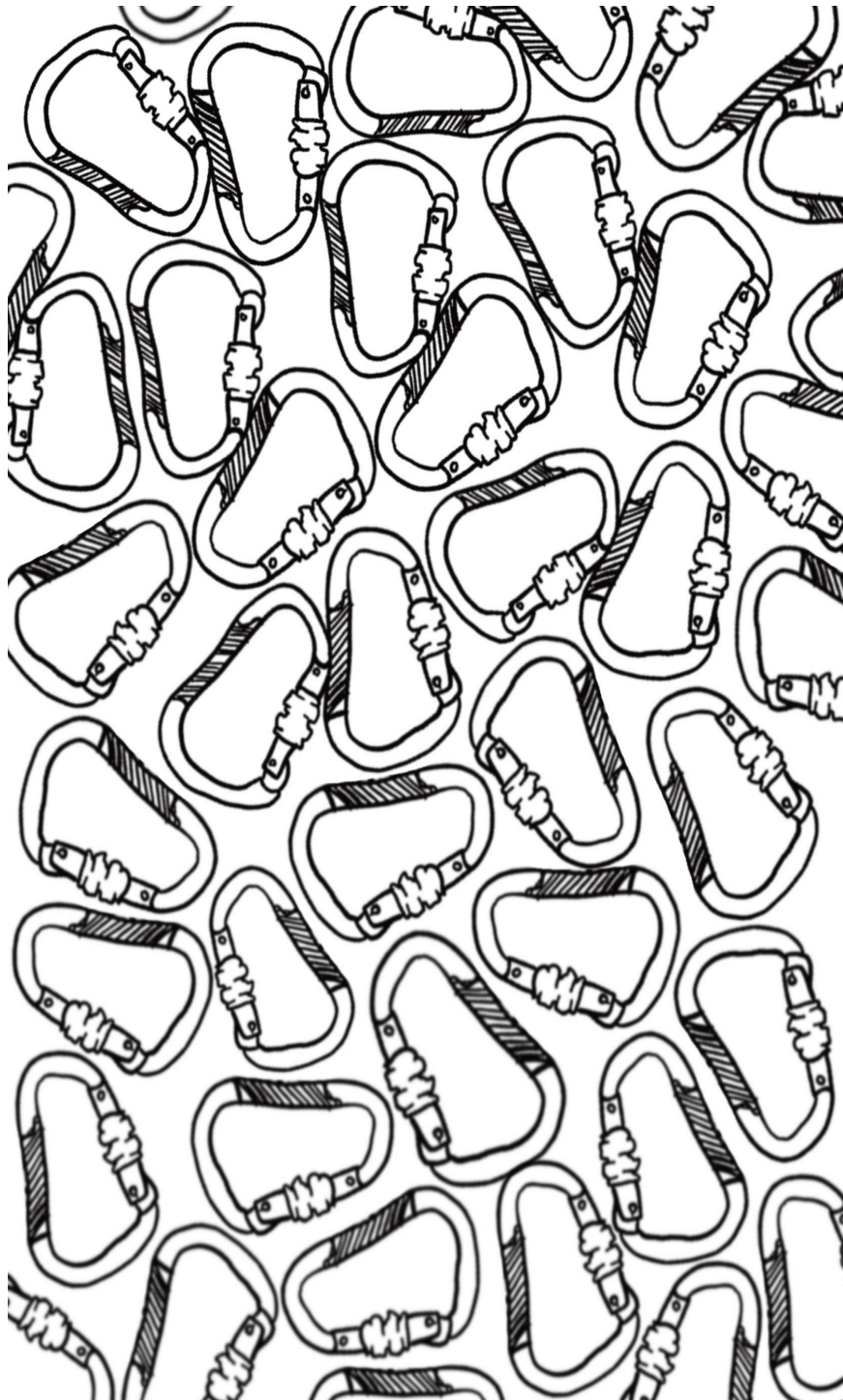


# VIOLET TENDENCIES

VOL.2





## For Leslie:

Although we never met, you have saved me over and over. I always find your words when I need them, tuck them in my pocket, and hold them close



