

Comment chain from article page pulled and copied via direct, unedited copy/paste (not printable via user interface) on March 19, 2023:

Notes:

- *The individual writing under the name Riese is a co-founder and the CEO of Autostraddle.*
- *Whenever you see the word "Loading..." beneath a comment, that marks the "Likes" count on that comment, which did not survive the copy/paste.*



Anti-TERF but not pro-penis

MARCH 29, 2021 AT 5:22 PM

This is a well-written article and explains what she has experienced, but it's also one person's viewpoint of a lived experience.

As a cis lesbian and an anti-TERF, I will fight for the rights of trans women. I'm not questioning Drew's lesbianism or womanhood here and appreciate her perspective.

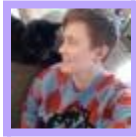
BUT breaking down one's perception of penises and accusing cis lesbians of being transphobic if they don't want to engage in a sexual situation with a penis basically sounds like the patriarchy has won. Not wanting to have to touch a penis shouldn't be labeled as transphobic. Celebrating vaginas shouldn't be labeled as transphobic. Part of our identity as lesbians is about loving pussy, plain and simple. We shouldn't need to apologize for our love of cunts and our disdain for penises, if that's how we feel sexually.

Similarly, watch what happens when an AMAB person who identifies now as a trans gay man writes a piece like this, about his genitals. The gay boys would NOT be having it. Notice how women – specifically cis lesbians – are the ones that are targeted in this article and how we are being told that our own natural sexual desires are inherently wrong (or in this case, labeled as "transphobic") and have to be okay with penises if they are attached to trans women or nonbinary people.

I can see how exhausting it must be for Drew to deal with microaggressions and appreciated her thoughts, but telling me that my identity is inherently wrong is something that the patriarchy, the church, and my family had been telling me for years simply, because I didn't want to be sexual with someone who has a penis. So now, I'm wrong by my own community for saying that as

well? That doesn't sit right with me. There should be enough room for all of our experiences.

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Chandra

MARCH 29, 2021 AT 7:42 PM

The point has now been expressed, repeatedly, in multiple ways, in both this article and in several comments, that *none of this has anything to do with making people engage in a sexual situation with a penis.*

You are not a trans ally if you refuse to listen to trans people.

Loading...



L

MARCH 29, 2021 AT 8:29 PM

You are refusing to listen.

Loading...



Anti-terf but not pro-penis

MARCH 29, 2021 AT 11:03 PM

I can listen and have my opinions on not wanting penises involved.

Drew says "AFAB queers are obsessed with genitalia of cis men" – no the fuck I am not. And this is part of the issue. I don't want to think about a penis. Opposite of obsessed. That is a patriarchal viewpoint of what someone assumes lesbians think about. She's speaking from a very specific AMAB experience. I agree with a lot of what she has to say – I'm not invalidating her identity as a woman or a lesbian. But why am I not allowed to say no penis for me, as a lesbian? I DONT even ID as queer, I tell people I'm an anti-terf lesbian – specifically bc lesbians are getting a bad rap. But how are we even supposed to survive when we are attacked like this, by our own? I can want trans lesbians to live full happy lives and at the same time

want to be a lesbian who doesn't want a penis involved. AMAB people telling me I need to get conversion therapy so I will start liking penises is why I don't have a family anymore.

You can come back and say "she didnt say that" but she really really implied that cis AFAB queers who don't want penises involved are somehow wrong or transphobic and that's not the case. There are lots of queers who don't care what's in your panties but some lesbians really do. And to tell me otherwise is invalidating my experience. And it does not make me a terf.

There's got to be a middle ground here. AMAB people have got to stop making all the damn rules! You don't see AFAB people out here doing this shit!

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Jae

MARCH 30, 2021 AT 12:01 AM

I am not a trans ally and you are not a lesbian ally.

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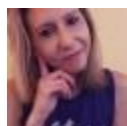


L

MARCH 29, 2021 AT 8:26 PM

Well, that's exactly the problem. They will call you a "terf" for having this viewpoint. You're a "terf" whether you like it or not.

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Riese

MARCH 29, 2021 AT 8:56 PM

this article does not accuse cis lesbians of being transphobic if they don't want to engage in a sexual situation with a penis! Like you can't just come here and be like "i don't agree with this point that nobody actually made."

Speaking of men on the internet and how they act – when a woman who identifies as fat writes an article on the internet about dating

while fat and the fatphobia she faces in the dating world, and maybe even suggests that it's worth a minute for the readers of the piece to question their learned bias against fat women, men PILE into the comments to yell at her, remind her that she is fat and that they do not want to date her, feign concern for her health, declare that it's not fatphobic to just not be attracted to fat women. And we hate those men, don't we? We hate it when they do that? You're doing it here! Drew clearly explains here that we should stop correlating gender with genitalia. Genitalia is just another body part that you may or may not be into, and various genitalia show up on people of various genders and various trans statuses. The need to shout over and over and over at every available trans woman with a penis that you are not attracted to this part of her body is what is transphobic here. Just keep it to yourself, like you might regarding any other thing you're not personally sexually attracted to! Keep it to yourself and then nobody will call you a TERF!! My God.

