

Ally ([00:00](#)):

Hey, everybody. Welcome to Gender Spiral. We have a really fun ...

Babette ([00:04](#)):

Sorry.

Ally ([00:11](#)):

That was our ghost, our resident ghost. No, we have a really fun update from a previous episode with Asher, if you remember that episode. They have started their Barriers to Nourishment, it's a multi-week group therapy focused on eating disorders, getting past that, nourishing yourself. They've opened that back up, so I believe it's happening in the fall, and you can hit up their Instagram to look for more information there.

Babette ([00:45](#)):

That's amazing. Is that specifically for trans folks? Is that the idea behind it?

Ally ([00:50](#)):

I think it's open to everyone, but I know that they work with a lot of trans folks, and I know that a majority of people who reached out were trans or gender-nonconforming.

Babette ([01:01](#)):

Totally.

Ally ([01:01](#)):

A lot of what we talked about in that episode was this trans-masc urge to essentially over-exercise and starve yourself until you have a more "masculine body."

Babette ([01:15](#)):

Anti-fatness is absolutely everywhere, but since that episode I've really been thinking about how I feel trans-masc-ness is really focused on taking things away and shrinking yourself, or tightening yourself. I just feel like men aren't soft, as men can't be soft, and ever since we did this interview with our current guest today, I've been thinking about a type of trans-masc-ness that exists in excess. That is soft, and that spills over. I feel like it's just important to know that the trans-masc pipeline doesn't have to look like one specific way. I personally, I'm getting breast reduction and not a full "top surgery," because I kind of love my titties. I kind of love them, they're kind of great.

([02:08](#)):

But then I'm like, "Am I objectifying myself?" Because sometimes I just look in the mirror, I'm like, "Hot. That's hot." I just feel like we need more models of that, of trans-masc folks who are finding different ways that aren't just going really hard in the gym.

Ally ([02:28](#)):

Yes. You're totally right, it's all about subtracting something from your existence to get to some essential male.

Babette ([02:37](#)):

Like a blank slate it feels like, where it's just like, "I am a board." Which is totally how we think about masculinity, but what else is there? I feel like our guest today shows us exactly that, which is so exciting.

Clips ([02:56](#)):

Am I even queer? I think I want to take testosterone. I'm wearing men's underwear right now. Is that a boy, is that a girl? Man, woman, cisgender, transgender, we're born into language. Butch, femme, too girl. Decolonized. Queer, trans, BIPOC. Neuro-divergent. Cisgender hetero patriarchal capitalist girl-boss. Queer femme, lipstick every day. T for two, fag-boy relationship. Butch. Boyish, sprightly. Softer, more fay. You're so feminine, you're so feminine. Attraction to a hot T-boy. I used sexuality to try to understand my gender. What does it look like for non-binary people to "transition?" I was a boy, if I was looking down at the memory, I was a boy. It's really difficult to look at gender identity head on. Wait, I think I'm trans.

Jordan ([03:53](#)):

Hi, I'm Jordan. I use they/he pronouns. I'm a model, I have a podcast.

Ally ([04:03](#)):

Wait, what's your podcast about?

Jordan ([04:05](#)):

Yes. We're called Unsolicited: Fatties Talk Back. Basically we go through old advice columns and respond to both the column and also the advice that has been given.

Ally ([04:16](#)):

Wow.

Jordan ([04:17](#)):

It's all about bodies and fatness and dieting and all these things.

Ally ([04:23](#)):

What kind of magazines or publications are you looking for?

Jordan ([04:27](#)):

Mostly just online. Dear Prudence is the main one that we go through obviously, but then we were like, "Oh, let's do an episode on furniture." So we found a random article about someone talking about breaking a chair as a fat person, and then we were like, "Okay, we're just going to go off of this, because this is what our ... We want to talk about this."

Ally ([04:27](#)):

Yeah.

Jordan ([04:49](#)):

But yeah.

Ally ([04:51](#)):

Oh, my god. I love that. That's so interesting, and that kind of world is really scary to me. Let me preface all of this, that world, beauty magazine advice column, feels adjacent to modeling beauty machine to me, in a way that particularly really scares me. I'm interested about your experience of it. Do you love it? How do you navigate it?

Jordan ([05:16](#)):

I definitely don't love it. What I love about doing the podcast is that ... Because you're right, it is so like, "I'm feeling this way." All the articles and stuff that we look at it's cis women being like, "My husband is mad at me because I gained five pounds. What do I do?" It's five of us, I'm the only white person, all of us are trans or non-binary.

Ally ([05:43](#)):

Obsessed.

Jordan ([05:44](#)):

We're all fat. We're like, "Okay, we're just going to stab right into this and see what comes out."

Ally ([05:49](#)):

Oh, my god.