## Content Warning:

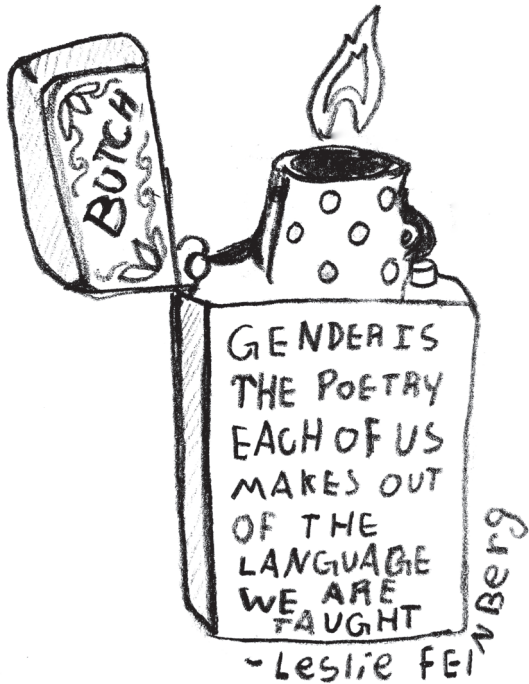
Reclaimed D-slug  
Homophobia  
Death  
Suicidal Ideation  
Transphobia  
Transmisogyny  
Transmedicalism  
Sex toy imagery  
Sword imagery

Nothing Graphic, just some mentions! Please take care of yourself and only read if it is safe for you to do so.

# Context:

I came out as a lesbian at the age of 14. Even through the emotional turmoil as a result of the homophobic harassment I faced after coming out, my love for women and nonbinary people was a good home for me. My desire led me into many passions, anti-capitalism, drug policy change, and transformative justice. I dated a little and fell in love hard. I started my recovery and came out again and again.

During my freshman year of college, I discovered the writings of author and activist Leslie Feinberg. Zie is most well known for hir fiction piece "Stone Butch Blues" which is about living as a butch lesbian in America during the 1970's. Finding out about Leslie Feinberg and hir writing expanded my perception of lesbian identity beyond the rigid cisnormative ideas that were dominant in the time I had been out of the closet.



**Lesbian:** A word we can use to understand and communicate our gender, sexuality, romantic attraction, as well as lived experience. There are many ways of defining it, for myself I go with "non-men attracted to non-men".

While I do think trans men who use the term to describe themselves and their lived experiences are absolutely valid and cool, I feel reluctant to define lesbianism as "Non-cis-men attracted to Non-cis-men" within my personal working definition because I don't think it's my place as a non trans man. My reluctance may ease as I am exposed to more info on the lived experiences and preferences of trans men.

I believe that people deserve to use any/all labels that serve them in describing their identity and experience. as long as it is in good faith, we all are allowed to take up space and change the things that do not accommodate our ability to thrive.

# We Have Always Existed

Leslie Feinberg (1949-2014) was an author, activist, butch lesbian, and communist. Zie wrote both fiction and nonfiction, often speaking about class, gender, and lesbian identity.

Feinberg's book "Stone Butch Blues" parallels Hir life in many ways although it is not autobiographical. The historical fiction piece is about life as a butch lesbian in 1970's America. It also portrayed the struggle of many social issues such as classism, homophobia, anti-Semitism and transphobia.

