

Fucking Trans Women



80-Page
Giant!!

Issue #0
October 2010

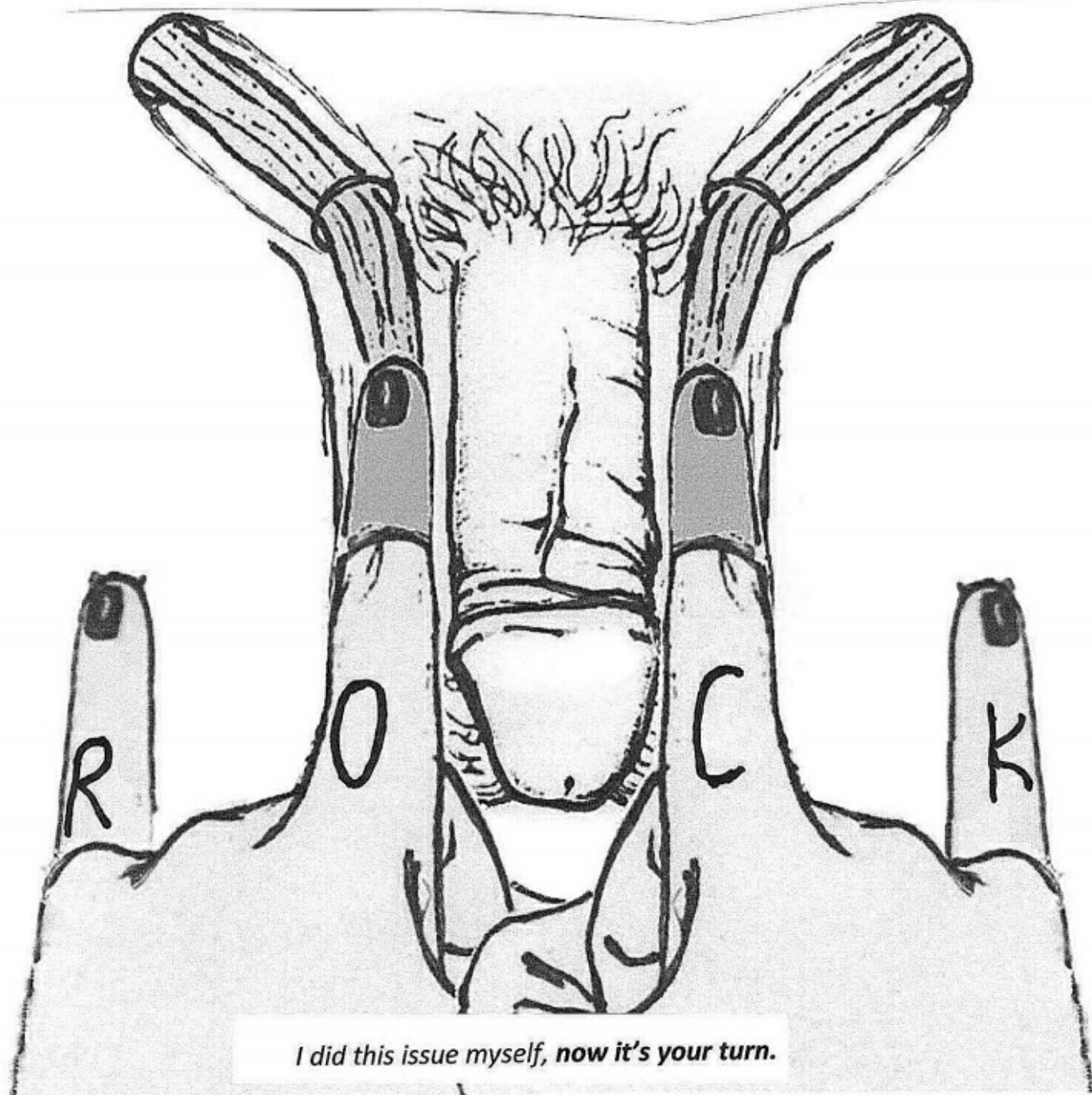
I made "Fucking Trans Women" #0 over the course of a year or so all by myself. It would not have been possible, though, without your support. Finishing this zine in Iowa was hard, and I sincerely appreciate the help of everyone who even asked about the project; your words kept me going.

Thank you to all of you who gave your encouragement, your dollars for paper and glue sticks (I actually did use them for that,) your kind words, your input, your love, your like.

Thank you to everyone who helped me think this project through, from start to finish: Cherry, Molly, Annie, Tom, Julie, Laura E., and everyone else.

Very special thanks to Genne Murphy.

-Mira Bellwether
October 2010



I did this issue myself, now it's your turn.