Jordan ([05:51](#)):

I think that's actually what I do enjoy about modeling and being in that world is that I'm not supposed to be there, and so it's fun because I walk in and no one assumes that I'm there to model, no one assumes that I'm there to do what I'm supposed to do, no one assumes that I'm there to do what I've been hired to do.

Ally ([06:11](#)):

Wow. Do you feel a cool power in knowing that you're the future?

Jordan ([06:19](#)):

Totally. I think so. I feel like a cockroach. I go onto set and I'm like, "Hee-hee, can't get rid of me." Even I'm not going to book shit for four months in a row, at some point I will book something again.

Ally ([06:36](#)):

Oh, my god.

Jordan ([06:39](#)):

I'm so sorry, y'all are on the losing side here.

Ally ([06:42](#)):

Whoa.

Jordan ([06:44](#)):

Because I think people who are the ones who have been historically shut out of these industries, there's a reason why we're still coming back, people still want to use us, because we're more interesting than everyone else.

Ally ([07:00](#)):

Yeah, definitely.

Jordan ([07:02](#)):

Not in a narcissistic way, but there is a standard, there's this thin cis white standard, it gets boring for people.

Ally ([07:12](#)):

Yeah, definitely. Especially I feel like there's so much more of a push now of like, "We want to see ourselves, and we're actually asking for that."

Jordan ([07:22](#)):

Totally. Especially now, especially I think now that we're not post-pandemic, but through the pandemic. I've seen people ... I know. I feel like I've seen people through the pandemic gain a lot of capacity to ask for what they need that they didn't have before, which is really interesting.

Ally ([07:48](#)):

Definitely. Yeah, that's a question that I wanted to ask you. What for you has come up in your body during the pandemic, in having all of this time to sit with yourself?

Jordan ([07:58](#)):

So at the beginning of the pandemic, I was obsessed. I was like, "This is the best thing that's ever happened to me." As someone with so much mental illness, I was like ... I feel like in regular life there's a building on fire and I'm screaming "Fire," and everyone's just like, "What fire? It's fine." Then it was a pandemic, and so then I was like, "Oh, my god. The fire is back." Everyone was like, "Oh, my god. Fire." I was like, "Wait, I can chill now. Everyone else is worrying about it."

Ally ([08:28](#)):

Whoa.

Jordan ([08:28](#)):

That was really how I felt for the first few months, I would say March, April, May, and then June obviously everything shifted.

Ally ([08:40](#)):

Definitely, yeah. That was a similar thing of people being like, "We've been yelling 'Fire' for a very long time, and now everyone's acting brand-fucking-new about seeing a fire."

Jordan ([08:51](#)):

Exactly. That was a different but similar experience for me too, as someone who had been engaged in that work for a long time, but also as a white person I was like, "What I'm supposed to be doing now or what I should be doing now is different than the first three months of the pandemic," where I was just sitting at home doing tap dances. Literally just fucking around. Then I feel like now I feel like I am at this point where August 2020, I had this really crazy adverse side effect to the testosterone that I was on, and my spinal fluid stopped draining.

Ally ([09:34](#)):

Excuse me, what?

Jordan ([09:35](#)):

Yes, I know, it's very rare and very uncommon. So I'm fine to talk about it, but I don't usually talk about it because I don't want to discourage people from going on T.

Ally ([09:44](#)):

Yeah.

Jordan ([09:45](#)):

Because it's so rare, it's a very, very rare side effect.

Ally ([09:49](#)):

Yeah, but that just means you'll make one very specific person listening to this so validated.

Jordan ([09:54](#)):

I know, I know. So basically what happens is your spinal fluid can stop draining, and it fucks up your optic nerve because your brain is squishing against your eyeballs. People go blind from this condition. I went to ER five times and they kept sending me home. The fifth time I was there, I was like, "Hey, actually so I'm not going home. Fun fact, I'm going to stay here until you tell me what's wrong."

Ally ([10:25](#)):

Oh, my god. Wait, they were literally just like, "Nothing's happening. You're not going blind. Goodbye. Your vision is not blurry."

Jordan ([10:33](#)):

They were like, "Oh, it's the barometric pressure probably. Your headache will go away." I was like, "Hmm, no. I disagree." So that was crazy. So since then, that was a year and some change ago, a year and a half ago, my body has been very out of whack just physically. So I've been dealing with a lot of this disability, I don't know. It's just navigating that at the same time as all these people are out here

clogging up the healthcare system because they won't get vaccinated. Then I'm having to wait four months to see a gynecologist.

Ally ([11:11](#)):

Yes, yeah.

Jordan ([11:13](#)):

Because I just have all these really random acute health things coming up. They found a seven-centimeter cyst on my ovary.

