A black and white photograph of an open mouth, viewed from the front. The tongue is visible and has handwritten text on it. The text is written in a casual, hand-drawn style. The mouth is open, showing the tongue and the inner lining of the mouth. The background is plain white.

I Had
Never Heard
a Lesbian
Story
off a
Lesbian
tongue

ON Lesbian Books, television, movies, music,
pornography, art, periodicals, culture and more



Content Warning:

- Lesbophobia
- Police Violence
- Conversion "Therapy"
- Pornography
- Reclaimed D-slur

this zine is a terf-unsafe space.
pls go away if you do NOT support
and uplift all lesbians
including trans lesbians!



"Don't make me tap the sign!"

Growing up, I had very limited exposure to information about sex, bodies, and relationships. And virtually no exposure to ideas about queer people and identity. My love of 90's sitcoms led me to discover small amounts of representation. The lesbian & lesbian-adjacent characters I clung to mostly fell into two categories:

1) traditionally feminine, desired my men, previously assumed to be straight, queer desire is only expressed in physical affection (either to gain attention from men, or for the sake of experimenting)



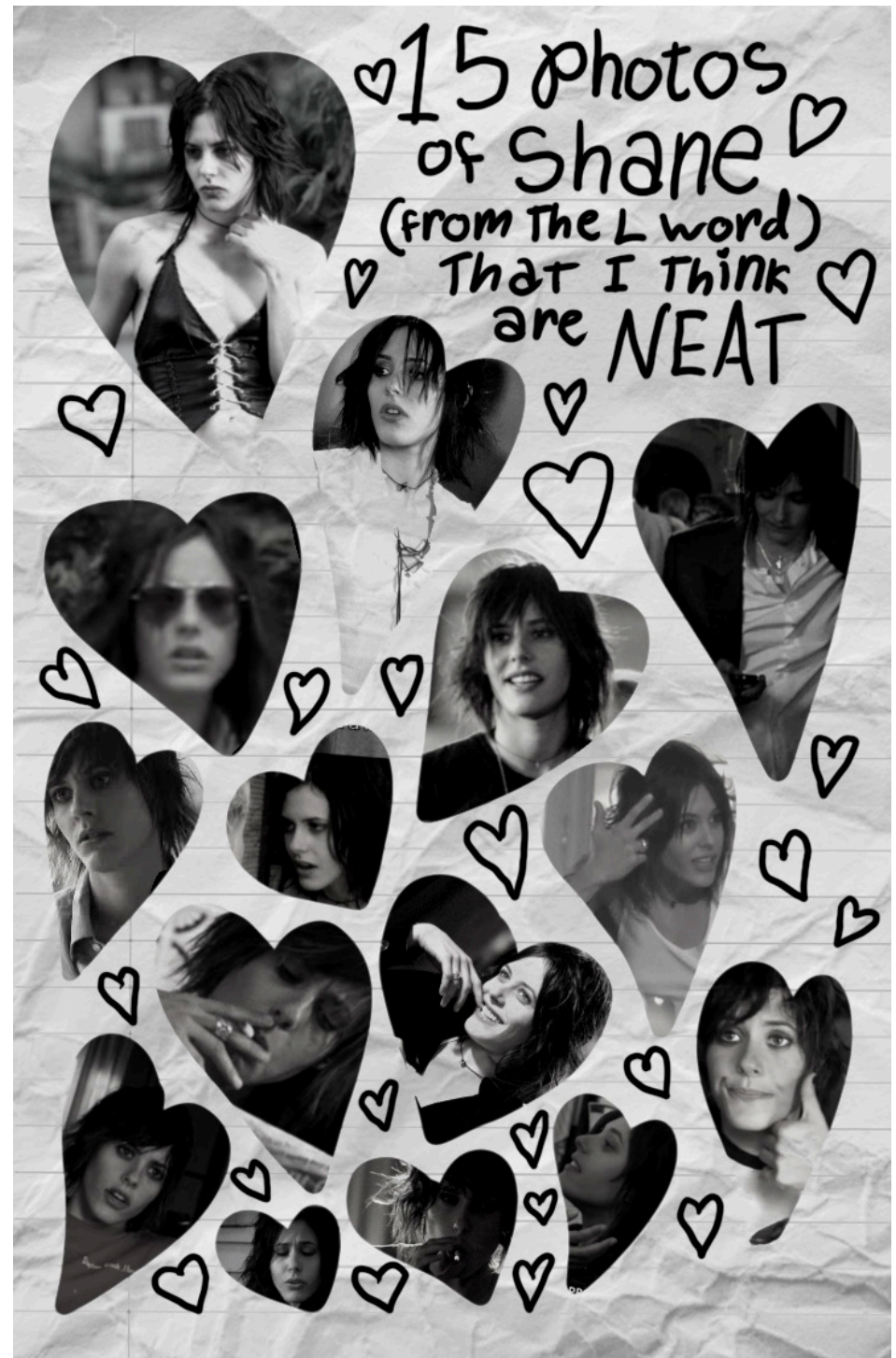
"Friends" season 7, episode 20



"Friends" season 2, episode 11

As a young teenage lesbian, this dichotomy left me with a choice. I could accept the fate assigned to me by my love of androgyny and become the "undesired" hairy lesbian feminist. Alternatively I could bend myself into the role of the femme, acceptable, tokenized gay girl (not