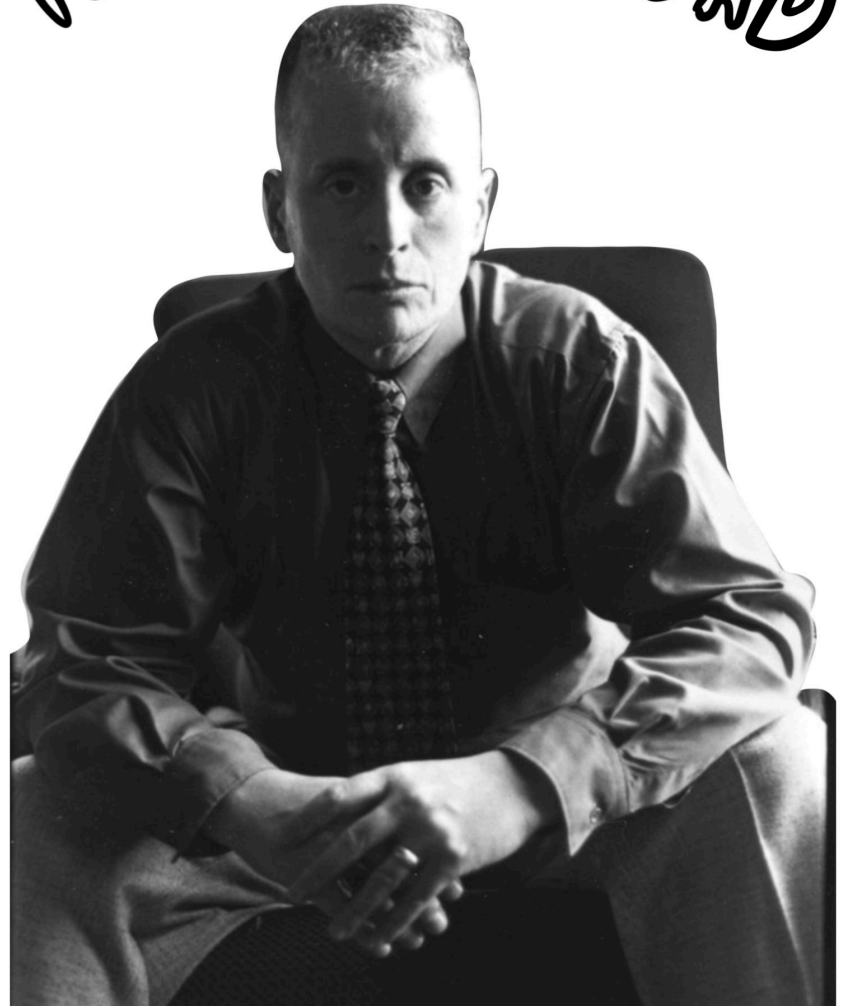
Feinberg was involved in the organizing of Camp Trans in 1999, alongside fellow transgender activist Riki Ann Wilchins. Camp Trans was an annual protest outside the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, due to the festival's policy preventing trans women from attending. Feinberg also spoke at the camp in 1994.

Feinberg was in hir own words "an anti-racist white, working-class, secular Jewish, transgender, lesbian, female, revolutionary communist."

According to the statement regarding hir death (written by Feinberg's widow) Zie used She/her/Zie/Hir pronouns for hirself, and once said "I care which pronoun is used, but people have been respectful to me with the wrong pronoun and disrespectful with the right one. It matters whether someone is using the pronoun as a bigot, or if they are trying to demonstrate respect."

In 2011 Feinberg married poet, educator and activist Minnie Bruce Pratt. The two were together until Feinberg's death in 2014.

LESLIE FEINBERG  
IS MY REAL DAD





# Transgression///Transition

In the time that I have been out as transgender, there has been this rigid attitude towards the language we use even within the community. As well as pressure to prove yourself to be a “true transgender person”. A true trans person’s experience centers dysphoria, gender roles, Passing and “opposites”. This rigid definition has created a culture that values suffering over joy, cis comfort over trans lives, and is antagonistic in the effort to dismantle and expand cisnormative gender standards.

Recently I watched an interview with Kate Bornstein and Leslie feinberg from 1996. There was so much that resonated with me in the interview but this quote from Kate Bornstein felt like it came to me at just the right time:

*“For me transgender means ‘transgressively gendered’, that is, any kind of transgression against the mores and codes that would make up ‘gender’ in the culture”*

- Kate Bornstein, 1996

As I continue to settle into my lesbian identity (one year after beginning to re-accept that part of myself) I have been unsure where I belong with my transness. Finding this record and history of transness that deviates from the rigid expectations of trans folks blew my mind! These words reminded me that my transness is not defined by how others perceive me, or by my suffering. So much transphobia is echoed within trans spaces, so much transphobia has been internalized. We will not achieve liberation wielding the weapons of our oppressors.