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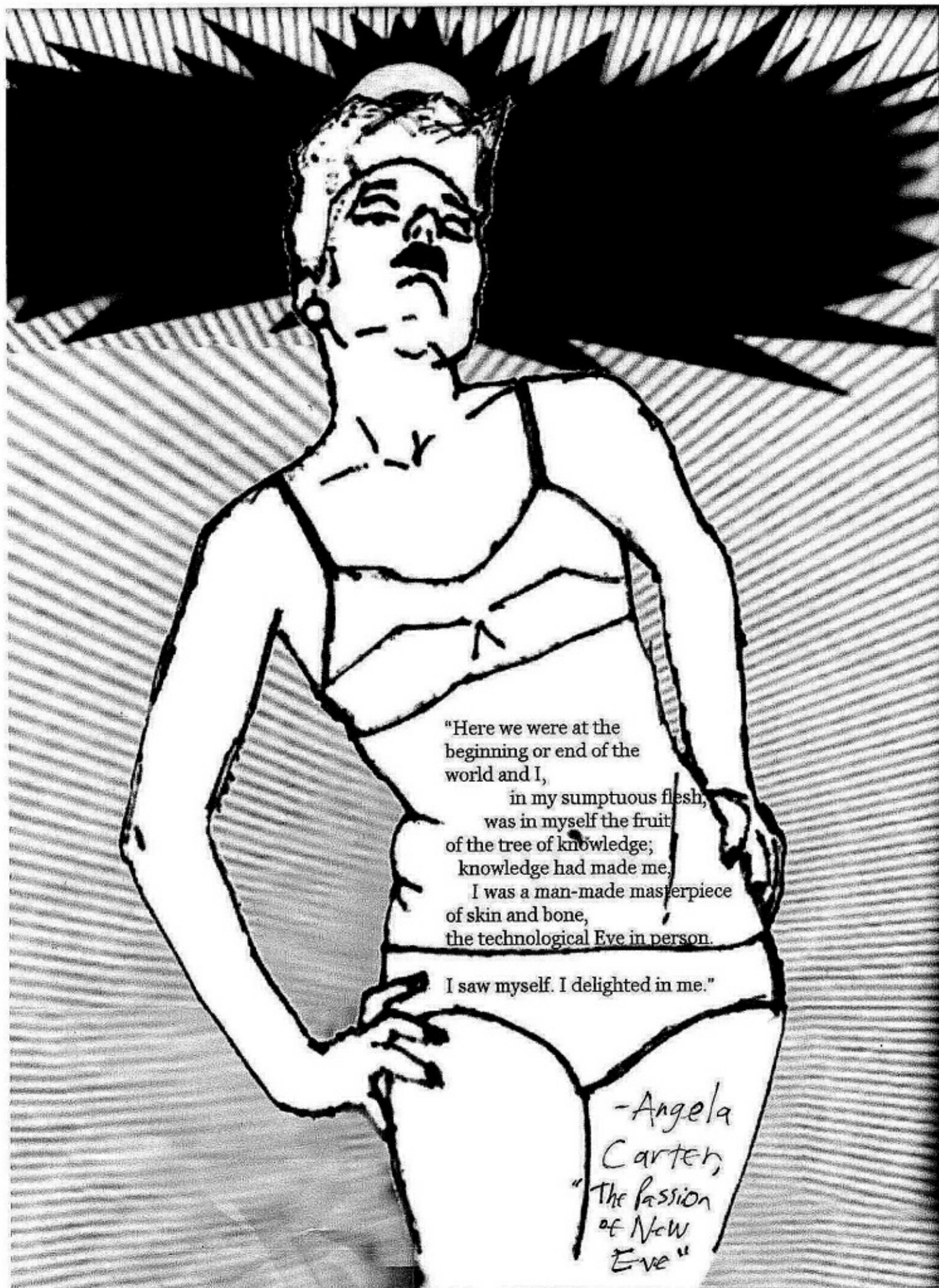
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"Here we were at the
beginning or end of the
world and I,

in my sumptuous flesh,
was in myself the fruit
of the tree of knowledge;
knowledge had made me.

I was a man-made masterpiece
of skin and bone,
the technological Eve in person.

I saw myself. I delighted in me."

-Angela
Carter,
"The Passion
of New
Eve"

My original motive for starting this zine was simple: I wanted to talk to other trans women about how we like to fuck. Although over the last two years I've found other reasons for making this zine, the overall motive has remained basically the same: to generate conversations about sex with trans women with the knowledge that the more we talk to each other and our lovers about how we like to fuck, the better off we'll all be.

"Why Fucking Trans Women?"

It can be difficult to see certain topics as anything except problems. Most people I've talked to dread the seemingly inevitable difficult conversations with lovers who haven't been with trans women before. Hard subjects come up and sometimes have to be discussed on the spot just as with any sexual relationship. But there's no reason for us to enter these conversations unprepared, nor is there any reason why we can't prep our lovers for these conversations with a little reading material drawn from our own experiences. More than one of my lovers, in fact basically all of them, has at one time or another lamented that there's no "instruction manual" for my body. Even if they haven't put it in those terms they have shared a frustration with frequently lacking the vocabulary, the experience, or the knowledge to be the best lover they can be. I can sympathize. I've had to learn all kinds of stuff about my body on the fly that I would rather *not* have learned the hard way. I've had to invent words, metaphors, and stories, to explain to myself and to others how I think my body works, and what it can do.

There are a few principles at the heart of this zine. One of them is that we benefit from sharing knowledge. Another is that the form of someone's body doesn't necessarily determine what that body means, how it works, or what it can do. That is to say that just because what's in my crotch looks like a penis doesn't necessarily mean that it works like a penis. In point of fact it doesn't, at least not most of the time. I also believe that one of the best tools we have at our disposal for figuring out our bodies, for learning about them and coming to delight in them, is experience. Someone else might say "exploration" or "experimentation" and mean something similar to what I mean. I'm talking about starting from data and working toward conclusions rather than the opposite; something very much like sexy mad science (white lab coats and leather gloves optional.)

OR VM PROPRIA NATVRA ET OPERATIONE.

lis, Noordt. I RIO Aquilo, Noordt noordt oost.

I'm talking about beginning with sensation, not with names, vocabulary, or the things we think we know about our bodies. I'm talking about the kind of earnest self-investigation behind using a mirror to look at parts of yourself you couldn't otherwise see. I'm talking about keeping an open mind (and possibly a journal) about your body and considering the distinct possibility that you are looking at uncharted territory.

Here be dragons and sea monsters, my fellow genital cartographers, and we have a lot to learn from poking them. Let the metaphors, the language, the analogies come afterward. They are helpful, but I believe with great conviction that what I have between my legs is not a metaphor or an analogy but something new and wonderful. Best to begin from the beautiful explosive moments of pleasure and discovery, and to let the rest come after.

