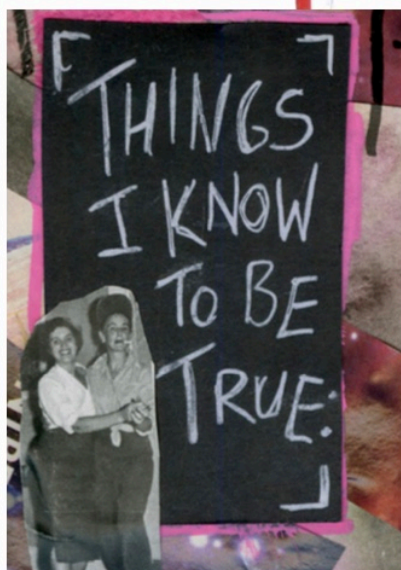


I  
BEING  
A  
LESBIAN  
!!!

[ a love letter to lesbian  
communities: ) ]





Excerpts from "My Gender is Lesbian" by nolightss on Etsy<3



About two years ago, I started identifying as a lesbian. It took years to be able to decide that for myself, and I assumed that once I took on this identity, it would only affect my life when it came to romantic and sexual relationships.

Instead, as soon as I began openly identifying as a lesbian, my entire community's attitude towards me changed. I soon realized that dissociating from men in my personal life was a political statement that would affect every part of my public life as well.

In the past two years, I have come to conceptualize lesbianism as a community politic that affects not only my dating and sex life, but also the people I am in community with, and the decisions I make about how to move through the world.

Lesbians refuse the prescribed societal role of relating to men intimately in the personal sphere; the political work of lesbianism is to dissociate from patriarchal masculinity in all areas of life. Thus, we open up the opportunity to build lives and communities on our own terms, outside of the male gaze.

Since lesbian lives inherently exist outside of the norm, our spaces become incredibly intentional. Every lesbian I know is constantly asking questions to figure out exactly how the people around them want to be celebrated and supported.

I have been received with only love by other lesbians, and the grace with which I've seen lesbians carry themselves has completely changed my idea of what a healthy community looks like.

Lesbians have shown me how to create community spaces that are not only kind and safe, but that also actively work to deconstruct our society's idea of what justice looks like.

It was in lesbian community that I learned about transformative justice, and saw the positive effects it has on individuals and communities. Everything I know about how to be both kind and discerning, I learned from being a lesbian.

In lesbian community, I have experienced the most nuanced and wholehearted approach to interacting with other humans that I can imagine.

Zine Recommendations!

“A Week of Lesbian Affirmations”  
Ifyoufeelfroggy on Etsy

“Fragments of Lesbian Knowledge”  
QueerAntics on Etsy

“Friendships As Resistance:  
Creating Communities of Care”  
femmefilthpress on Etsy

“Playboy: Sapphic Edition”  
leaArtsCo on Etsy

“Turns Out I Was a Lesbian All  
Along (And You Might Be Too!)” &  
“Nonbinary is Not a Third Gender!”  
alexakari.com

Zines are meant to be shared!  
When you've read this one, drop it  
in public or pass it on to a friend  
and tell them to do the same:)