Kate Bornstein calls Leslie Feinberg “Daddy”, 1996



# What LESBIAN EARRINGS Are You?

A=1 point B=2 points C=3 point

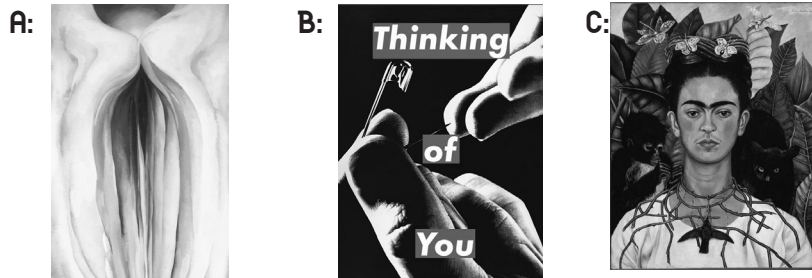
Where do you land?

A: Raggedy Femme B: Gothy Futch: C: Butch Baby

What gloves do you wear?

A: long rubber B: femme opera C: fingerless biker

Choose a lesbian-adjacent art piece



Favorite Queer book?

A: Heartstopper B: Whipping Girl C: Stone Butch Blues

Choose a snack

A: Cheese B: Broccoli C: Mixed nuts

Drink of choice:

A: Cocoa B: tea C: Coffee

Choose your fighter (90's brad Pitt)



Choose your fighter (Clea duVall)



Choose some Doc's



What's in your medicine cabinet?

A: Anti-anxiety B: Birth control C: Hormones

Choose your fighter (Carabiner)



Choose a media Queer awakening:

A: Willow+evil Willow B: Graham+Megan C: Idgie+Ruth

What's your ride?

A: Public transit B: Bike C: pick up truck



### What's your 90's queer music root?

A: Indigo Girls    B: Ani DeFranco    C: Melissa Etherige

### Choose a vibrator

A:



B:



C:



# Count Up Your Points

Less than 25 points:



Watercolor Earrings

25-33 points:



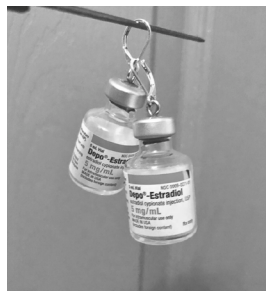
Vibrator Earrings

34-42 points:



Sword Earrings

43+ points:



Vial Earrings

# Testosterone & Regret

I was on testosterone for 22 months. Once I had been out as trans for a while, one of my main gender goals was to pass as a man. This was not because I was pressured by peers or the media or the wonderful trans adults in my life, but rather driven by my survival instincts. My gender dysphoria was at an all time high, and living in a small conservative town as a trans person who didn't quite pass as a man or a woman was really scary. After months on waiting lists, in consultations, therapy, and pharmacy lines, I had my first shot.

For a long time I loved being on T, I loved the changes and looked forward to giving myself my dose every Friday. When I moved to the Midwest for college and had been on hormones for 1.5 years, I felt a lot safer expressing how I wanted and fucking with gender. To be honest, testosterone made me more feminine! The euphoria I got from it allowed me to be a lot more comfortable expressing femininity.

Eventually I felt that I was no longer getting changes that made me happy and affirmed. So I stopped. I often think about if I regret going on hormones, the answer is always FUCK NO. Even if I don't have the same goals as I did when I was 18, I still love the changes I experienced. Even if I grow to not love the changes, I will never regret saving my younger self. And I will never be angry at them for keeping me alive.