Since the first call for submissions, since the second call, what has changed? What has this project become? This zine still basically answers the question it originally asked, "How," as in "how do we have sex?" but it is becoming something even more than a how-to guide. It is becoming a kind of cookbook.

The goal of this zine is not to provide an authoritative instruction manual or anything close to a complete understanding of trans women's sexualities. This isn't a definitive "how-to" or an instructable, because there are as many ways to fuck as there are sexual encounters. However, we all know that there are certain patterns that crop up in our sex lives and love lives. We keep notes, even if they are only mental notes, on what works best and what our lovers like and don't like. We owe it to ourselves and to each other to share this information for our mutual benefit. We have to start sharing recipes.

"Fucking Trans Women" is basically a cookbook: a cookbook still in progress, created by you, your friends, and your lovers. The recipes are for good sex, tenderness, better communication, intense pleasure, hot fucking, sharing new ideas, and developing and sharing techniques. The more we all contribute the larger the cookbook grows, and if you don't like the recipes you see there's no pressure to use them. You can start a whole new section: write recipes for desserts rather than soups, so to speak. If you're especially good at sauces (ahem) you might write something about that. If you have something to say about table manners, write about it!

Protondra.
bone Spei.

This first issue, the Zero issue, **is your invitation** to send in your recipes. Send in your drawings, your journal entries, your essays, your flowcharts, your Ikea-style wordless instructions, step by step instructions, lists of your favorite ways to fuck, comic strips, *anything*. This is your zine. This is your conversation. Whatever your contribution is, it is important. It is necessary.

ter, Zundt DIE. Euroaster, Zundt zundt oost.

Hellepontius
Noft noordt oost.

ORI Subfolanus ENS.
Noft. Vulturinus.
Noft zundt oost.

One point that came up again and again in surveys, and in my own head, was that language was going to be an extremely important ingredient to any good discussion of sex with trans women. I hear this point and feel it deeply. Ultimately there was a choice: what do I call things? You will see how I handled that question in various articles, but for now a bit of forewarning: generally speaking I did pick a word for most things and just rolled with it. The alternative, it seemed to me, was writing a zine that was incomprehensible. You may disagree with that, and if so, I will hear you out. In future issues any number of things may change significantly. But for this issue, I basically tried to pick the word that felt both direct and kind without making the topic incomprehensible. One good example of this is the word "fuck," which two or three people objected to.

We deserve to have
sex without it
becoming a
gender studies
class

Do I critically interrogate that word and explicate all of its problematic connotations? **FUCK NO.** This zine isn't "Explaining Trans Women," it's "**Fucking Trans Women.**" I have no desire to let the issues covered in this particular zine switch tracks and change entirely. The question at hand is what we do and how we do it, not a meta-conversation about conversation. Is there room for gentle and casual tweaking of language? Yes. Is there room for a lecture on terminology? Not really. That conversation can happen *elsewhere*, you can even email me or call me to talk, but it really doesn't need to happen here. At the end of the day you have to pick a word, and that's what I did. "Fuck" is the word I use to talk about fucking.

CONSIDER THIS YOUR TRIGGER WARNING



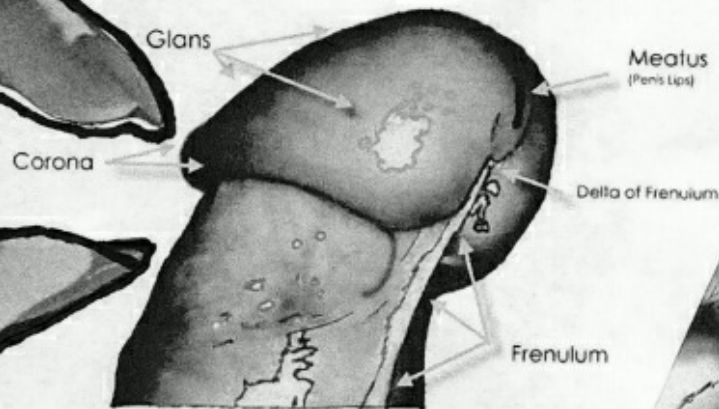


THE ANATOMY LESSON

Some Basic Facts About Penises

The organ that we call the penis on most people assigned male at birth is an interesting and fun piece of biological equipment, or at least it can be. It's easy to feel either confused or intimidated by biological penises: they have a reputation for being incredibly simple organs but also for being dangerous, confusing, messy, and selfish. The truth is that they aren't necessarily any of these things, not even necessarily "a penis" depending on the person and the moment. Most of our preconceptions about them are basically nonsense, and I think this is especially true for penises that belong to trans women. The nature of a penis is defined by how it is used and what we understand it to be. A different take on a penis, a different perspective, can produce a completely different experience.

But personally I don't like to take someone to bed without having at least some idea of what is going to work and what isn't. The trick, I think, is to balance what you've already learned with the usual, expected conversations with lovers about what they want, and what will or won't work for them. In other words, it's nice to have some vocabulary but also to be adaptable and ready to learn as you go. So let's have some facts on the ground, keeping in mind that your mileage may vary. Every body is different and nothing is true for everyone. Still, here are a few very basic but useful things I know about biological penises that can help you get the most out of them, especially if you feel inexperienced. As always, keep your communication lines open before, during, and after sex, and solicit as much feedback as possible. When you want to know how to do something better, ask. When you want someone to change what they are doing, ask.

