

## Gender Queer by Maia Kobabe - Review by Elizabeth Perry

Unlike Magenta Gender Queer is a book that is visual in presentation. It is autobiographical in comic book fashion. While it starts off innocently enough, unaware of body when to shave, how to handle getting a period and when to wear a shirt, the book quickly devolves into a very graphic portrayal.

Page 60 and 61 shows and describes how Maia wished for a penis by using grass (putting in pants) to simulate a penis. It also showed the thoughts that were going through the writer's mind during masturbation (wanting a BJ too graphic and showing pictures). Page 62 and 63 the brother wants to know if (then she) had ever experienced herself. At this point author states feelings of being both genders (this description is okay) Learned transgender around HS. Talks about sex ed being very boring and traditional. At this point started to have gay fantasies. Page 90 describes wanting a male haircut and then goes into feelings of genderlessness. My college wanted boobs gone – showed pictures of binding on page 100.

A large section of the book deals with typical early adult feeling of should I go out with her (at this point has admitted to being bisexual). Started dressing trans around age 21 and had a fascination with skater Johnny Weir. Then goes into the experience of a pap smear (normal enough) but pages 128-129 too graphic shows a knife going through that part of the body to supposedly represent the negative feeling of having a vagina (did not like the realisation that something could penetrate it. Graphic fantasy of having a penis page 135. Page 138 description of vibrator.

Author gets a girlfriend page 164. 166-167 sexting and graphic sexual acts involving (BJ/Dildo) Stopped seeing self as gay. By page 173 started using gender neutral pronouns. Made connection that they were transgender. Page 178 says, "I don't have to get married, I never have to date anyone, I never have to care about sex." This is actually good as there are many people who feel this way.

Page 184 talks about liking boys' underwear. Started using these pronouns: E, em, eir (never heard of these). References a book by Patricia S. Churchland, "Touching the self as brain: a Nerve" – medical explanations of transgenderism (will have to read this too). Goes a bit into the premise (made parts female brain). Goes on to tell/ask her parents to use new pronouns. This portion of the book is done tastefully.

The remainder of the books discusses having a nephew and relatives that accept pronouns and the person E has become. Also, is now a cartoonist and teaches from time to time.