### Trans Lifeline:

US (877) 565-8860

Canada (877) 330-6366

### The Trevor Project:

Call (866) 488-7386

Or text 678-678

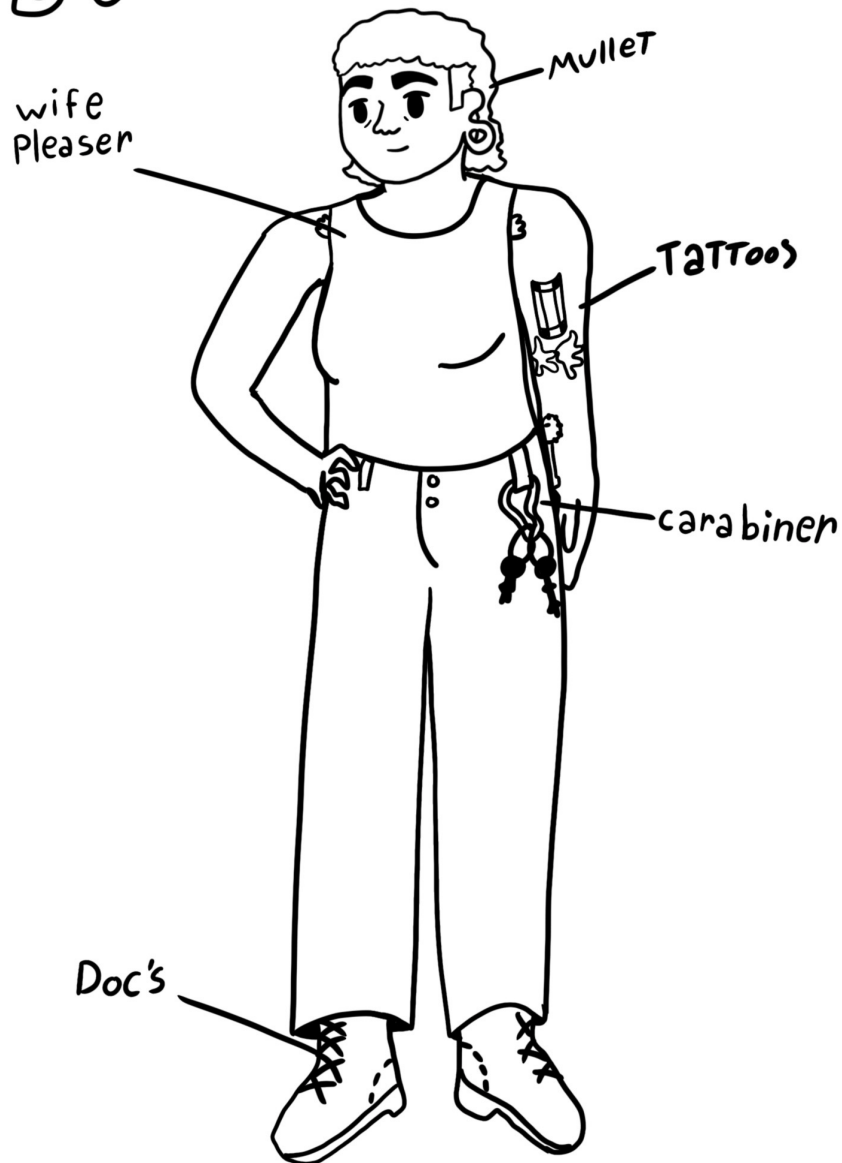
# ““““Transsexual””””

Transsexuality exists outside of respectability politics. It is making our own love/community/family. It is being endlessly sensitive and not being sorry about it. It is snapping at the transphobes who misgender our friends because it has been a long day and politeness won't save us anyway. It is knowing boundless joy and pleasure. It is the realization that there can never be too many gender-fucks and the world is better with us. It is surrounding yourself with trans literature, trans art, and trans bodies. It is being soft and fierce and knowing the harmony between the two.