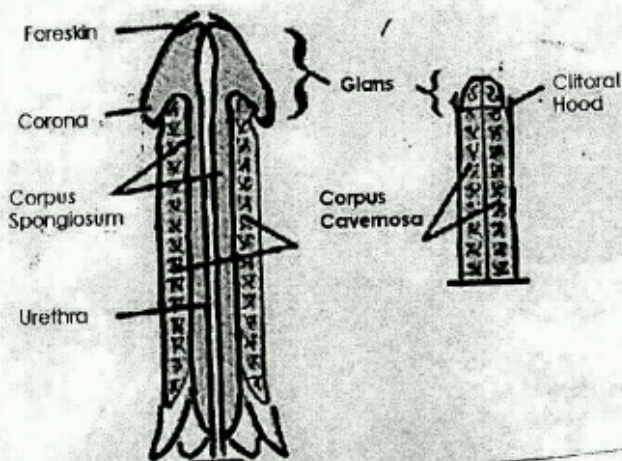


The Glans & Friends

#1: The most sensitive part is the head. The glans (head) is the most sensitive part of the penis. It contains the greatest number of nerve endings and these are distributed fairly evenly across its surface. Like the clit many penises have a hood, the foreskin, which protects the head and keeps it moist. Circumcision doesn't affect the sensitivity of the glans directly but circumcised penises do require more lubrication to reach the same level of sensitivity in the glans. Just like the clit, when the glans is properly stimulated it generates an intense amount of sexual pleasure. Stimulation of the glans alone can generate enough pleasure to produce orgasms independently of the rest of the penis. If you want to give someone with a penis a truly memorable orgasm, my advice is to start with the head and stay focused on it. When a penis is receiving pleasure or being pleased this is almost always where you should concentrate your energy. I think it's often useful to frame penile activities in those terms, the penis receiving pleasure, as a reminder that you're working with an extraordinarily complex, sensitive organ and not just a phallus. Certainly the simplest method of fucking with a penis is "insert and repeat" but that shouldn't be the limit of what we think a penis is capable of.

In general the glans likes gentle-moderate pressure, lubrication, and lots of sensation.

#2: Penises are clits. Structurally, penises are almost identical to clitorises because both develop from the same basic tissues. This is a fairly well-known fact these days but it bears repeating. Both the penis and the clitoris are composed of erectile tissue, both have a head and shaft, and circulation and innervation are more or less the same for both. Contrary to popular belief penises and clits have approximately the same number of nerve endings, although in the clitoris a greater number are concentrated in the head. Sexually speaking the most significant variations between biological clitorises and penises are probably shape and the placement of the urethra. More of the clitoris extends into the body and more of the penis extends outward; penises generally (but not always) contain the urethra.



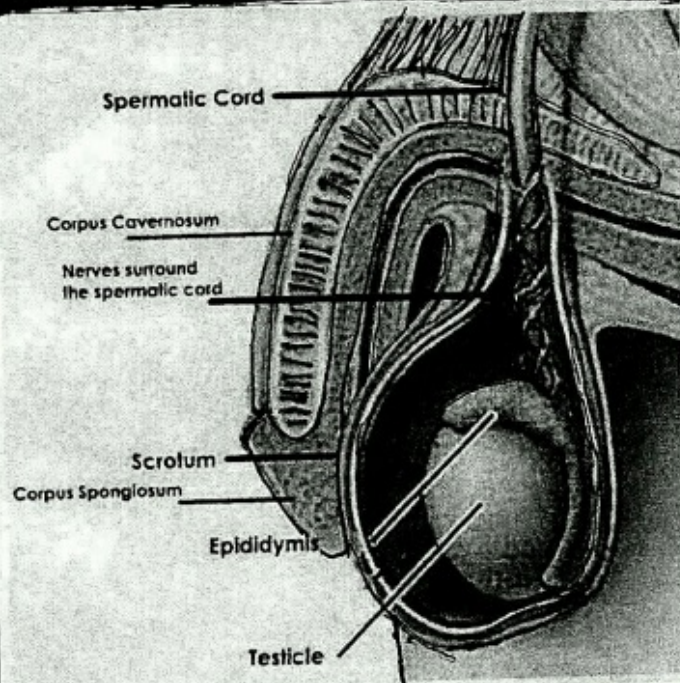
If you already have lots of experiences with biological clits but not with penises, try treating penises like large clits, which they basically are. I dare you.

Some techniques will translate better than others. But the similarities are greater than the differences and even when things don't work you can still laugh and have fun.

#3: Penises are soft. I can't say this enough because it is such an important and frequently ignored fact: most of the time a biological penis is neither rock-hard nor an inflexible rod. They're not supposed to be. The natural, resting state of the penis is soft. Unsolicited erections happen relatively infrequently after the teen years and voluntary boners appear in the dictionary under the entry "diminishing returns."

most penises could never compete with a good dildo on hardness. And those that go the distance are putting themselves at long-term risk: erections that last longer than an hour or so without interruption can cause permanent damage to the vascular system of the penis.

We know both statistically and anecdotally that penises are far from permanently-engorged crotch-rocks, and yet almost all sexual discourse on penises is on erect penises, hard penises, penetrating penises.



+ suck on
your date's
clit when
it's soft

+ lube up
the glans
and fuck
her with
your hand

+ invent
new
sex
practices

+ document
everything

+ the
frenulum
sounds like
a carnival
ride and you
can make it
one

in your
mouth

Why is this significant? Because the operating assumption in our culture is that only hard penises can have sex, that soft penises can't have sex and aren't sexy. This is deeply, deeply incorrect. The major difference between a soft penis and a hard penis isn't whether it can have sex, not whether it can give and receive pleasure, only whether it is hard and can penetrate. That's it. That's the difference. Hardness. And yet there is almost no writing about sex and soft penises except about how to "fix" them by making them hard. It's hard, so to speak, for us to seriously consider the concept of sex with a soft penis because we've been indoctrinated to laugh at the idea. Penises are supposed to be hard, penetrating organs, and definitely not sexy when soft. It's not very fashionable to talk about phallocentrism these days, but I can't think of a better word for the assumption that someone's private parts are useless because they're not hard and, well, phallic.