lesbian, that word sounds gross). I chose the latter for years, and I was bad at it! I suck at being acceptable and beautiful and desirable through a cishetero normative gaze. Eventually I tried my best to unlearn these beauty and gender standards, and finding my own taste and priorities. Applying what I think is Beautiful to the choices I make about my appearance has become a liberating act!

2) Butch, feminist, portrayed as repulsive to men, gives unwanted affection to straight women, signs point to hates men



(The L word is super problematic but the GRIP this Character has on my Gender is tooo strong 🙄🙄🙄🙄)

Lesbian Porn + Dental Dams

Lesbian porn created for straight, Cisgender male viewers sells a hyper sexualized version of lesbian sex that allows them to gain pleasure from an abstracted idea of us, without ever having to interact with us, our desire, or lived experiences. Watching lesbian porn as a teen was another failed attempt to find myself in media.

“For Men” lesbian porn is similar to dental dams in that neither of them are made for us. Dental dams are thin sheets of latex or Polyurethane that can be placed over a vulva to reduce the risk of spreading STIs during oral sex, but they aren’t very different from the rubber dams dentists use! Dental dams might do the job, but they are not designed for pleasure.

It is also worth noting that safe lesbian sex is not one-size-fits-all, dental dams, gloves, finger cots, and condoms are all ways to prevent STIs. Every lesbian sexual relationship has its own set of preferences, priorities, dynamics, risks, and anatomies <3