# Butch SEMIOTICS

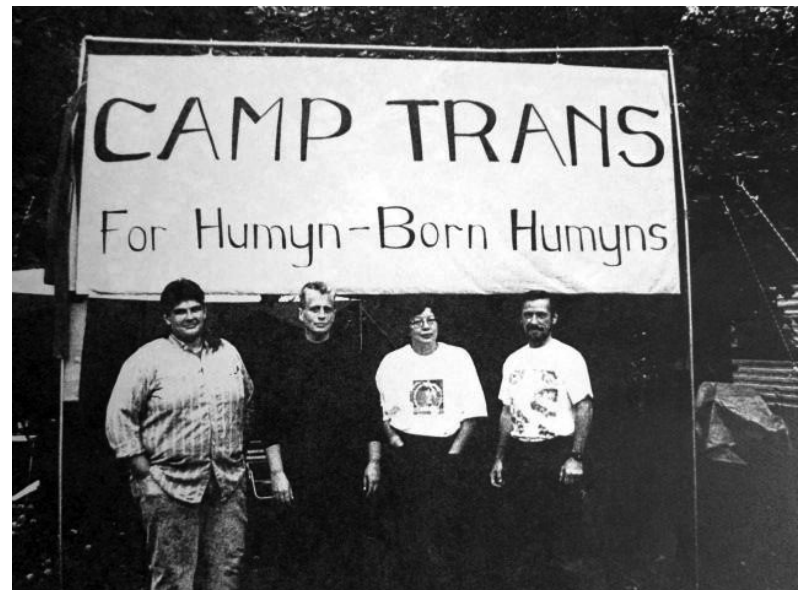


Inspired By the work of Hal Fischer

## Quotes from Leslie Feinberg's keynote address at Camp Trans, 1994

*"There have always been transsexual women helping to build the women's movement, and whenever you have been in a large gathering of women, I assure you, you have been with transsexual women. Did you feel unsafe? . . . They're women in a women hating society, so of course transsexual women want to be welcomed into women's space for the same reason that every woman does, to feel safe."*

*"I believe that there are two rights that we have to defend. The first is the right of each individual to define and determine and to change their sex, whether that be female or male or any point on the continuum between, and that includes the right to sexual contradiction and sexual ambiguity. And I believe that every individual has the right to express their gender in any way they choose whether that be feminine or masculine or androgynous or any point on the spectrum between, and that includes the right to gender contradiction and gender ambiguity"*



# Butch Seeking

Butch seeking inky hands and paint covered boots. Butch seeking the feeling of being seen. Butch seeking Lesbian joy. Butch seeking a sturdy carabiner. Butch seeking gender euphoria. Butch seeking found family.

## I Found Salvation in the Voices of a Lesbian Choir

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.





# All My Love Butch Transbians

**Transbian:** A trans lesbian, specifically one assigned male at birth.

This is all coming from my own lived experiences as a person assigned female at birth, and not all butches/nonbinary lesbians/GNC lesbians are transmasculine or AFAB! It is my strongly held belief that lesbians that were assigned male at birth are fucking amazing + valid. This includes Transbians who identify with butchness and/or masculinity. Being a genderfuck lesbian knows no chains, especially those rooted in cisheteronormativity, Transphobia, and transmisogyny. Transphobia has no place in lesbian liberation.

**TLDR:** Trans lesbians are lesbians and TERF ideology is not the path to liberation



"Don't make me tap the sign"

# Parting Thoughts - \\_(ツ)\_/ -

Being a lesbian is to be transgressive to the mores and codes of gender. Trans and nonbinary and GNC lesbians belong in this community. Transphobia and exclusion are not ways to lesbian liberation & we will never achieve liberation using the weapons of the patriarchy, homophobia, and transphobia. Trans & nonbinary lesbians have always existed, and we will continue to find ourselves.



