

CHARACTERS:

ONE (she/her) — Cisgender girl, straight. Likes queer fashion and aesthetics but calls herself “unfortunately straight” even though she agrees that men are “atrocious.”

TWO (he/him) — Transgender man, bisexual. Doesn’t mind being confrontational and will call out behavior he disagrees with, listens to podcasts more than music.

THREE (he/him) — Cisgender man, straight. Doesn’t understand trans people who don’t get surgery, genuinely tries to get pronouns right but often makes mistakes, overall kind of confused by queer people.

FOUR (he/him) — Cisgender man, bisexual. Insecure about being bisexual because he is very masculine and passes as straight. Will defend anyone but himself.

FIVE (they/them) — Nonbinary person, pansexual. Femme presenting and born female, very insecure about identifying as nonbinary because they don’t feel “androgynous enough.”

SIX (she/her) — Cisgender girl, lesbian. Has a prejudice against bisexual girls because of girls in the past who have used her to figure out their sexuality. Leans into all the lesbian stereotypes she can.

SETTING:

Here, today.

Lights up. Six people are standing in a straight line center stage, facing the audience. A soft spotlight comes up on each one when they say their first line. Each line is said out to the audience, not between each other.

ONE: I'm not gay, but I'd make out with you.

TWO: That's homophobic. Trans men are men.

THREE: Are you going to have surgery?

FOUR: Labels are so restrictive. But people demand them. How do you define yourself?

FIVE: I'm nonbinary. I think. People still see me as a woman, though.

SIX: It's so annoying when bi women call themselves lesbian. Stick to your label and stop fetishizing us because you're ashamed you like men.

THREE: I'm gay.

FOUR: I hate labels.

TWO: You're a misogynist.

ALL: *Are you gay?*

SIX: I can make you gay.

ONE: I just think it'd be fun to make out with a woman for once. Just try it out.

FIVE: I can't see you anymore. I'm not a woman.

ALL: *Did you choose to be gay?*

Lights pulse brighter for a moment, before slowly fading to black.

When the lights come up again, ONE, FOUR, and SIX are sitting around a small coffee table stage left. ONE is sitting on the floor, writing something in her notebook on the table. FOUR is sitting in an armchair typing something on his computer. SIX is pacing back and forth, refreshing something on her phone. After a few paces, she stops in her tracks.

SIX: She stopped typing.

ONE: She's probably just trying to figure out what to say.

SIX: And it takes longer than eight and a half minutes to do that?

ONE: I'm sorry, hun.

SIX starts pacing again.

SIX: She's going to tell me she doesn't want to see me. She's gonna say she doesn't actually like me or want to date girls at all and tell me we should go our separate ways.

ONE: How can you be so sure?

FOUR: Anytime someone says "can we talk?" It's not a good sign.

SIX's phone dings. She pulls her phone out and stares at it for a moment in confusion.

ONE: What did she say?

SIX looks back at ONE and FOUR, then slowly walks to the table and sits down across from ONE. FOUR sees her sit and closes his computer to pay attention to her. SIX begins slowly reading out the text.

SIX: "I'm sorry, but I don't think we should see each other anymore. I haven't meant to lead you on or anything, but I feel like I've been in denial for a long time..."

Lights dim slightly on ONE, FOUR, and SIX, who all freeze as lights come up stage right on FIVE, who looks out at the audience while continuing to read the text they sent to SIX.

FIVE: ...but the reality is I just don't feel comfortable being a woman. I don't think I'm a trans man, but I really don't feel like a woman either. I'm not comfortable with "she." "They" feels like the closest thing I do feel okay with, but it still feels very new. I'm coming to terms with being nonbinary and what that means and how I fit into the world, but I want to figure that out without the pressure of someone waiting for me to do it. You've been very vocal about how you're only into women, and while you haven't done anything wrong, being with you makes me feel bad about myself because I know you see me as a woman. Again, I'm sorry if I've caused you any hurt, but I think it's for the best if we don't see each other anymore.

Lights go down stage right, FIVE exits. Lights come back up to full on ONE, FOUR, and SIX. A beat.

ONE: I don't really know what to say to that... I'm sorry, though.

FOUR: I know you really cared about them.

SIX: ...I just don't get it.

FOUR: What do you mean?

SIX: I don't understand why she's getting herself knotted up over something that's a non-issue.

FOUR: They.

SIX: What?

FOUR: They. They just said they don't feel comfortable with "she."

SIX stays silent.

ONE: What they said makes sense. If you've talked about only being interested in women, I can understand how that would make them feel... is dysphoric the right word?

FOUR: Yeah.

SIX: Whatever.

Lights down stage left on ONE, FOUR, and SIX.

*Lights up stage right on TWO and THREE.
They're sitting next to each other on a couch
playing a video game. They both face the
audience where the TV would be. They're both
very focused on the game.*

TWO: Eat... shit.

THREE: Shut up.

"Game over" sound is heard.

THREE: Fuck, dude.

TWO: What can I say, I'm gifted. *(setting controller down)* I'm gonna grab another beer, do you want one?

THREE: Sure, thanks.

TWO walks offstage.

THREE: Hey, can I ask you something?

TWO (offstage): Yeah!

THREE: So... you're trans, right?

TWO enters with two beers, apprehensively looking at THREE.

TWO: What about it?

THREE: It's just, I'm curious. There's something I don't understand.

TWO: Shoot.

TWO sets the beers on a small table in front of them and sits down. THREE seems cautious about the question he's about to ask.

THREE: Like... I really hope this isn't offensive, I really just wanna know—

TWO: The more you preface, the worse it seems, man.

THREE: No no, it's nothing major really. I just... You're a trans guy, but you said you're bi, right?

TWO: Yup.

THREE: So you're attracted to both genders?

