

GENDER QUEER: A MEMOIR

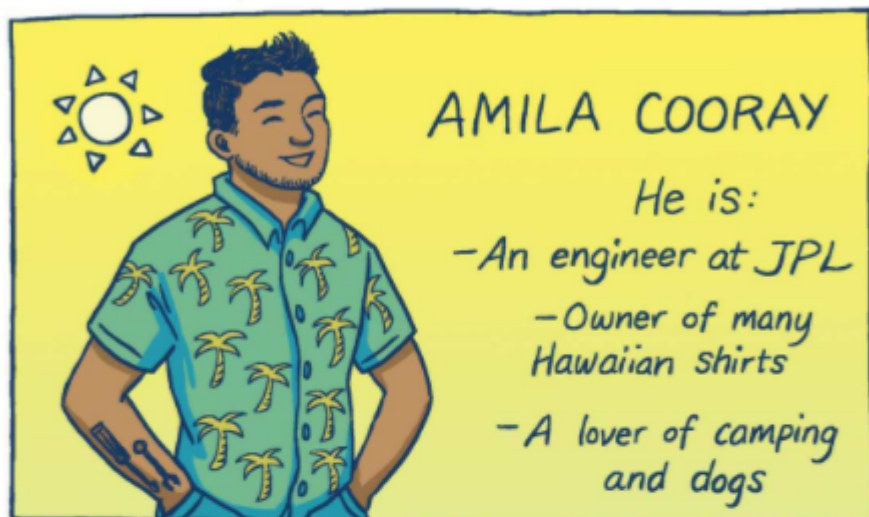
GENDER QUEER

A MEMOIR

MAIA KOBABE



AT THANKSGIVING IN 2015, MY SISTER BROUGHT HER NEW BOYFRIEND TO STAY WITH ME AND MY PARENTS FOR THE FIRST TIME.



AMILA IS THE FIRST PERSON I'VE WATCHED TAKE TESTOSTERONE.



ALISON BECHDEL WRITES IN FUN HOME ABOUT DISCOVERING MASTURBATION SOON AFTER HER FIRST PERIOD (PAGE 170).



I DISCOVERED IT AT AROUND THE SAME AGE, FOLLOWED BY THE FURTHER REALIZATION THAT MY ABILITY TO BECOME AROUSED WAS GOVERNED BY A STRICT LAW OF DIMINISHING RETURNS.



THE MORE I HAD TO INTERACT WITH MY GENITALS THE LESS LIKELY I WAS TO REACH A POINT OF ANY SATISFACTION. THE BEST FANTASY WAS ONE THAT DIDN'T REQUIRE ANY PHYSICAL TOUCH AT ALL.



FOR YEARS MY STANDARD METHOD OF MASTURBATION WAS STUFFING A SOCK INTO THE FRONT OF MY PANTS AND MANIPULATING

The Bulge.



THIS WOULD EVOLVE INTO HIP-THRUSTING WHILE THINKING OF MY LASTEST GAY SHIP ...



MEMORABLY, I GOT OFF ONCE WHILE DRIVING JUST BY RUBBING THE FRONT OF MY JEANS AND IMAGINING GETTING A *Blow JOB*.*

* I PROMISE I'M A REALLY SAFE DRIVER.

WHEN I FINALLY GOT OLD ENOUGH TO NOT BE EMBARRASSED TALKING ABOUT THIS STUFF WITH MY SISTER:



It really never occurred to you to put something into your vagina, not even a finger?

It really didn't.



So you've never tasted yourself?

What? NO! EW!



WAIT— you have?

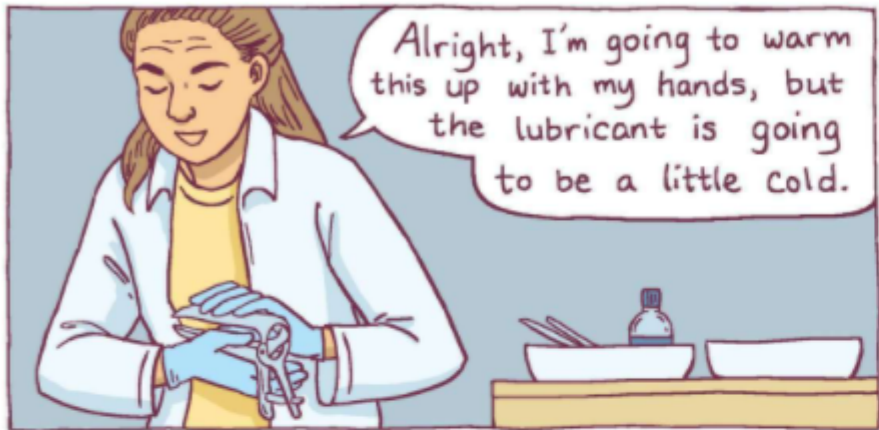


HAHA, of course! You should try.

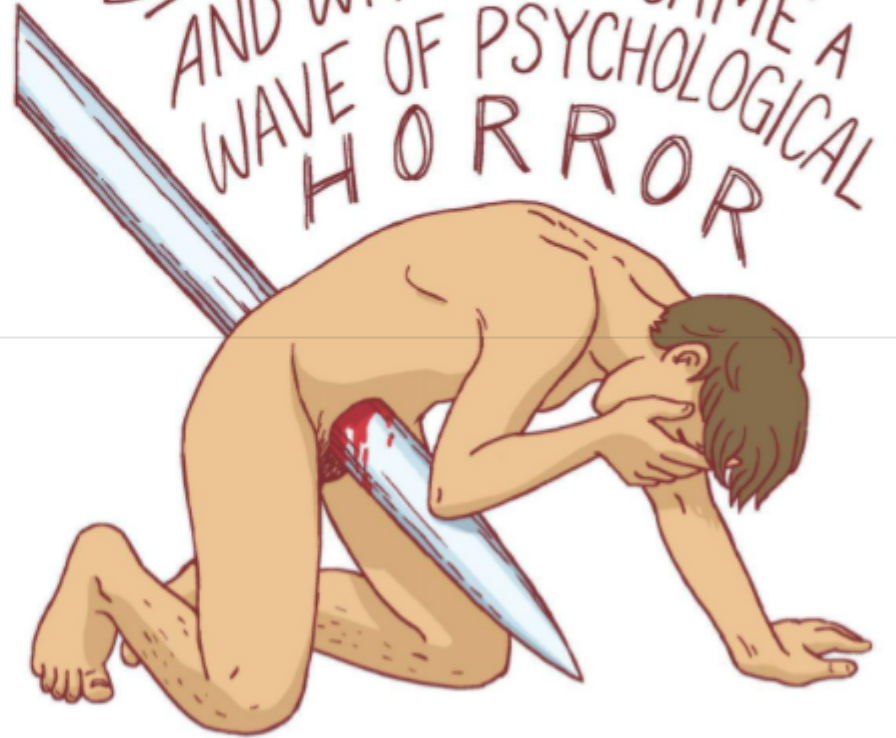
AND SO:



Vagina slime



AS IF I FELT
BEEN STABBED
THROUGH MY
ENTIRE
BODY
AND WITH THIS CAME A
WAVE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL
HORROR



AT THE REALIZATION THAT THINGS CAN
GO INSIDE MY BODY