## Cedar <3

**Pronouns:** they/them

**Adjectives:** creative/  
empathetic/freaky



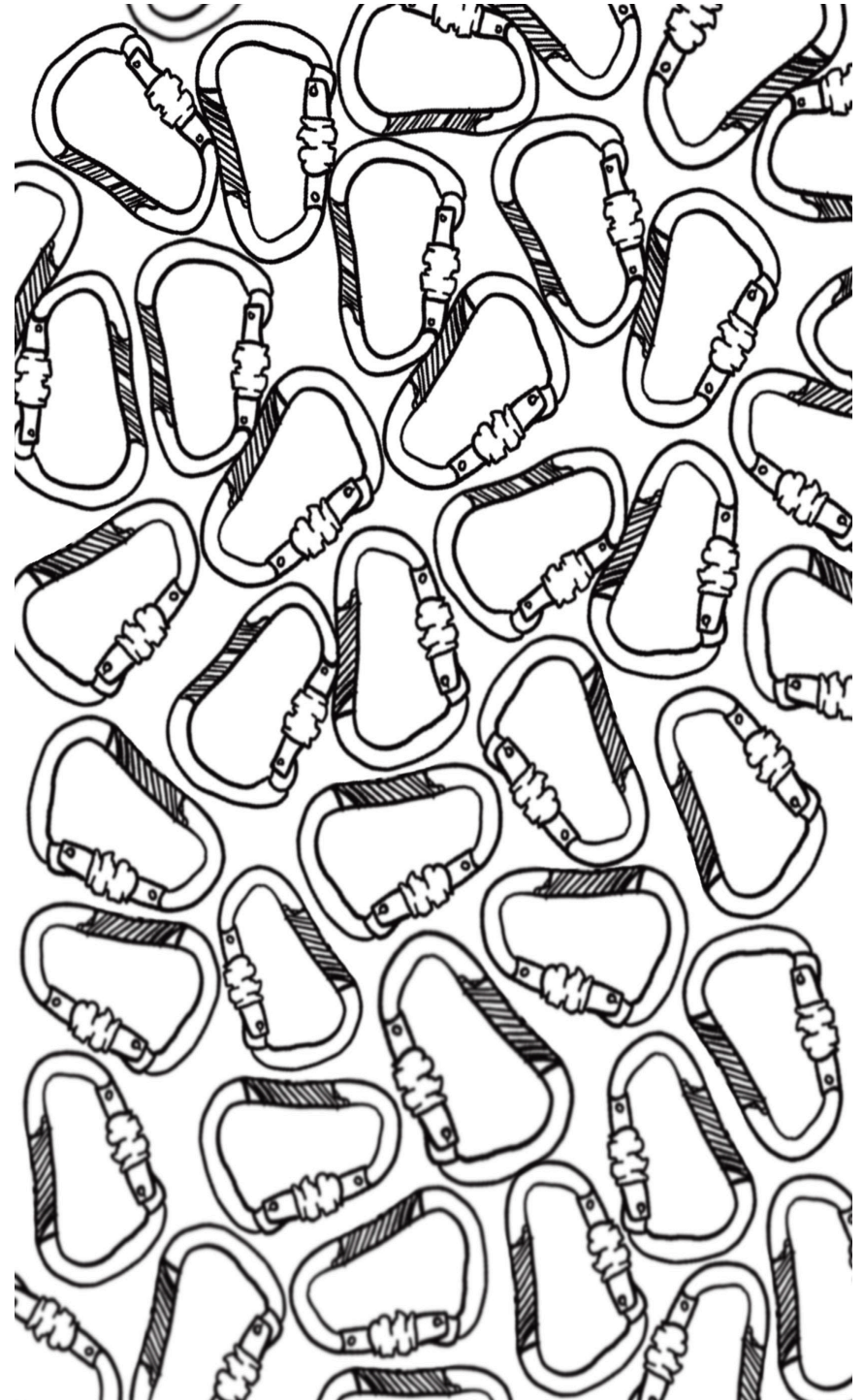
Platform Mary-Jane's, the bus being on time, tattoos, pigeons, pasta.



Hiccups, capitalism, food with lots of texture, when the bus is late.