TWO: I'd say "multiple" not "both" because I'm also attracted to nonbinary folks.

THREE: ...I have more questions. But one thing at a time. So, say you're sleeping with a woman, right? Like a cis woman. Would you wear a strap to have sex with her?

TWO: Maybe. Depends on if that's what she wants or not. But I wouldn't require it.

THREE: But it doesn't make you feel bad? To like have your... you know, out like that?

TWO: My vagina?

THREE: Yeah.

TWO: Well, no. Because I know that my vagina doesn't make me a woman. It's just part of the body I was born with, but I'm still a man.

THREE: ...So do you not plan on having surgery?

TWO: Don't need to. At least not now. I'm comfortable where I'm at.

THREE: I'm sorry, I just don't get it. Like, if you feel like, or if you identify as a man, why wouldn't you want to have the body parts that go with that?

TWO: Because your genitals don't define your gender.

THREE: But what if the girl you wanna go out with is straight and she doesn't want you unless you have a dick?

TWO: That's her preference, and I'm not gonna get caught up on that.

THREE: Is she also still straight if she doesn't mind that you have a vagina?

TWO: Look, you're getting *real caught up* on the genitalia thing. You gotta remember that what's in your pants isn't your gender. There's people that are going to have preferences, sure, but that doesn't change whether I'm a man or she's straight or whatever.

A pause.

THREE: ...Okay.

TWO (grabbing his controller): Another round?

Lights down stage right on TWO and THREE.

*Lights up stage left on FOUR and FIVE.
They're sitting on opposite sides of a coffee table.*

FIVE: What else did she say?

FOUR: She just started going off on this really annoying rant about why you being nonbinary had to get in the way of the two of you being together.

FIVE: ...But she's always said that she isn't attracted to anyone who isn't a woman.

FOUR: I know.

FIVE: So does she not get the part about how her saying she's attracted to me makes it sound like she does still see me as a woman?

FOUR: ...

FIVE: ...Right.

FOUR: I'm sorry about her.

FIVE: Me too. I'll never understand why queer people hate on other queer people.

FOUR: And you know she'd go off at you calling her "queer" and not "lesbian."

FIVE: She's so caught up on labels. A lot of the gays are, and I just don't get it.

FOUR: Honestly, me neither. It's restrictive.

FIVE: ...But sometimes necessary.

FOUR: I guess. Labels just bother me.

Lights down stage left on FOUR and FIVE.

*Lights up stage right on ONE and THREE.
They're cuddled on a sofa together.*

ONE: Do you feel like he was upset?

THREE: He didn't seem upset. It just felt like he didn't want to talk about it anymore.

ONE: I understand, it must be a hard topic to talk about.

THREE: I feel like I just don't get it. I want to, but it doesn't make sense to me how you can feel like a man but not want to look like a man.

ONE: Because how you look doesn't define who you are, babe.

THREE: I feel like I get that... but also like I don't?

ONE: Think about this: if you saw a cis gay man wearing bright pink lipstick, a skirt, bold eye makeup, and platform heels, would you not still think he's a man?

THREE: ...I think I'd be a little confused, but yeah sure.

ONE: And what is it about him that makes you think he's a man?

THREE: Honestly? The fact that he has a dick.

ONE sits up a little.

ONE: That's where you have to expand how you think about it, love. He's a man because that's who he is. There's no reason for it. You can present and dress in feminine ways or in masculine ways without it having any say in what your gender is.

THREE: But why does it have to be separate? Wouldn't it just be easier if your gender were the sex you were born with and you just dressed however you want?

ONE: For some people, that's fine. But for others, trying to live with a gender identity that matches the sex they were born as causes them deep psychological discomfort. They feel better and more comfortable in their own skin identifying differently.

THREE: I just feel like the whole gender stuff is unnecessarily complicated.

ONE: You don't have to get it all the way. You're a straight cis man; it's not an experience you have. You just have to be respectful.

THREE: But you're straight and get it.

ONE: Yeah, I guess it just doesn't confuse me. I could imagine myself being with a woman and it wouldn't bother me. Or being with a trans man.

THREE: ...Is that not *not* straight?

ONE: Well no no, I'd never actually date a woman, I'm just not attracted to them that way. But I think it'd be cool to be attracted to women. Being queer seems fun, and I kind of wish I could be that, you know?

THREE: I can't say that I do.

ONE: I just think it'd be fun. Like I don't mind thinking about it. But no, I'd never actually do it, unfortunately. I'm just not gay.

THREE: ...Right.

Lights down stage right on ONE and THREE.

Lights up on all actors standing in a line facing the audience like at the beginning. The stage has no set once more.

SIX: So what are you?

FOUR: Who are you attracted to?

THREE: What's between your pants?

ONE: I heard a guy once say that he didn't like online dating because you could never tell when someone was a "real chick" or a "chick with a dick."

FIVE: If you're attracted to me, that makes you gay. Do you think I'm hot?

TWO: Gender is complicated. Just don't be an asshole about it.

THREE: But you're straight.

FOUR: Cis.

SIX: Trans.

ONE: Enby.

FIVE: Genderfluid.

TWO: My gender is a fluid concept.

ALL: *You need to define yourself.*

ONE: Have you found your box?

TWO: You can have more than one box.

THREE: But you have to choose a box.

FOUR: People expect you to stick with your box.

FIVE: It's hard to live out of the box.

SIX: Boxes are important.

FOUR: Boxes are limiting.

TWO: We need boxes. Even if they aren't fixed.

FIVE: Pick a box.

THREE: Explain your box.

ONE: Feel comfortable in your box.

ALL: *Who are you? Explain yourself. Live your best life. Be true to yourself. Why have you changed so much? This isn't what you used to be like. I don't understand you. Do you understand yourself?*

Lights out.

END OF PLAY