Ally ([11:21](#)):

Oh, my gosh. Yeah, totally.

Jordan ([11:23](#)):

Just random life things that come up that normally would not be that big of a deal, but because everything is virtual, everything takes so much longer now, and so things have been piling up and piling up. So I really have just had to test my patients with all of that, and now it's like I'm back to the fire analogy. Now it's like my parents are looking at me and being like, "Fire, fire's in the building." I'm like, "I know." I can't change the fact that people aren't getting vaccinated and the government has failed. I personally can't.

Ally ([12:06](#)):

You mean they're worried about you with your health state?

Jordan ([12:11](#)):

Mm-hmm.

Ally ([12:11](#)):

You're like, "Yeah, I've been worried about me actually particularly."

Jordan ([12:16](#)):

Yeah. So I don't know, I'm so glad this is happening during a pandemic though, which is maybe a weird thing to say, because obviously my care has been worse probably. But I'm not having FOMO, because what the fuck else would I be doing?

Ally ([12:35](#)):

Yeah.

Jordan ([12:36](#)):

Might as well spend this pandemic trying to fix my cystic ovary and whatever the fuck.

Ally ([12:45](#)):

Yeah. Well, for some of us life was very chaotic, very overwhelming. I really had the feeling of I was treading water, I was getting exhausted but I was really trying to keep it all together. Then with so much space in the pandemic, you're just like, "Oh, that ..." I was fooling myself. That was deeply not okay and I knew it in my heart, and now I have time to sit with that. That's really crazy, I'm sure so much will be done about this time, or we'll be talking about it old at a bar being like, "In the pandemic, I got ..."

Jordan ([13:17](#)):

So true.

Ally ([13:21](#)):

So with testosterone, did you have to go off of it? What was that like?

Jordan ([13:27](#)):

So I was on it for eight months, and then I had to stop it. But the thing that was really fucked up about that whole situation was that they thought that I had this condition because I'm fat, because you can get this. So typically, the people who get this condition are women of childbearing age, obese women of childbearing age who have recently gained a significant amount of weight. So because it was pandemic, I think that there was an assumption that I had gained weight, because it was August. Then so I'm out here being like, "No, no, no. I'm just fat. I'm just fat, it's fine. It's fine."

([14:14](#)):

I promise you this is not something that has changed in the past bit. I was like, "What has changed, I don't know, I'm not a doctor so don't quote me on it, but I have been on testosterone for eight months and it has been a low dose. So for it to have built up in my system, I feel like eight months probably would be the marker where if I was going to have some weird symptom come up ..." I don't know. They'd be like, "No, no, no." Then I Googled it and it was the third search result.

Ally ([14:49](#)):

No.

Jordan ([14:50](#)):

Yeah.

Ally ([14:52](#)):

Oh, my god.

Jordan ([14:53](#)):

Yes, yes, yes.

Ally ([14:54](#)):

Yes. Oh, that's so fucking annoying.

Jordan ([14:58](#)):

Yeah. So that was crazy. So I had to stop that. I had to wear an eye patch for two months, that was sexy as fuck. I looked like a gay-ass pirate, I was very much filled with vibes.

Ally ([15:12](#)):

For your modeling, do you feel like you're photographed as your gender usually?

Jordan ([15:19](#)):

It really depends. Obviously, for stuff that I do that's collaborative with friends and with colleagues that I have met along the way, totally yes. Because I'm very much like I'm not going to work with someone unless it's a paid job. I'm not going to work with someone who I've ... We all need to make money, so there sometimes are sacrifices that are made, but for more collaborative stuff obviously I'm not going to work with people who aren't going to be seeing me in the way that I am or the way that I feel.

([15:53](#)):

Thankfully, yes, I think a lot of times yes. Then I think that a lot of times no, but that's okay because I think of it very much so like performance. Because at the end of the day, even if I were a cis woman, a lot of plus-size clothes are really ugly. So I wouldn't be wearing these anyways, so it's fine. I'm just going to go onto set and I'm just going to pretend that I'm just some woman from the Midwest with five kids whose husband fat shames her every day. This is who I am, I am Debra. Her name is Debbie.

Ally ([16:37](#)):

Her name is Debbie, her name is Debbie.

Jordan ([16:41](#)):

Her husband really hates her.

Ally ([16:45](#)):

Oh, no.

Jordan ([16:45](#)):

They did Jenny Craig together and he lost weight and she didn't.

Ally ([16:54](#)):

You sought out testosterone, what was that decision like? I feel like with this podcast, for my own selfish reasons, I started testosterone, I'm looking for info online, all I find are 16-year-olds transitioning with the help of their parents, their community, someone gave them a grant, they're so happy they're flossing. I am here, I'm 33, I'm on Reddit, I'm being like, "Why does my clit hurt?" I need more info, I need more info from the internet, bitch.