# Gender Chaos Lesbian Playlist

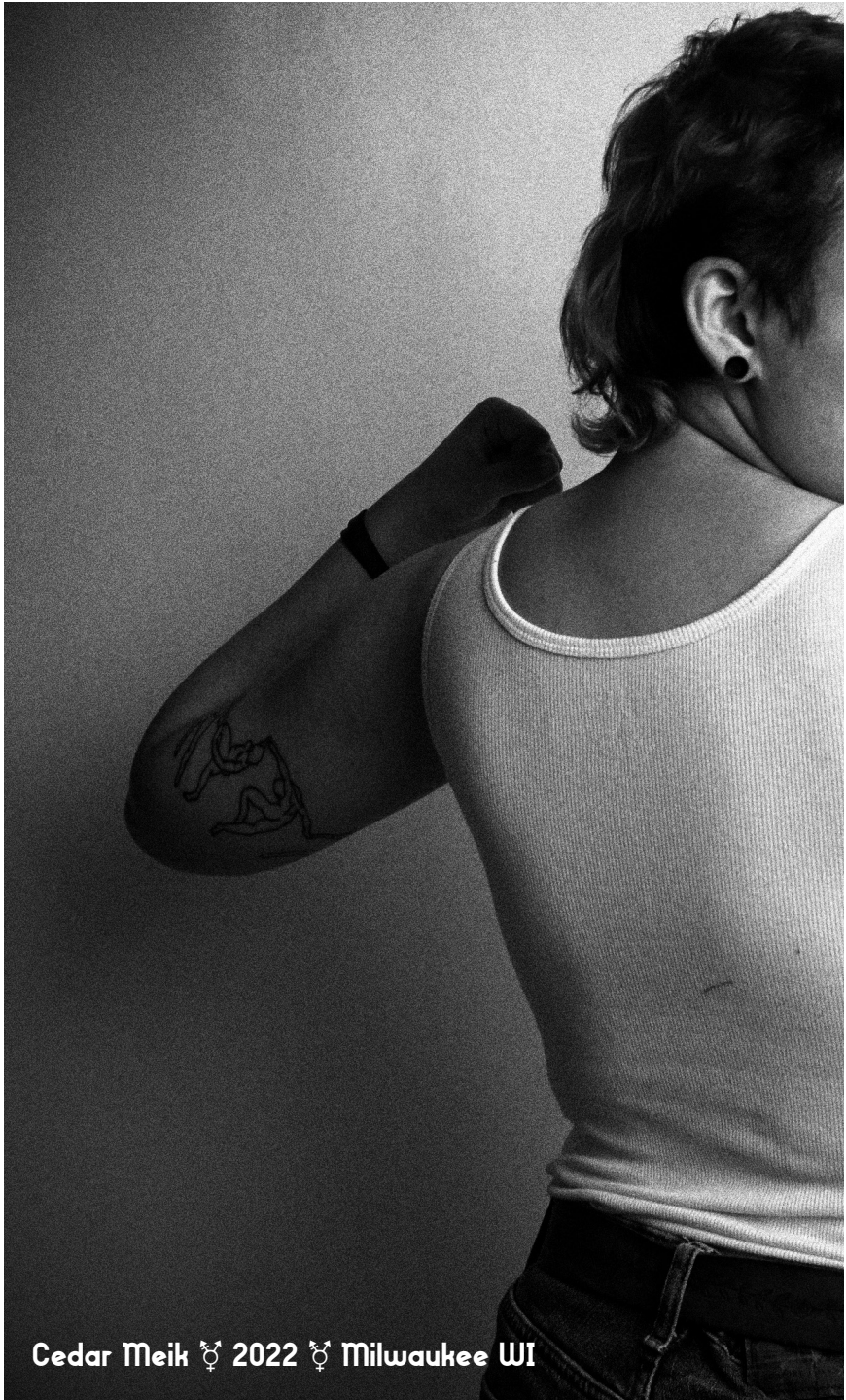
Waiting on a Ghost- Left at London  
Nineteen- Tegan and Sara  
Butch In the Streets- Tribe 8  
Tall Black Trees- Pigeon Pit  
Counting- Stick and Poke  
Gender Fucked- Mx. Wander  
Closer- Tegan and Sara  
Boyfriend- Tegan and Sara  
Butch 4 Butch- Rio Romeo  
Bet- Rio Romeo  
Androgynous- The Replacements  
Devotion- Indigo Girls  
My Number- Tegan and Sara  
Empties- Pigeon Pit





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