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J

MARCH 29, 2021 AT 9:42 PM

This comment has been removed as it is in violation of Autostraddle's Comment Policy.

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Darcy

MARCH 29, 2021 AT 10:53 PM

Moderators, please remove this comment.

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Anti-terf but not pro-penis

MARCH 29, 2021 AT 10:46 PM

Ok no one is yelling here but you, Riece. I'm not yelling over and over at this specific trans woman that I don't like her body. I'm responding to this article and to the comments thread. But it seems

like the article very much DOES accuse lesbians who aren't into penises of being transphobic. It doesn't say that verbatim, but it is VERY much implied. And this comment thread is full of those accusations.

"Keep it to yourself" is what my homophobic parents begged me to do when I came out in a catholic upbringing in Alabama. They begged me to keep it to myself because I fantasized about having sex with women... with vaginas! And that's ok, it's great, it's natural as a lesbian and I won't apologize for it. I got kicked out of my family before I could fucking drive because of my love of women and vaginas. That's a fact. So where's the balance here? Why should we be forced to accept Drew's point of view as fact? It is erasing MY identity for one. It does not make me a TERF by default. Accusing allies of being TERFs because we disagree with a verry specific point of view that invalidates our own sexual preferences doesn't help anyone.

Holding space for trans women is very important, now more than ever!! But yelling at cis women, who are trans allies, that our identities are invalid because we don't personally want penises involved is counterproductive.

And I'm sorry, but not wanting to have a penis involved is totally a part of being a lesbian. Are there other ways of being a lesbian? Sure. But the old fashioned way shouldn't be seen as a SIN in the gay community cause we like vag! My god.



Darcy

MARCH 29, 2021 AT 10:54 PM

Jesus h Christ, fuck. Off.



Jae

MARCH 30, 2021 AT 12:01 AM

Just peak already. Nothing you do will ever be good enough if it's not total capitulation.



audrey

MARCH 30, 2021 AT 1:25 AM

“this article does not accuse cis lesbians of being transphobic if they don’t want to engage in a sexual situation with a penis!”

It doesn’t accuse cis lesbians of being transphobic, no. Drew states that lesbians won’t sleep with her because she has a penis, and then says that not being able to accept penises means that you’ve only done “surface work”. It challenges queer women to be able to maintain their queer sexuality, whilst being able to date and have sex with someone with a penis. It implies that people who can’t do this are denying the humanity of transwoman.

I think that’s a fair summary and representation of what this article says. I also think that anyone who acts like they don’t understand why this would genuinely upset lesbians is being obtuse. Lesbians are specifically mentioned in this essay as being particularly invalidating to Drew’s lesbian identity and womanhood. I can understand why that hurts, but a woman’s sexual orientation is an immutable characteristic. It should be protected as much as someone’s trans status. Lesbians should not have to accept being told that we’re denying someone’s humanity by not wanting to sleep with them for any reason whatsoever. You’re paying lip service to consent. It’s not just about that – it’s about you and many of the commenters here thinking you have the right to comment on who lesbians are attracted to. Or telling us to shut up about it. Respect should flow both ways, no?

Nobody is anyone else’s validation tool. Why do you think it’s okay to tell lesbians or queer women to be quiet about who we’re attracted to? And how do you think it would go down if we told transwomen to keep their discussions about genitals to themselves, like you just did? This is an article about penis, remember?



Tea

MARCH 30, 2021 AT 2:23 AM

I really didn’t interpret it this way at all! Drew repeats multiple times throughout that she isn’t writing this so we’ll all go out

and fuck a trans woman to prove we're not bad allies – I read it as, she's describing her experiences as a trans woman and talking about the ways in which her having a penis doesn't and shouldn't define her, and the ways in which people subconsciously still associate genitals with gender. She's not saying you need to decouple those things so that trans women can have sex with lesbians – she's even repeated in the comments that not wanting to interact with dick is perfectly fine and no one should have sex they don't want to have (she talks about her own experiences having uncomfortable sex, I think it's fair to assume she wouldn't wish that on others). I read it as, she's asking you to decouple genitals and gender in your head so that trans women don't continue to be demonised and dehumanised. There's a big difference between thinking "I personally would not want to sleep with you, but I acknowledge your humanity and your womanhood and you're welcome here, and I'll sense check my language to make this clear" and "this person has a dick but I'll tolerate it I guess". The former is how I feel about most women in lesbian spaces, and I strive to ensure I don't treat trans women differently. That's the message I got from this article. I struggle to read it the way you've described without assuming a lot of bad intentions, which I have sympathy for, especially given the way trans women have been portrayed in the press lately, especially in the UK. But Drew makes it clear throughout that she isn't addressing this article specifically to lesbians, and that she does not care who you want to have sex with. Also I'm really sorry to read about your awful coming out experiences, I really hope you're doing better now.