Jordan ([17:28](#)):

No, okay. You're so true. Okay, so I agree because I started it and I was like, "I don't know what's going to happen." My doctor was like, "What changes do you want to see?" I was like, "I don't know. I don't know. Something, something will change. I don't know." Because I just, growing up and even after I

came out and I was definitely dressing more butch, people were always just like, "Oh, but you're so feminine, you're so feminine, you're so feminine." To me, and I'm like, "I don't see it, but for sure."

([18:10](#)):

So I think it was the kind of thing where I was like, "I just want to try something." I was on a super low dose at first. I also, for most of my life, I knew I was trans when I was in high school, but I was a theater person and I went to college for musical theater, and it's such a gendered space that I was like, "It's fine. It doesn't hurt me to just not come out, so I'm just going to not come out."

Ally ([18:35](#)):

Wow, yeah.

Jordan ([18:35](#)):

I did it for five years, between when I realized that I was trans and when I eventually came out, I presented so, so feminine because I think there was a lot that had to do with my fatness and being perceived as desirable, and what it means to be a fat AFAB person. I hate using those terms, but whatever. I hate it, but it's also-

Ally ([19:05](#)):

Wait, what do you hate about it?

Jordan ([19:07](#)):

Well, what I hate about using AFAB and AMAB is that it's not real. But I think in this sense it's real. I guess people use it, people who think that they're women, and fat women, and people who are perceived as women. I don't really know how else to say it, because it was such the socialization of growing up in a fat body and knowing that the only way that I would be desirable would be to be feminine, even as a queer person. Because I came out as gay when I was 12.

Ally ([19:39](#)):

Wow, yeah.

Jordan ([19:40](#)):

I was still like, "I'm going to be this really feminine queer femme, lipstick every day in high school." I did it really well. I was talking to one of my friends last night, I was very skilled at being a femme. But that also was not true to who I am.

Ally ([20:00](#)):

That is so interesting, because we have been talking about this a lot of succeeding at femme, succeeding at masc. I can look back at photos of myself and be like, "Okay, I would kiss her." That's not me, but that's what I was masquerading as for a while. I just wanted to feel a little bit of success in my life. I just wanted to do it right, even though it wasn't me at all.

Jordan ([20:25](#)):

In talking though, I think that I genuinely think that I fail at being masc as a presentation, because I have huge titties and I like wearing pink and bright colors and all this shit. But that doesn't mean that I don't come across as masc, but to the internet, because we were talking about the internet before, to the internet there are Reddit threads about me that are like, "These are the kinds of people who are calling themselves transsexual now. That is a cis woman." But I'm like, "You literally didn't know me before. Do you want to see a cis woman?" Because again, I was very successful at it.

Ally ([21:06](#)):

I've got the paperwork actually.

Jordan ([21:07](#)):

I have the receipts, I have the history for you. So it's very interesting, but I'm also at a point where I'm okay with it, because there's also so many medical barriers to transition when you are fat that I'm like, "How can anyone actually critique a fat person on their inability to pass when there are actually only five surgeons in the United States who would do top surgery on me?" Because of their BMI requirements.

Ally ([21:38](#)):

I didn't know this, I didn't know this. Wow.

Jordan ([21:41](#)):

Yes, there's literally only five.

Ally ([21:44](#)):

They're probably private, pay out of pocket. Wow.

Jordan ([21:48](#)):

Yep. No insurance, likely they don't have malpractice insurance. So it's interesting, and then because of my brain thing, having to stay at a lower dose of T and all this stuff, where I'm like, "We're all critiquing things that are feasibly really out of my control, really out of my control."

Ally ([22:06](#)):

Yeah.

Jordan ([22:06](#)):

Even if it was my decision, who gives a fuck? You don't fucking know me. I'm sorry, it's fine. Just because I'm a gay-ass boy, that doesn't mean that I'm not a boy. Fuck off.

Ally ([22:21](#)):

Yeah. It's so hard with this podcast, because the premise is masculinity, and that's so binary and it's not actually what I believe. I do believe in this more mixed masculinity, a very soft masc or whatever. But what feels authentically masculine to you? Or what, when people point out something about you that they are finding masculine, what feels euphoric to you?

Jordan ([22:48](#)):

The thing that came to my mind is so fucking dumb. So there's someone that I have been seeing off and on, they're married but open, and I will say they're top, like a top-top. I would say I'm a bottom. But I would say getting fucked by this person feels so masculine to me in a way that I'm just like, "Wow, that's crazy."

Ally ([23:17](#)):

Yes. Are we talking gay boy territory?

Jordan ([23:20](#)):

Exactly.