**Image from *Lesbian Lovers Vol.4 #3* (1985)
screenprinted on a dental dam**

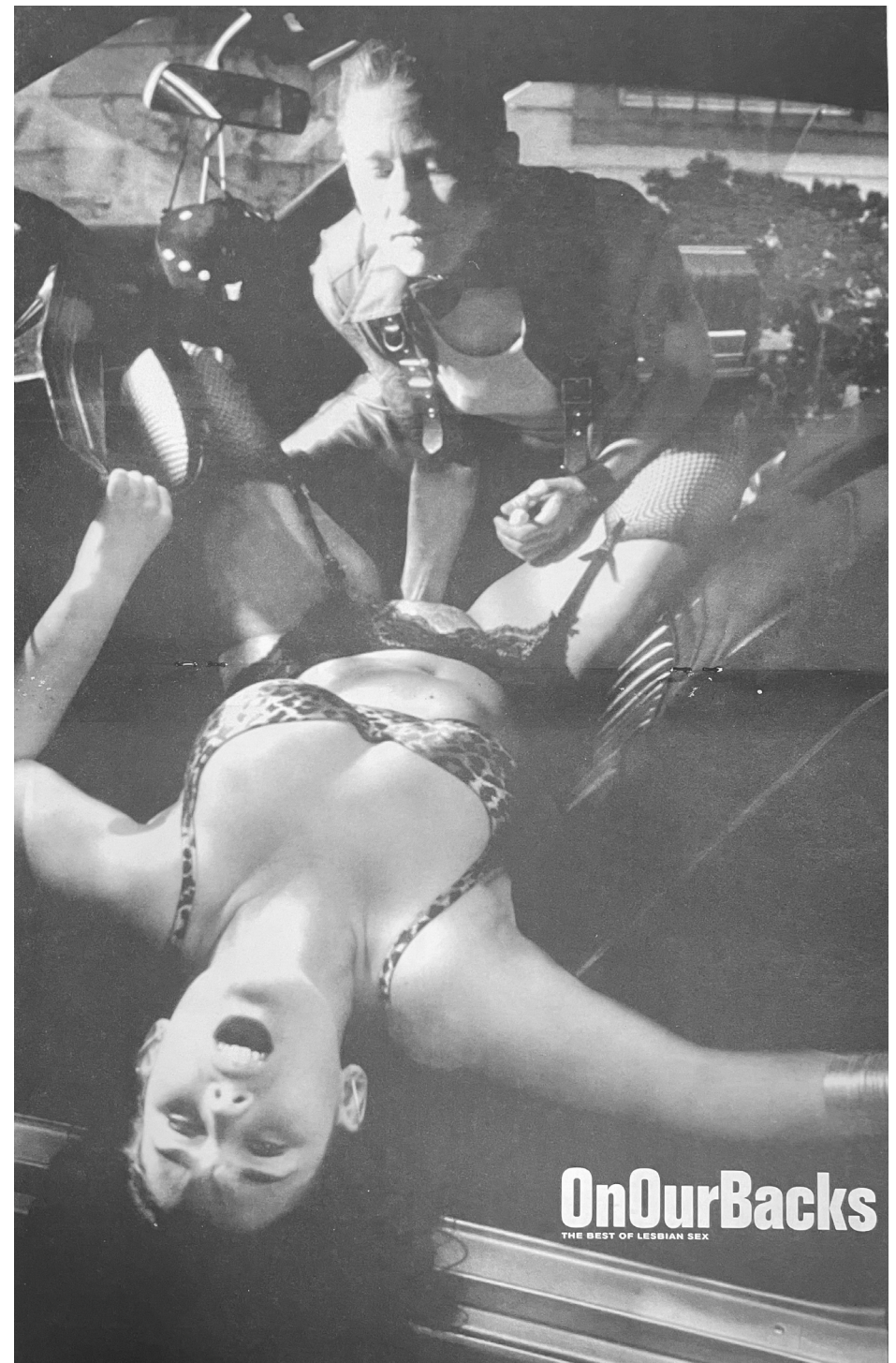
ON OUR BACKS Magazine

On our Backs was a by-Dykes-for-Dykes erotica magazine published from 1984 to the early 2000's. It is cited as the first magazine featuring lesbian erotica for lesbian viewers to be published in the United States. The magazine featured a diverse range of lesbian experiences; Butches and femmes, leatherdykes, feminist scholars, artists, writers, and sex workers.



Image Sourced from tumblr @PittRareBooks

When so much of the public perception of lesbian identity is defined and characterized by media for straight men, making media by and for lesbians is a liberatory act.



On Our Backs Centerfold, aug-sept 2002,
Photography by Phyllis Christopher

Stone Butch Blues

Stone Butch Blues was one of those books that changed my life. My perception of myself as a transgender Butch Dyke has become so much more nuanced and joyful.

Leslie Feinberg (1949-2014) was an author, activist, butch lesbian, and communist. Zie published *Stone Butch Blues* in 1993. The book is not autobiographical however it parallels Feinberg's life in some ways. The novel follows Jess Goldberg, a Butch lesbian growing up in New York, as she navigates Dyke bars, Police violence, falling in love, testosterone and top surgery, passing, and union organizing.

“Nature held me close and seemed to find no fault with me.”

— Leslie Feinberg, *Stone Butch Blues*



Leslie Feinberg at
Boston Pride, 2006



The signed page of my
copy of *Stone Butch
Blues*



STONE BUTCH BLUES

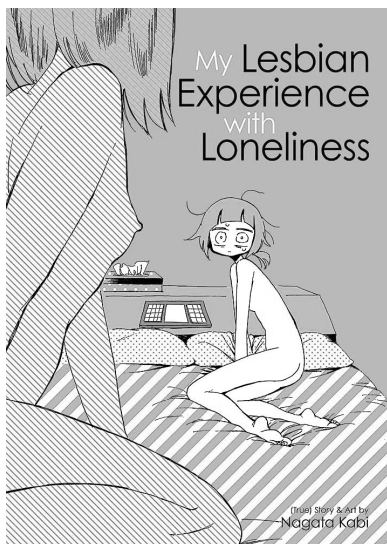
A Novel \ Leslie Feinberg

To Jaura -
In the Spirit
of Stonewall!
Leslie Feinberg



Firebrand
Books
Ithaca, New York

My Lesbian Experience With LONELINESS (AN autobiographical Manga)



“Maybe the times I couldn’t move were the times I needed to take better care of myself.”

