

# BORN NEUTRAL

by

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21 May 2014

A page from a journey

*I woke up and brushed my teeth. I've made my decision. This is the last time I am gonna be bullied by this fucking old creep. It wasn't that I didn't know how it feels like to be victimized. From the moment I knew I was not \_\_\_\_\_, that there has to be a mistake, I had to face the worst aspect of reality . . . people. Sure, they say that the glass is half-full or that the sun rises everyday but this is not true for everyone. I bet these people who come up with this bullshit know nothing about feeling entrapped in the "wrong" body . . . wanting to take off your clothes and see something else, just hoping for a miracle to happen and wake up and be a man instead of a woman or the other way around. I've been called gay by people who knew nothing about my sexuality or me. They assumed that my behavior, the way I talk, walk or eat should predict who and what I like in bed. My mother used to say: "don't care about what the others think of you, care about what YOU think of you" or something like that. I don't remember my mother's face anymore... I try very hard to but I can't.*

29 April 2009

A torn piece of paper.

*Dad, I know you're gonna be pissed off and you're probably gonna hate me or won't wanna see me again in your life but I've made up my mind. I finally know who I am and I am happier than ever. I know that since mom died you tried to pretend I don't exist because deep inside you knew what I was going to say to you. I've decided to have the surgery. I know it's a long time procedure and that you will not accept me as I am but please try to sleep on it. I am still me, your child.*

12 October 2012

An e-mail

Dear Mr \_\_\_\_\_

*I have tried to reach you many times but it seems as if \_\_\_\_\_ has given me a wrong number for some reason. There is a situation here Mr \_\_\_\_\_ and I don't know how you are letting your child come at school dressed like that! I don't know if you think this is normal or does not affect the other students but this has to stop once and for all. I will not accept this at MY school. Bear in mind that this is the final note. From now on your child will be dressed according to the sex that God has decided or I will make sure this kid will never graduate from this High School.*

*Tom White,  
Principal.*

23 May 2014

Audio recorder

*Play...* “Where do you think you’re going?” –PAUSE- “I am going to the bathroom” -“This is the Ladies room not the Freaks room!” –LONG PAUSE- “Are you gonna move or what?”, “I am not going anywhere! It’s my human right to be treated as equal!” –BANG- “Nobody likes freaks! Nobody likes abominations!” –BANG ...*Stop*

5 January 2017

An article in a newspaper

*“The victim was deadly injured by a bullet, a bullet shot by a 9mm pistol in the hands of a 17 years old boy. A student was carrying a gun at school on that day, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2014. Two and a half years ago a young person was killed in the school bathroom for being a transgender person and this was the only motive for the murderer. The principal refused to admit that the victim had repeatedly been bullied at school from students and staff and he also refused to admit that he was aware of the danger the victim was in. This crime is a transphobic murder and it is not the first we face in this country. I believe we should start by making weapon possession illegal at once, to stop possible massacres in the future. I also believe that we have to educate our children to embrace the alien, the foreign, the divergent... The accused is not the only one who’s guilty for this heinous murder.”*

I was inspired to write this story after an interview I watched on a Greek channel in which a transgender woman was reciting the instances of violence and bullying she has confronted in her life because of her gender identity and her reassignment surgery. She had to leave her home, change many schools, and hide her official name to survive in a society that insisted on seeing her as the enemy, the anomaly and the threat. When she decided to finish her school to follow her dream and become an actress, she had to overcome one more “fence”; her headmaster. He did not hesitate to blackmail her in order to force her into dressing as a boy and behaving likewise to let her finish her studies and graduate from school. His attitude triggered the majority of students at the school to bully her constantly and the sole teacher who supported her was targeted by the headmaster. The situation became out of control when some of the students attacked her and tried to burn her alive. Today she is an activist and fights for the establishment of Human Rights for all citizens in Greece.

I came to realize that borders are not only fences or lines between countries and nations. People who diverge from the socially established “normality” have to navigate these borders to survive and find their place in the society. The struggle of members of the LGBTQ+ community to secure basic human rights is not yet self-evident as there are a lot of countries in which LGBTQ+ people are persecuted and even sentenced to death. In Greece the law against racism was established back in 2005 but homophobia and transphobia were not included in the law until 2013. Today LGBTQ+ people are still fighting for equality in employment and marriage, as there are several members of the parliament who continue to question these Greek citizens’ ability to be employed in education.

### Works Cited

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