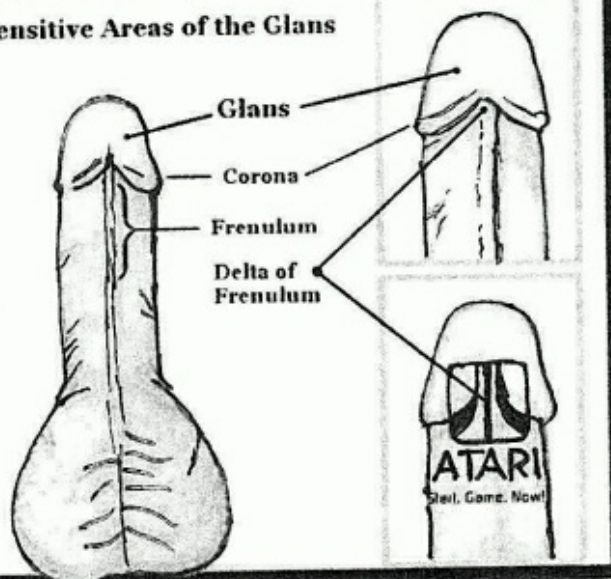
To put it simply, this is stupid. It's stupid to keep acting like penises are worthless when they are soft, whether that softness lasts a day or six years. We are smarter than that, and it is time to start acting like it. We owe it to the penises in our communities to start playing with them and pleasuring them when they're soft. I think it's a particularly good idea to do this because soft penises are a lot of fun that we're not having, for no good reason.

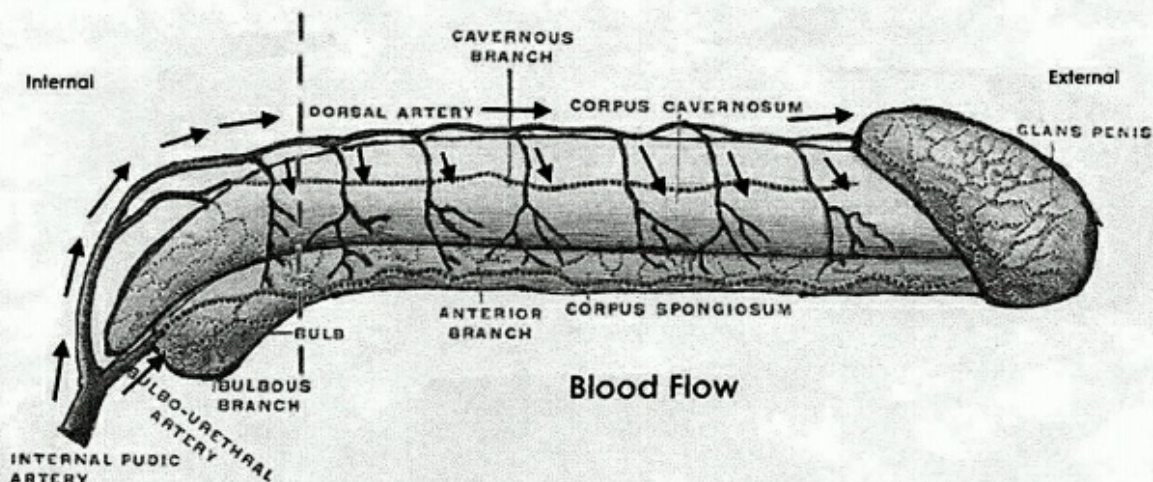
Contrary to popular belief, a soft penis is not a "Do Not Disturb" sign. Neither is it an accurate indicator of someone's interest, mood, energy level, or libido. Boners are fickle. Sometimes it's not in the cards. Then again, sometimes a boner just happens and the only thing on your mind is how much you don't feel like having one. Your lover-with-a-penis could be counting the seconds until they can get you alone and do filthy, unspeakable things to you and their penis might not so much as twitch. If your lover is a trans woman, there's a rock-solid chance that this happens all the time. There's an equally good chance that it never happens at all. For some of us on testosterone blockers no force in the world could summon an erection. For others there's an impact, and for some there's almost no change whatsoever.

Regardless of how often you have one on your hands, a soft penis doesn't need to be anything other than an opportunity to find out what else it can do besides fill up with blood and poke things.

#4: Frenulum and Corona. There are two areas of the glans that are especially sensitive for most penises. The first is the frenulum, the trip of flesh on the underside of the penis that connects the glans to the shaft. The most sensitive part of the frenulum is where it meets the head and forms a sort of Atari symbol, a delta. The delta of the frenulum is very, very sensitive to stimulation. Another part of the glans that is particularly sensitive is the rim, the corona. The least sensate part of a penis is the shaft.