- nagata kabi,
My Lesbian Experience
With Loneliness

I Found Salvation IN the Voices of a Lesbian Choir

the Following Was First Independently published in
Violet Tendencies Vol. 2 in 2022

The summer before I turned 18, I got to see the Portland Lesbian Choir while they were visiting my hometown on the Oregon coast. The group was mostly made up of older butches. It was the first time I saw myself in art and music. It revolutionized how I thought about the kind of art I can make.

Cisgender & Heterosexual people are not the only people who deserve to see themselves in art. Not everything needs to resonate with cishets. not everything we do needs to be for the sake of entertaining and educating them.

I want to make art for Transsexuals and Dykes and Queers. I want to make art for the people who rarely get to see art made by and for people like them. Expressions of our identities and selves can be for us.



But I'm a Cheerleader

But I'm A Cheerleader (2000) may take place in a “conversion” therapy camp, but I promise it has a happy ending.

The film is a campy lesbian romcom about Cristian cheerleader Megan, who is sent to “True Directions” after her friends and parents suspect she is a lesbian. At True Directions Megan meets several “recovering” homosexuals, including Graham. Graham is a confident lesbian with butch-adjacent charm. The two become best friends™ and kept their love undetected (for a while, at least)



DEBS 2004

D.E.B.S (2004) is a romcom about Amy, a recruit in a clandestine paramilitary academy, and Lucy Diamond, a lesbian supercriminal and Amy's target.



Lucy and Amy put down their weapons, their chemistry already palpable.

Detransition, Baby

a Novel

Just make sure you aren't in a car with cishet men when you finish this book.

Detransition, Baby follows the lives of Reese, Ames/ Amy, and Katrina as they navigate love, loss, transitions, detransitions, and queer futures in the weeks following the conception of Ames' and Katrina's pregnancy.

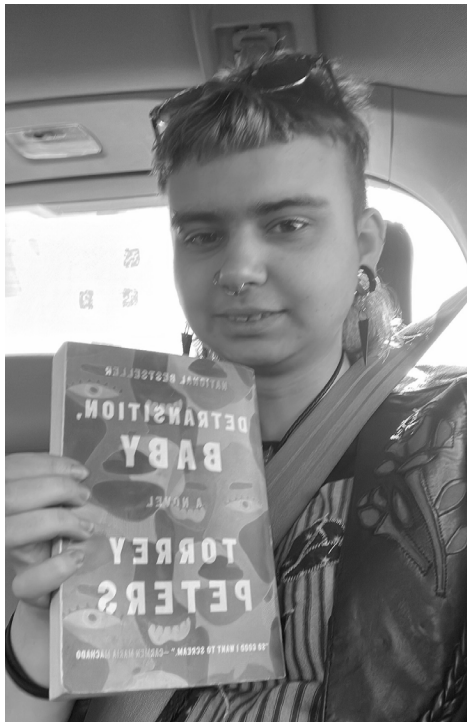
"So you got sick of being trans?"

"I got sick of living as trans. I got to a point where I thought I didn't need to put up with the bullshit of gender in order to

satisfy my sense of myself. I am trans, but I don't need to do trans."

— Torrey Peters,
Detransition, Baby

Me, alone in a car with
two cishet men, after
finishing *Detransition
Baby*.



Love Poem

By Audre Lorde

Speak earth and bless me with what is
richest
make sky flow honey out of my hips
rigid mountains
Spread over a valley
Carved out by the mouth of rain.

And I knew when I entered her I was
high wind in her forests hollow
fingers whispering sound
honey flowed
from the split cup
impaled on a lance of tongues
on the tips of her breasts on her navel
and my breath
howling into her entrances
through lungs of pain.

Greedy as herring-gulls
or a child
I swing out over the earth
over and over
again.

a random Survey of Lesbians

Describe yourself, Butch? Femme? Secret sexy third thing?

Jam: Transmasc with butch roots

Phoenix P.: Transmasc Butch

AF: Toyota Tacoma femme

Lucie CS: A soft lil butch

Rae: Butch

Jacinto: femme, but like in the way that men are femme

Margot: secret sexy third thing

Q: genderqueer butch boydyke

May: butch !

Nicole: Butch

Trace: Butch

Favorite Lesbian book?

Jam: Stone Butch Blues

Phoenix P.: Stone Butch Blues (it's a cop out but it was my gender identity awakening)

AF: The Price of Salt

Lucie CS: A game of deceit and desire

Rae: Oranges are not the only fruit

Jacinto: Paper Girls; Manhunt

Margot: we are okay by nina lacour

Q: paradise rot by jenny hval

May: Orange is not the only fruit

Nicole: Last night at the telegraph club

Trace: a Mary Oliver collection

Favorite Lesbian movie or TV?

