I am not a stepping stone
To explore how well others accept me
Even if I am part of your inner circle

I am not your main attraction
I am not a show
As if in a circus
A freak for others to see
To nod, to judge, to tell me
How well I am being me

I am not a choice
Stop fucking saying it
Because if that was true
We all chose to be a woman
Thus, we all made a choice
Not just me

I don’t present myself as a gender
So stop fucking asking me about it
I express who I am
My clothes
My accessories
My hair
Remove them all
And still, it is just me
A woman

I am **not** beautiful
For a transgender
Oh! I didn’t think you’d kiss
Like a woman
Duh!
Oh, you know more about makeup than I do and I was born a girl
Fuck
You
I learned
I took time to try it and adapt to it
I allowed myself to fail
Who dresses you and does your makeup?
Fuck
Off
I am neither successful
Because you see me as a woman
As if these are my only qualities
My only gifts
I have a past
A present
And a future

I am **not** your entertainment
I **don’t** do shows
I am **not**
A fucking
Drag
Queen

I **can’t** teach you a thing or two
Being feminine
What the fuck does that mean?
As if I needed to compensate
As if you
Needed to tell me
How much more of a woman I am than you

**Don’t** joke about being surprised I am trans
When so many
Struggle to be accepted and affirmed
And we all come up with terms like
"Visibly trans" or
You “pass” very well

*I shouldn’t* have to look like a woman
To join a group for women
And yet, no questions arise
When a butch cisgender woman arrives

And fuck you
I am *not* being brave
Courageous for being me
Isn’t that all what we are looking for?
To be ourselves
Authentically
Truthfully
In every
Moment
Of
Our
Life

*Don’t* assume
What I am comfortable doing while having sex
What do you care if I have a penis or a vagina?
Why do you assume I want to use one or even the other?
If you ask me that question
Because of morbid curiosity
I am not disgusting
Because I express physical interest in another human
It isn’t gross
If you express to others you have a physical interest in me
I am not a secret
For you to carry
Ashamed
Of others
And what they will say
Fuck
You
Be strong
For yourself
And for me

In the end,
You should know
I haven’t changed
I have grown

Don’t just tolerate my presence
In your space
Tolerating that I am
A transgender woman
Not just a woman
A transgender woman

As long as I am happy
Right?
Oh, is it that simple?
Or are you avoiding the work you need to do
Internally
Shifting your own perceptions
Fighting your conditioned behaviours on gender and sexuality

Don't just accept my presence
In your space
Accept
I am
A
Woman
Like
All
Other
Women

Do affirm my presence
In your space
Affirm I am
A woman
Protect me
Give me
The same thing you would give to any other woman
Because
You know
I am

At the core
We are the same
But labels
Differ us
And you propel these labels
To keep me separated
As if to keep an asterisks beside the noun woman
Fuck
That
Star

Remind yourself this
I was born a girl
But you raised me as a boy
You damaged me
From the start
And still
Continue to
Prevent me
From being
Fully
Me