

# **FINGERPRINT DOESN'T MATCH**



*[This zine is about being transsexual]*

# FOREWORD

In hindsight, I find it interesting that I've felt most comfortable calling myself transsexual in public only after I detransitioned. I'm worried this statement will cause you to bristle, but that's the truth of it.

"Soldiers" can become "veterans" and use that word to speak of their experience, but what single word exists to describe how I spent over a decade of my life? What single word can tie together the bundle of sticks that's been my experience? Alas, "transsexual" seems like the best option. And in this political climate, I feel like we need as many trans people as possible.

So that's how I'll describe myself.

If the following pages seem disjointed, please lend me some grace, this is my first zine and I'm still getting the hang of things. Maybe a timeline of my life will help orient you (and remind myself) and provide some context for the time and place you've landed in.

# **TIMELINE**

1989, 00yo: Born

2003, 14yo: First attempt to transition (did not go well)

2009, 20yo: Second attempt to transition (went much better this time)

2010, 21yo: Started Testosterone

2010, 21yo: Top Surgery

2012? 23yo: Hysterectomy

2013, 24yo: Sex Reassignment Surgery (metoidioplasty)

2013, 24yo: SRS Revision

2021, 32yo: Started Estrogen

2022? 33yo: SRS Revision

2025, 36yo: I write this zine

It feels different than the books read.

Something gets lost in a translation to an  
intelligible language

All these words mean something different to me.  
"Queer" is what I felt expected to call myself,  
living as a transsexual faggot

"They/them" are the pronouns I was expected  
to use if I wasn't cis.



Who is this "We"?  
Where do I sign up?

You're living among the clouds and I'm Fixing  
broken water pipes in the basement, Fighting  
the erosion

Don't you hurt? Because this is killing me

CCCCCCCC

CAN YOU FEEL IT?

DO NOT PUSH



Barness

to feeling

Disallow

Also prevent  
pushing

Push vs Pull

Inward &

Strength only in certain areas Outward  
only in certain ways

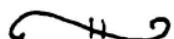
Strength &/vs Permeability

Strong + Permeable

is the goal

She would ask who my support system was going to be Post-Op. It was never anyone.

R\_\_\_\_\_ asked who my friends were in Milwaukee, during grad school. "You didn't have any?" It felt like a judgment, my inability to connect. I didn't respond, stared and waited, daring him to lead the conversation somewhere. I think we moved on.



People talk about "I contain multitudes" but I don't know if they really mean it. It feels like they still expect some cohesion out of you. What if I can't? You can glue the pieces together and make something new but you'll be unintelligible.

It's devastating to feel a community move on without you. I thought I'd found a common language but no one speaks it anymore.

For me, saying that I was born in the wrong body felt like the literal truth. It's only recently where I realized others might have been using this phrase metaphorically.

What a strange experience, to feel your body be so fundamentally wrong, and also feel guided by your body towards the solution.

It was only once we started moving away from this phrase that I realized I might be the only one experiencing this, after all.

April 2010  
[2 months on T, 21 y.o.]

God...up until December I didn't even know I had a self. I heard that used to describe being trans, "my outsides make sense to me. I didn't even know I had insides. To understand what that was, was so foreign to me. To me I imagined myself inhabiting a male body.

Man. I've been dead all these years.

soul. I had no idea what that felt like. I've  
didn't match my insides", but that didn't  
The concept of a soul, actually being able  
he first time I felt my soul was the first time

I still have the mug they got for me in Serbia  
I don't use it much but keep it in my cabinet and see  
it every morning  
A little something to remember them by, as if I wouldn't  
think about them everyday for the rest of my life  
He drove me to their apartment from the airport. He  
looked like an actor and I was just happy I got to  
spend time with him. We talked about motorcycles.  
Their traffic lights are different; Yellow before green  
when it transitions from red, a warning for the  
manual drivers to be ready. Or maybe just a courtesy.



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Follow

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The move towards "Gender affirming care" is another great example of how knowledge changes vocabulary.

While this change is ongoing, the terms "sex change" or "sex reassignment surgery" have become outdated. They imply that surgery is the only or ultimate pathway for trans folk to transition, which is not the case. "Gender affirming care" encompasses the wide range of care, both medical and psychological, available to help trans folk feel affirmed in the gender they identify as.



3/6

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1,428

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179



prism.fl As the LGBTQ+ community evolves, so does the language used to talk about its members.... more

November 12, 2024



mr.meents 3w •



But don't forget - some trans people (typically elder trans people) use these terms and always have. None of us have any right to deny them that!

Reply



85

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THIS  
MARKS  
THE  
DAY

That I - a 35 yo  
transsexual who  
had sex reassignment  
in 2013 - was  
an "elder"

Bitch I'm not  
even middle-aged

Darling, touch me  
Reach out, it seems so easy  
Do you feel me too, like I do

The first time I tried to transition, in high school,  
when I told my parents and they booked an  
appointment with the therapist I saw for  
anger at 7 years old,  
when I saw the therapist and she met my  
declaration with incredulity  
"But that would mean you'd need to have surgery!"

I've been so distant,  
call the coastline

Sometimes I wonder if I make sense to the people  
around me, but I also don't want to know  
Is that where/when/why the self-isolation started?  
Registering danger signals when I feel they're not picking up

Obviously I knew that, but she seemed to hesitate,  
My body told me it wasn't safe,  
she won't understand you,  
so I dropped it  
And nobody thought that was strange  
Why didn't anyone think that was strange?



[Post Script, Dec 2025]

Embarrassingly, I don't know how to "end" this zine. I want to keep its contents as a "snapshot" of a particular time in my life (early 2025 I think?) but it also feels so unfinished. It's only now that I'm trying to sign up for PTE '26 that I feel a need to revisit and put a bow on this project.

I can't think of anything else to say, so I guess I'll just leave things there. I hope you've enjoyed this project.

- Emily

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**2026**