Ally ([23:21](#)):

Yes. Oh, my god. Is this going to be the whole podcast? Everyone I've talked to has gotten to fag-y for fag-

Jordan ([23:26](#)):

It really is.

Ally ([23:30](#)):

... the ultimate.

Jordan ([23:33](#)):

It really is, it really is. T for T, trasc for trasc, the trans-masc for trans-masc.

Ally ([23:33](#)):

Trasc?

Jordan ([23:41](#)):

The trasc for trasc, what can you say? That's what it is.

Ally ([23:49](#)):

Yeah though, a 1000%. So that's gender euphoric for you?

Jordan ([23:54](#)):

Totally.

Ally ([23:55](#)):

Yeah, wow. Wow, wow, wow. I love ... So there's just girl mode, boy mode, do you ever switch into a legible version of yourself and how does that feel, if so?

Jordan ([24:10](#)):

I don't-

Ally ([24:11](#)):

Which bathrooms do you use?

Jordan ([24:14](#)):

Okay, that's a great question. Would I use the women's bathroom? Most of the time. If there's a gender-neutral bathroom, that's usually the one that I will use.

Ally ([24:30](#)):

You mean one out of every 6000 times you'll use that? Usually you use a gender-neutral bathroom, that's cool. Yeah, me too.

Jordan ([24:38](#)):

Exactly, exactly. But I cut my hair during the pandemic, so I don't even know, as I am embracing my masculinity more, even in my failed state, because often if I'm getting cat-called people will be like, "Oh, is that a boy? Is that a girl?" People often think I'm a trans woman.

Ally ([25:04](#)):

Oh, my god.

Jordan ([25:05](#)):

So far wrong, so left.

Ally ([25:08](#)):

So far wrong it's looped back around to being close.

Jordan ([25:13](#)):

Close-ish, not really.

Ally ([25:15](#)):

Honey, no.

Jordan ([25:16](#)):

No. It's one of those things where it will be interesting if we ever finish the pandemic to see what will occur.

Ally ([25:26](#)):

Yeah, definitely. That happened to me maybe a month ago where I was volunteering and someone that I was helping was like, "You're a woman no matter what anybody says." I was like, "Wait, what the fuck?" Then we realized that they thought I was-

Jordan ([25:43](#)):

You got reversed trans-ed.

Ally ([25:44](#)):

Yes. I was just like, "They're trying to be affirming. That's actually extremely validating." But yeah, I also cut my hair during the pandemic. I wish there was some sort of breakdown, like an Excel spreadsheet of what little changes to yourself affect your gender read to the normal people of the earth. Hair is huge. Buzzed hair with a hat on, I was getting "sir" every second of every day. People would park their car to lean out and be like, "Sir." Versus before, it was the same thing but with "lady." It was just like everyone needed to be like, "Hello, precious woman."

Jordan ([26:27](#)):

Yes, yes. Yeah, I feel like actually after I cut my hair, when I go to restaurants now I get "ladies" a lot less.

Ally ([26:37](#)):

Yeah, definitely.

Jordan ([26:38](#)):

Especially because my roommate is a cis guy, and so if we're going out for drinks we're obviously not going to get "ladies." I don't know, it's one of those things where I'm like, "Yes, I appreciate this one. That was a good shift for me."

Ally ([26:59](#)):

I get "boss" now.

Jordan ([27:01](#)):

Oh, I love that for you.

Ally ([27:03](#)):

It's so funny to me. I just didn't realize that men were out here calling each other boss. I think that's so funny.

Jordan ([27:04](#)):

That's so cute. I love that. That's my dream.

Ally ([27:17](#)):

Honestly, same. Okay, did you grow up as a tomboy? Or like you were saying, in high school you were super femme, but early on?

Jordan ([27:23](#)):

Yeah. So interesting actually. When I was little, when I was probably four or five years old, I had a sensory thing where I wouldn't wear pants. So I only wore dresses for a long time, a year at least, because I was like, "I can't have fabric on my skin or I will explode."

Ally ([27:44](#)):

Wow.

Jordan ([27:45](#)):

Yeah. So that's interesting. Then in I would say elementary school and middle school, I was super dyke-y. Cut all my hair off, which was a big thing, my mom really didn't want me to. So she was like, "You can get a bob, you can get a bob and then we'll talk about it." So I got a bob, I had the bob for a while, and I was like, "Cut my hair off." No. So then I had my little pixie cut. I was a sporty kid, I did theater, but I was very much [inaudible 00:28:22] vibes. I was half the time doing sports, half the time doing theater. I played every sport that you could list, if you listed a sport I'd be like, "Yes, I played that."

Ally ([28:34](#)):

Lacrosse.

Jordan ([28:36](#)):

I did play lacrosse.

Ally ([28:37](#)):

Soccer.