Jam: The half of it

AF: But I'm a Cheerleader

Lucie CS: Wynonna Earp

Rae: Xena, Gentleman Jack, Work in Progress

Jacinto: First Kill; Imagine Me and You

Margot: Portrait of a Lady on Fire and Grease: Rise of The Pink Ladies

Q: brand new cherry flavor

May: thelma

Nicole: Carol

Favorite Lesbian artist/art piece?

Jam: Tessa Boffin or gluck

Phoenix P.: All of my lesbian artist friends (@sturgeon. designs, @collagehound, @laynedollart)

AF: I don't know anything about Kiki Smith's sexuality, but she's been one of my favorite artists since high school and was in Bette Porter's personal collection on the L Word, so I feel like she counts.

Lucie CS: You/we by Gluck

Rae: @Coyotesnout

Jacinto: Joan E. Biren - Eye to Eye: Portraits of Lesbians (1979); Frederick Sandys (1829-1904); Marie-Rosalie Bonheur

Q: that cool tool belt strap harness that was floating around on twitter for a while ? [TOOLbelt by Martha Summers]

May: "a night out at the lesbian bar" by elisabeth williams

Nicole: Beloved zine issue 2

Trace: Me

Favorite Lesbian song/musician?

Jam: Talking about Revolution

AF: Electrelane

Lucie CS: MUNA

Rae: Indigo Girls

Jacinto: Indigo girls; k d lang

Margot: Crushing Me from the musical Grease Rise of the Pink Ladies

Q: punkrockdyke by gina young

May: chappell roan!

Nicole: Xana

Trace: Are You Gonna Be My Girl - Jet

If you use one, Describe your carabiner

Jam: I made it out of leather!

Phoenix P.: Silver, purchased at an art market for queer local artists- engraved with the phrase “you are my lucky star”

AF: Used to have a big black biner with a wire gate, now I have a bougie little black leather & brass key fob

Lucie CS: Green with a fuggler letting attached and occasionally holding a chain onto my trousers

Rae: S-shape carabiner with a rainbow of other mini carabiners holding each key, a swiss army knife, and a collapsible reusable metal straw

Jacinto: too heavy :')

Q: i bought it at the army surplus store and holds my library card, keys, 2 other carabiners, student id, and swiss army knife .

May: forest green, containing the keys to my car, mail-box, and house that i share with my love

Nicole: It's a heart shaped red carabiner that says beloved butch

Trace: Peeling red paint. Holds my climbing gym card and car and house keys. Attached to 2 destroyed keychains: a gilded coke bottle and a leather fish with an evil eye (I'm a pisces)

Dykiest piece of clothing in your closet?

Jam: All of them too hard to pick

Phoenix P.: The sweater I stole from my butch

AF: Tan canvas insulated work jacket

Lucie CS: Drop crotch burgundy joggers that are covered in paint and have been sewn up a lot

Rae: I have several 3-piece suits

Jacinto: A friend of mine cut the arms off a ripped flannel and put spikes on the shoulders and collar. It's very warm for a sleeveless

Margot: brown cargo pants

Q: dickies coveralls

May: my gf's patchwork jacket that I steal, or one of my many flannels

Nicole: My denim jacket

Trace: A silver chain with a scissors charm that I wear with everything

“My Lesbian role model is....”

Jam: Leslie

Phoenix P.: Myself

AF: My high school biology teacher

Lucie CS: Emily Dickinson

Rae: Not sure about full-on role model, but Lea Delaria was groundbreaking for me as a butch lesbian in musical theatre. She carved out a space in an art form that (still) doesn't make room for us.

Jacinto: My best friend from high school, my friends from college, all the lesbians who helped me come out

