled the Sun a Thousand Times](#) by Kayleb Rae Candrilli

[What It's Like to be Transgender poem](#)

Samuel Taylor Coleridge mentioned in [Virginia Woolf Article](#)

My own additions!

a great mind must be androgynous

*No one ever ~~thinks of us~~ **thinks of me** as human
because ~~we are~~ **I am** more ghost than flesh,
because people fear that my gender expression is a trick,
that it exists to be perverse,
that it ensnares them without their consent,
that my body is a feast for their eyes and hands
and once they have fed off my queer,
they'll regurgitate all the parts they did not like.*

From an early age I knew I was different. I wasn't interested in the things others ~~s~~ **boys** my age did, and I didn't really feel comfortable in the clothes my parents bought me.

~~You are~~ **I was** 17, and the girls around ~~you are all boy crazy-~~ **me** were all girls and ~~you~~ **I** wondered if something inside ~~you~~ **is me was**

broken, or missing, or if ~~your~~ **my** body is **was** simply ignorant, unpracticed.

Naturally, I did not come out of the closet.

The kids at my school opened it without my permission.

*Called me by a name I did not recognize,
said "lesbian,"*

but I was more ~~boy than girl, more Ken than Barbie.~~

It had nothing to do with hating my body.

The struggle for acceptance was not just internal, it also felt as if my classmates didn't know what to make of me.

~~So often we're~~ **I was** told that ~~we're~~ **I was** too much. Too loud, too dramatic, too pushy, too big. And somehow that ~~makes us~~ **made me** feel like ~~we're not~~ **I wasn't** enough. **I was convinced that I was broken.**

~~so we~~ **I** ~~hide our~~ **my** ~~light~~ **identity**, hoping to gain the approval of people whose opinion is **was** nonsense.

*They'll put me back into the closet,
~~ha~~**ung** me with all the other skeletons.*

~~Sure, wearing~~ **I wore** some drab shades that ~~makes you~~ **made me** fade into the background. ~~may make you look smaller because~~ Everyone's eyes just ~~slide~~ **slid** right over your ~~dull outfit~~ **me**.

It had nothing to do with hating my ~~body~~ **identity**, I just loved it enough to let it go.

But it ~~can also be~~ **was** soul destroying, if you ~~wear it~~ thinking **I was** **being** denied a fair shot **at existing happily**.

Then I learned what it was to be trans.

I could say I am simple—my heart

again a newborn with a shelf life.

*But there is nothing simple about
my body and its fruity orbit around
the sun. When I had my breasts
removed from my chest, the surgeon
did not ask if I was ready to sleep
so violently.*

It ~~is~~ **was** shocking, to have the words. ~~So far you have~~ **I had** only
been able to point out what ~~feels~~ **felt** wrong. But ~~this,~~ **this that, that** one
detail ~~feels~~ **felt** right.

~~But you don't~~ **I learned I didn't** have to dress to fade into the background. **I was
allowed to** if you'd rather stand out.

~~We must certainly~~ **I find found** a way to celebrate ~~our~~ **my** trans.