Jordan ([28:38](#)):

I played, obviously I played soccer. Everyone played soccer. Literally any sport. I was on the snowboarding team.

Ally ([28:46](#)):

Oh, my god.

Jordan ([28:47](#)):

I have my black belt in taekwondo. What else did I play? I played baseball and softball.

Ally ([28:53](#)):

Wow.

Jordan ([28:54](#)):

I played basketball, I played volleyball. I never played football.

Ally ([29:00](#)):

Not yet.

Jordan ([29:01](#)):

Not yet.

Ally ([29:01](#)):

Let's start a league, let's start a league.

Jordan ([29:03](#)):

I played tennis. I could keep going. Then once I was in high school and I was in this more femme mode and I was doing more theater stuff, I was like, "I guess this is what I'm going to be doing now." Because now it's like, "Oh, you're going to go to college. What are you going to go to college for?" I was like, "Not sports, that's so much effort." Oh, my god. I'll just do theater where the acceptance rate is like five-percent. Idiot. Whatever, so that worked out fine. I definitely had my [inaudible 00:29:39] moment, it's just interesting because had I not I wonder if I'd have stayed in the sports vibes had I embraced my butch-ness earlier, or held onto it post childhood?

Ally ([29:55](#)):

Yeah.

Jordan ([29:56](#)):

I don't know. I have this very vivid memory of my childhood best friend, who grew tits super early, she used to always make fun of me because I didn't have boobs. So I was like, "Wait, I want that I think. I don't know, because you're making fun of me for it so I think I'm supposed to want that." In retrospect, did I want that? No.

Ally ([30:18](#)):

Yeah, you just wanted to succeed. Successful femme.

Jordan ([30:22](#)):

I wanted to be successful, and I wanted not to be made fun of. So I was like, "Of course, if you're making fun of me for this then I'm like, 'Wait, I'm supposed to have this. I want this.'" Which is interesting, because now I'm like, "I don't want this. I got it, I don't want it. Take it back. Take it back."

Ally ([30:40](#)):

Return.

Jordan ([30:41](#)):

Return to sender, return, return. Yeah. I think that was a pivotal shift where I was like, "Oh, I guess I'm supposed to be a certain way. My body's supposed to look a certain way." In that, when it wasn't looking that way, I'm going to dress in a way to play up the way that it is supposed to look. Which was the succeeding at being a femme, even if I had things that were working against it, like being fat or being gay. If I'm gay and I'm fat, I'm just going to be really, really good at being feminine.

Ally ([31:14](#)):

Yes. This is something that I can "control." I'll just do it really well. Yeah.

Jordan ([31:21](#)):

Yeah.

Ally ([31:22](#)):

We've touched on this a little bit, but if you think about the future of modeling what do you see?

Jordan ([31:30](#)):

I don't know. I just want to see more fat people.

Ally ([31:34](#)):

Yeah.

Jordan ([31:35](#)):

Because I think that we're at this point where trans models are out here booking, they really are. A lot of them are stealth, so you wouldn't know. But trans models are out here booking, androgynous models are out here booking, but they're all straight sized, they're all fucking size two or zero. I want to see diversity in the plus-size sector.

Ally ([32:00](#)):

Yeah. Sector.

Jordan ([32:03](#)):

I know, I know. What the fuck? But I just need to-

Ally ([32:03](#)):

Quadrant.

Jordan ([32:07](#)):

For selfish reasons I want to see it, but also because I want little fat kids to know that they don't have to be femme, they don't have to be this certain way to be desired. You can be cool and present however you want to present. I think we're getting that with other parts of the industry, but plus-size is always just so behind because it's always such an afterthought. It goes in waves, so even now clothes are standardizing up to 3X, but that's not how high sizes go. I wear a 4X. We're standardizing these things, but we're taking so much time. The longer you take, people are out here dying, people are very sad and killing themselves over this stuff. It's very serious. I'm like, "Okay, we could all just make the decision to update our shit, or we can wait and let people be sad."

Ally ([33:03](#)):

Yeah, totally.

Jordan ([33:04](#)):

But let's just update it.

Ally ([33:05](#)):

Why wait?

Jordan ([33:06](#)):

What's the wait?

Ally ([33:07](#)):

Definitely.

Jordan ([33:11](#)):

Because I understand what I can do in the meantime, I can't model for brands that don't carry my size. At a certain point there's just such a strict barrier to that representation, even people who work for these companies who maybe want that representation can't do it until the decision is made to expand their sizes.

Ally ([33:29](#)):

Yes.

Jordan ([33:30](#)):

That's what I want to see personally.

Ally ([33:30](#)):

Definitely.

Jordan ([33:33](#)):

Also, more people with tattoos. Just cool people.

Ally ([33:38](#)):

Yeah, and not having people's tattoos covered.