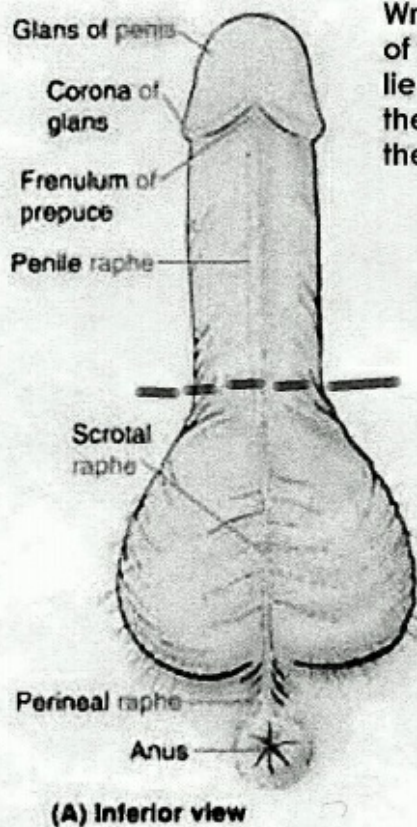
Sensitive Areas of the Glans





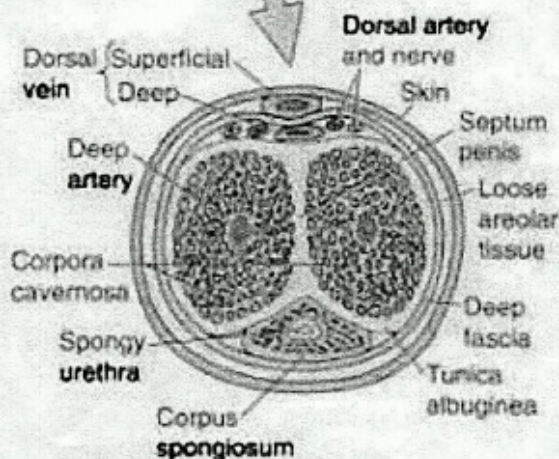
Blood Flow

#5: Bloodflow. On the other hand, although the shaft doesn't feel as *much* sensation, it likes a different kind altogether, the kind that comes from pressure. Bloodflow can be a really important part of pleasuring a penis and the place to control it is the shaft. Blood enters and leaves the penis at the base of the shaft on the underside. It fills the spongy and cavernous tissues of the penis to create erections of varying degrees. Erections are maintained by the relatively slow release of blood from the penis back into the veins as they exit. When a penis has trouble staying hard, sometimes this is an effect of leaky blood vessels. The more blood that's in the penis the stiffer it gets and the more taut the skin on the shaft and glans. By increasing pressure to the shaft and squeezing the base of the penis you can keep blood in almost any penis. Once it's in there you'll be able to move it around by squeezing and applying pressure to different parts of the shaft.



(A) Inferior view

Wrap your hand around the base of the penis. Your pinky finger will lie directly across the spot where the dorsal veins and arteries enter the penis.

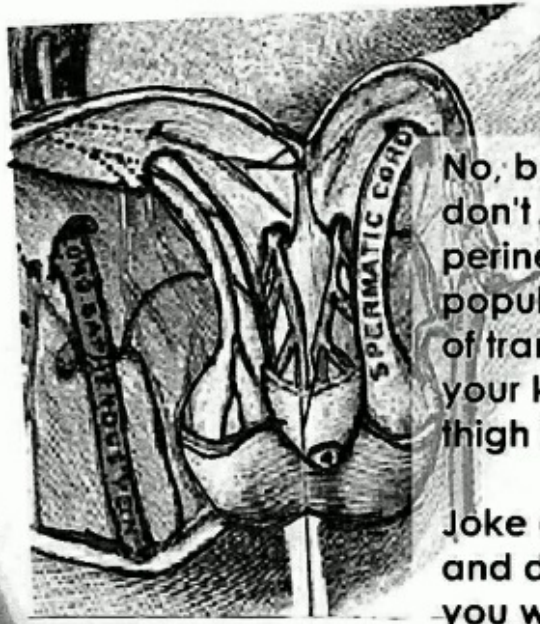


(C) Cross-sectional view

#6: Don't neglect the undercarriage.

You may know the *perineum* by another name, the 'taint,' the fleshy strip of skin between the asshole and the genitals. The sensitive line that you will see running down the middle is the *perineal body*, and beneath that is the prostate (internally.)

The penis, the perineum, the prostate, and the anus share several nerves, and the perineum seems to like those stimulated with pressure. Try rubbing the taint at the same time that you suck or rub the glans. Fun times!

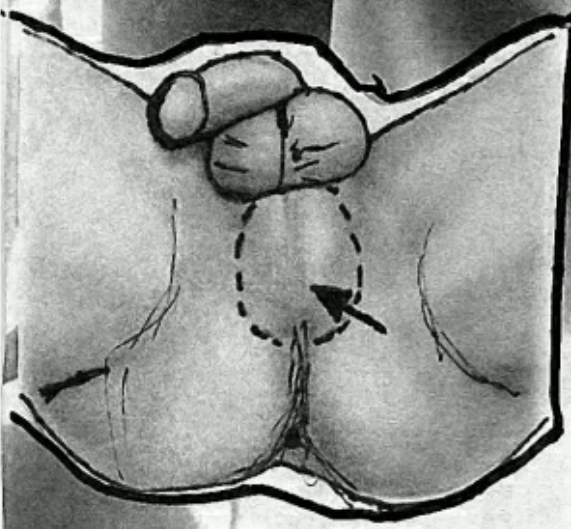


No, but really, don't forget the perineum, it's a popular spot for lots of trans ladies. Get your knee or your thigh in there!