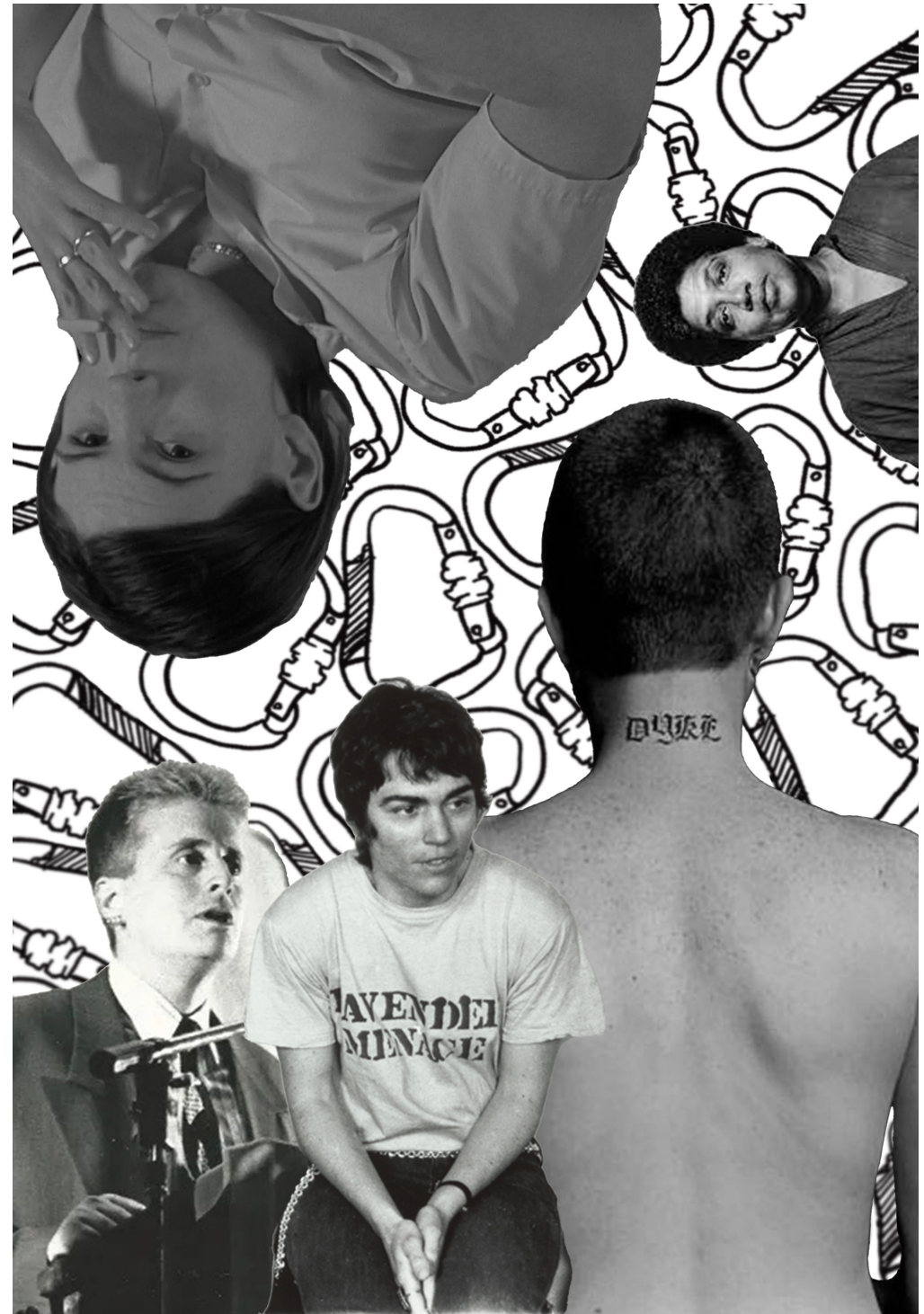
Margot: Not a real person but Villanelle from the show Killing Eve, she's the reason i accepted my lesbianism after years of internalized homophobia.

Q: my genderqueer dyke high school English teacher

Trace: My femme

Playlist

Nervous But Excited-----World Spins Madly on
Nervous But Excited-----Said and Done
Ferron-----Ain't Life a Brook
Indigo Girls-----Closer to Fine
Indigo Girls-----Blood and Fire
Indigo Girls-----Don't Think Twice it's all Right
Indigo Girls-----Devotion
Melissa Etheridge-----Come to my Window
Melissa Etheridge-----You Can Sleep While I Drive
Melissa Etheridge-----I'm The Only One
Tracy Chapman-----For My Lover
Tracy Chapman-----For My Lover
K.D Lang-----Constant craving
Tegan and Sara-----Knife Going In
Tegan and Sara-----My Number
Tegan and Sara-----Where Does the Good Go
Rio Romeo-----Nothing's New
Rio Romeo-----Butch 4 Butch
Left at London-----Revolution Lover



I Was a Lesbian Child



Instagram: @Cedar_Creates
Email: Cedarmakeszines@gmail.com
Tumblr: violet-tendencies-zine

Made By Cedar Meik, Milwaukee WI, 2023