Jordan ([33:42](#)):

Yeah. I just want to see more authenticity.

Ally ([33:45](#)):

Whoa, yeah.

Jordan ([33:46](#)):

Especially in the queer representation, because I think even in the androgyny that we do see it's still very buttoned up.

Ally ([33:55](#)):

Yeah. What do you think fat liberation looks like in a trans-masc space? Is there more work to be done there? What is it?

Jordan ([34:03](#)):

Yeah. So much, so much work to be done. So much work to be done. The trans-masc are some of the worst at it I'd say, unfortunately. Because I think when we think of traditional masculine bodies, we think of this straight, hard lines and-

Ally ([34:23](#)):

No hips, no curves. Absolutely, yes.

Jordan ([34:29](#)):

That is something that I think we all have internalized, and in that we get really angry when we see people, not me, but other people get really angry at me for having curves and being like, "I'm trans-masc." People look at me and be like, "But where's the masc?" I'm like, "The masc is in your brain, bitch. You're literally trans, you should understand this."

Ally ([34:53](#)):

Oh, my god. Yes.

Jordan ([34:55](#)):

I do not look like a cis man because I'm not a cis man, so what are you looking for? I'm so confused.

Ally ([35:01](#)):

Yes. I have a lot of friends recently who are getting breast reduction and that's something that's coming up for them is people are being like, "Oh, so you're not all the way masculine?" There's no middle ground, it's either completely flat or you're still feminine. What? No.

Jordan ([35:19](#)):

Because I think it's this assumption that cis men don't have curves. But have you ever seen a fat cis man? I'm sorry, have you ever looked at Jack Black? That man has titties, that man has beautiful titties and we should all want to suck on them. Hello? What the fuck? Why are we out here trying to homogenize our experience? That's not how bodies look.

Ally ([35:44](#)):

Yes, and that's the gift we've been given as being gay. We're not-

Jordan ([35:48](#)):

Literally it's such a shame, because I feel like every trans-masc person that I follow online at some point goes on their fitness journey to get ripped and lose their curves, or they just shit talk themselves about their hips all the time. I'm like, "I'm sorry, that's an automatic unfollow for me."

Ally ([36:10](#)):

Yes, yes.

Jordan ([36:14](#)):

It's not okay. You are fat shaming yourself, whether or not you see it that way, you are fat shaming yourself and also other trans-masc people who don't look like that.

Ally ([36:25](#)):

Definitely, definitely. This started as a joke, although I completely meant it, but I started referring to myself as masculine fertile, because there is ... Which people think I mean breeding. I'm like, "No, bitch. I'm just welcoming, I'm soft, there are parts of my body ..." That's a thing for me when it comes to accepting my natural body, and not my hyper worked out dysphoria. There is a world where dysphoria doesn't exist for me anymore, and that involves really dismantling some shit that I have really internalized.

Jordan ([37:04](#)):

Yeah.

Ally ([37:04](#)):

Definitely.

Jordan ([37:05](#)):

Dang, we just are so accustomed to not believing in the truth of biodiversity.

Ally ([37:13](#)):

Yeah.

Jordan ([37:14](#)):

You ever look outside? Some fucking squirrels are fat and some are skinny, and some have a big badonkadonk and some don't. You still don't know what gender a squirrel is when you look at it. I don't at least. I don't see a squirrel with a fat ass and go, "That's a woman." Hello? What am I, a fucking furry? Relax. I don't know. That's just me, that's just how I [inaudible 00:37:46] to sleep at night, what makes me feel better. But I just think it's true, I'm like, "Dang, we should all just pretend that we're squirrels."

Ally ([37:56](#)):

Yeah.

Jordan ([37:57](#)):

I don't know. At a certain, literally why is every trans-masc out here on their fitness journey? I don't need it.

Ally ([38:04](#)):

Yeah, definitely.

Jordan ([38:06](#)):

Just keep it to yourself.

Ally ([38:06](#)):

Maybe just take a nap.

Jordan ([38:17](#)):

Take a nap. I don't know. That's what I don't understand, if it makes them feel better, it makes them feel better, but I do think it just perpetuates this idea, because then you get all the before and after pictures, which are like, "Oh, it's not about being fat, it's about my muscle." I'm like, "No, but it is about being fat."

Ally ([38:31](#)):

Yeah.

Jordan ([38:31](#)):

Even if you weren't fat before, it's still about being fat.

Ally ([38:34](#)):

Absolutely, absolutely. Yeah, definitely.

Jordan ([38:39](#)):

It's such a particular issue with trans-masc folks that I'm like, "I wish that we could talk about it more." But people are just so sensitive because of talking about dysphoria and these things that are very real. I experience them too, and so who am I to be like, "You're wrong for the way that you're coping."