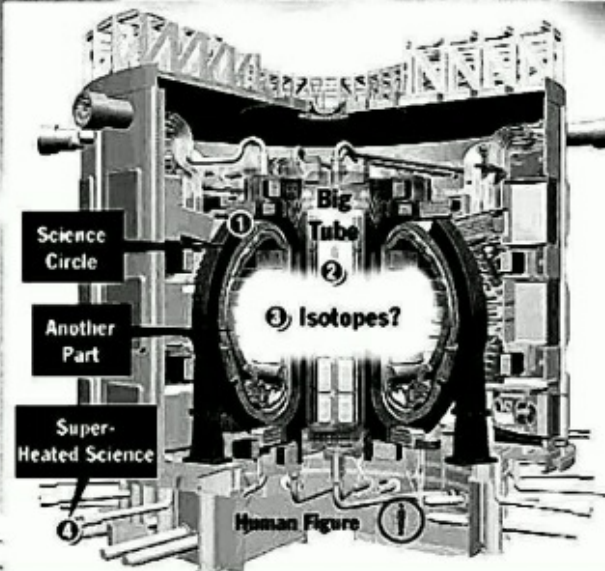
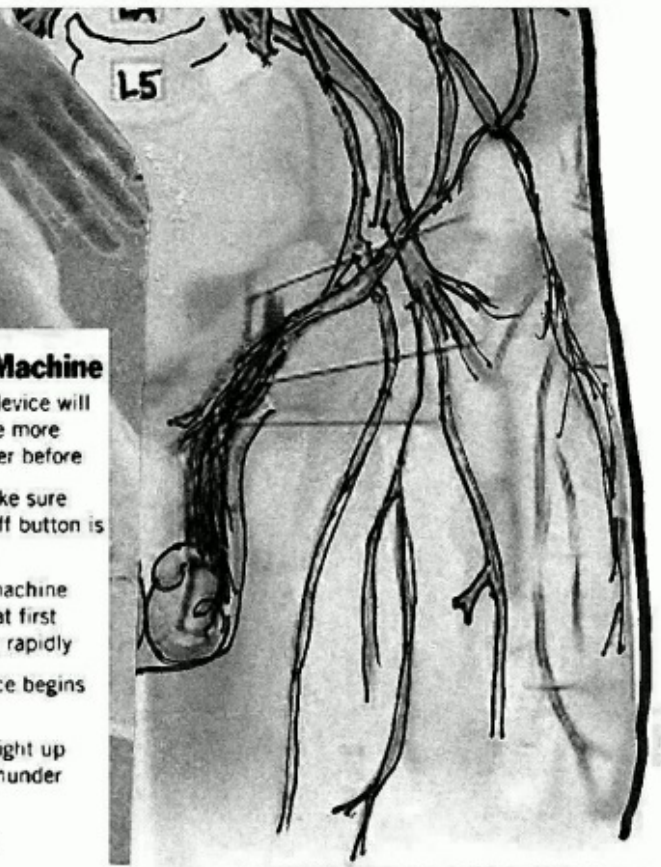
Joke about grinding and dry humping all you want, pressure

anches of the Genitofem

feels good



The taint is also a great place to use a vibrator: several major nerve clusters either terminate or pass through the perineum, including the nerve that causes ejaculation. The same nerve branches out to the prostate and the clit/penis.



A Science Machine

The expensive device will test and execute more science than ever before

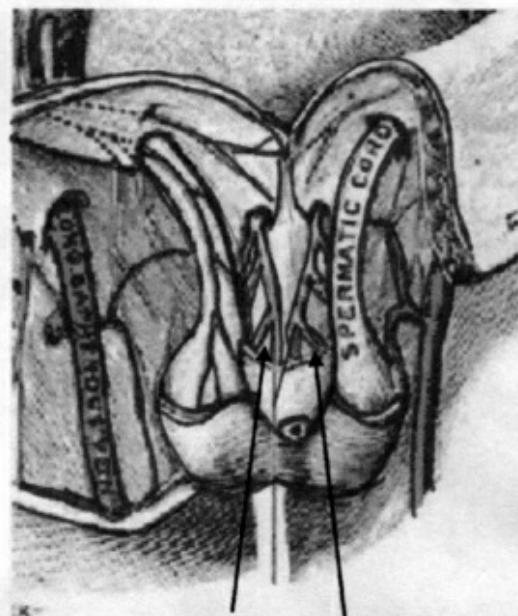
- 1 Scientists make sure machine's On/Off button is switched to On
- 2 Parts of the machine begin to move, at first slowly, and then rapidly
- 3 A lot of science begins to generate
- 4 Many things light up and sounds of thunder happen
- 5 Science ends

#7: Nerves, nerves, nerves. The penis is an organ designed to experience pleasure and the way it experiences that pleasure is through nerves, which are stretched like a thick web through the penis and crotch. This sounds obvious, but it can be easy to overlook the delicate nature of these nerves and treat the penis like a hunk of meat instead of a delicate instrument. Because, well, the only way we ever see it is from the outside, where it looks like a sausage, not a spider web. Knowing the locations of nerve groups and what they connect to will give you better insight into the various ways that we experience pleasure.

If the nerves of the penis were celebrities, the most famous would be the pudendal nerve, although it would have to change its name to something with more pizzazz. Let's call it the **P Nerve**. This is the nerve we most often aim to stimulate during sex because it generates the spasms in muscles around the clitoris or penis that produce orgasms and ejaculations. The P Nerve begins in the sacrum at the base of the spine and then forms three branches. One branch goes to the anal sphincter, one to the perineum, and the last branch becomes the Dorsal Nerve of the Phallus. (Medical literature calls it either the dorsal nerve of the penis or dorsal nerve of the clitoris but they have identical functions.) The P nerve is the easiest nerve to stimulate to produce an orgasm. It innervates most of the skin and body of the penis.