Ally ([38:57](#)):

Definitely.

Jordan ([38:58](#)):

But also, I can only speak from a liberationist lens that is like, "You are causing harm."

Ally ([39:05](#)):

It doesn't have to be this way. I just feel a gentleness in myself around my own, when I feel like a failure I'm like, "This feels familiar. This is a groove that I fall in, that I punish myself with. How can I not continue that?" But yeah, I started T and I was like, "Cool, I'm not super ripped." I look very much the same, I just have a happy trail. I'm like, "Wow, that's pretty crazy. Oh, did I not do it right?"

Jordan ([39:34](#)):

Always, that's always the question.

Babette ([39:44](#)):

I absolutely love imagining Jordan, young Jordan with a fuck-ass bob. I think the fuck-ass bob thing is so stupid.

Ally ([39:58](#)):

It's a trans rite of passage to ask for a short haircut and your parents give you a bob.

Babette ([40:03](#)):

A fuck-ass bob. So fucking funny.

Ally ([40:10](#)):

Also, I feel like you wouldn't know it, but we recorded that a year and a half ago. That was a little while ago.

Babette ([40:16](#)):

Wow. Yeah, I feel like despite this being a couple years ago now, or a year and a half ago, I feel like everything that Jordan said about the intersection of the medical system, fatness, disability and transness is still so relevant. It feels like there's this intersection where trans folks aren't believed, disabled folks aren't believed, and fat folks aren't believed about their own bodies. I'm even thinking about we're now in the time of boosters, and I get to get my boosters faster because I'm overweight.

Ally ([40:53](#)):

Oh, my god.

Babette ([40:53](#)):

These things are all so intersecting, and the medical system intersects in so many evil ways to hurt trans, disabled, and fat people. So that's something that I'm thinking about from their interview that feels still so relevant.

Ally ([41:10](#)):

Totally, yeah. Just they talked about interacting with even just medical spaces, and just having to wait and be like, "No, I won't leave for the fourth time in a row. Something is going on." I'm sure now with the spike a lot of that is going on, COVID's back in a real way, and so different things are getting backlogged. When I went to go make my blood testing appointment for my T levels, which is a whole other thing, they just stopped giving me T because they're like, "Oh, you need to get your levels checked." I was like, "Oh, okay." But it's for fucking November. Luckily, I have enough to get until then, because I'm a scary little prepper. I'm a freaky little prepper, so I have stockpiles of testosterone in my bathroom.

Babette ([42:06](#)):

You're a prepper, you're ready.

Ally ([42:07](#)):

A freaky little prepper.

Babette ([42:08](#)):

You're ready. I don't blame you, I really don't. All of this and the things that Jordan has been saying is really making me think right now about, with these COVID spikes, a, COVID never really went away, it's still here, and also just how fucked it must be for disabled folks that everyone is just done masking now. Even for non-disabled folks, I've had COVID twice and we don't know the longterm effects of COVID far out into the future. I think I just had a moment of realization for myself that I'm not trying to have my brain be scrambled eggs-

Ally ([42:44](#)):

More than it already is.

Babette ([42:46](#)):

First of all, obviously queer disabled fat folks exist, people who exist at all of those intersections exist, but also I think if you're not a disabled person and you want to keep other queer folks safe I feel like maybe it would be a good idea to think about your COVID practices again, maybe masking. I will say wearing a mask in the club, not as bad as you would think. Not as bad as you would think. Me and my boo, we wear masks in the club, we can't kiss so we just move together a little bit. It's kind of fun. So I don't know, I guess I would think about the ways that, as queer folks, we can be there for our disabled. I almost said brothers and sisters, which is fucking hilarious. Our disabled brothers and sisters, you know what I'm saying?

Ally ([43:35](#)):

Our disabled men and women only.

Babette ([43:38](#)):

Yeah, exactly. Right.

Babette ([43:49](#)):

Gender Spiral is an original podcast from Audiation. This episode was mixed by Matt Noble and music is composed by Chanell Crichlow, with art by Joey Han and graphics by Honey Hodges. This show is executive produced by Ireland Meacham, myself, Babette Thomas, my cohost Ally Beardsley, and Sandy Smallens, with additional story editing from me.

Ally ([44:11](#)):

Thank you so much to our guest Jordan Underwood. Their Instagram is linked in the show notes. If you like the show, please head over to [Patreon.com/genderspiralpodcast](https://patreon.com/genderspiralpodcast) to support us for \$2 a month, or subscribe to a higher tier for bonus content, special monthly postcards and even free tote bags.

Babette ([44:31](#)):

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Ally ([44:52](#)):

Tune in next week to Gender Spiral.

Babette ([44:54](#)):

Where you never have to spiral alone.

Clips ([44:54](#)):

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