P

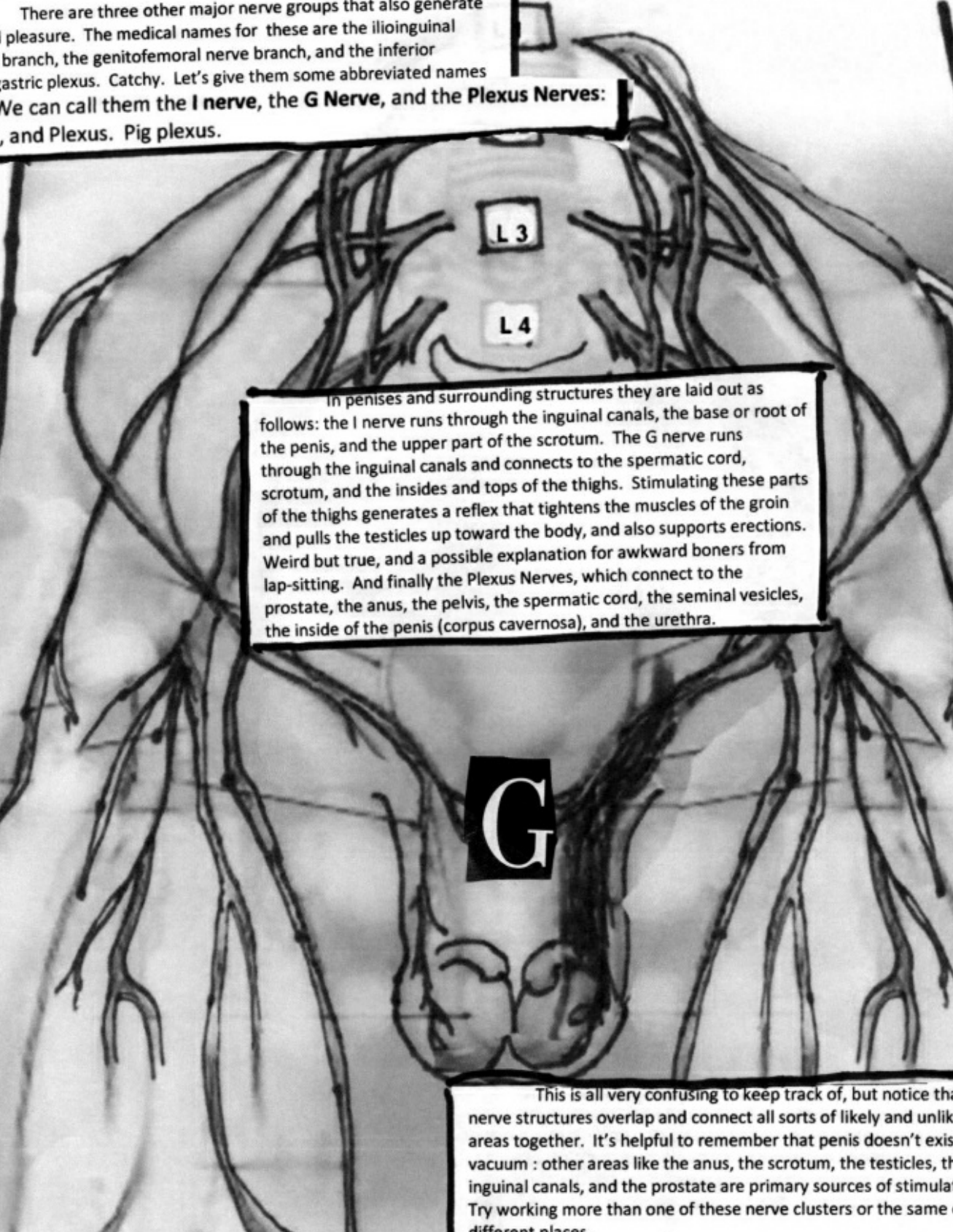
The P nerve is responsible for most orgasms and ejaculation. It runs up either side of the penis along the shaft and then terminates in nerve endings distributed throughout the glans.



Left and Right Branches of Dorsal Nerve

Branches of the Genitofemoral Nerve

There are three other major nerve groups that also generate sexual pleasure. The medical names for these are the ilioinguinal nerve branch, the genitofemoral nerve branch, and the inferior hypogastric plexus. Catchy. Let's give them some abbreviated names too. We can call them the **I nerve**, the **G Nerve**, and the **Plexus Nerves**: P, I, G, and Plexus. Pig plexus.



In penises and surrounding structures they are laid out as follows: the I nerve runs through the inguinal canals, the base or root of the penis, and the upper part of the scrotum. The G nerve runs through the inguinal canals and connects to the spermatic cord, scrotum, and the insides and tops of the thighs. Stimulating these parts of the thighs generates a reflex that tightens the muscles of the groin and pulls the testicles up toward the body, and also supports erections. Weird but true, and a possible explanation for awkward boners from lap-sitting. And finally the Plexus Nerves, which connect to the prostate, the anus, the pelvis, the spermatic cord, the seminal vesicles, the inside of the penis (corpus cavernosa), and the urethra.

G

This is all very confusing to keep track of, but notice that these nerve structures overlap and connect all sorts of likely and unlikely areas together. It's helpful to remember that penis doesn't exist in a vacuum: other areas like the anus, the scrotum, the testicles, the inguinal canals, and the prostate are primary sources of stimulation. Try working more than one of these nerve clusters or the same ones in different places.

What's important to remember is how interconnected everything is, especially the asshole, the penis, and the entire structure of the testicles and scrotum.

Some thoughts on making the most of your P, I, G, and Plexus nerves

Let's strategize some ways to stimulate as many nerves at once as possible.

For Science.

Here's one way to stimulate all four at the same time: fuck your partner in the ass with a dildo in a harness. At the same time, use one of your hands to muff one of her cunts, and the other to rub her clit.

OR let her fuck her own clit while you fuck her reverse cowgirl with both hands in her muff

OR

Anal + Muffing + Oral

OR

Taint + Rimming + Oral

OR

Taint + handjob + Anal

Muffing stimulates the I, G, and Plexus

Anal penetration stimulates the P and Plexus

Anything with the clit stimulates the P nerve; deep clit pressure stimulates the Plexus

Pressure on the perineum stimulates the P nerve and sometimes the plexus



Our Mutual Friend

In this issue of the zine I am definitely going to be talking a lot about penises, and I am going to be using the word penis to talk about them. This is a decision, not an assumption or a given, so I want to say a few words about how and why I made it. Basically I needed a word to directly identify the sensitive, fleshy tube of flesh with all the nerves and blood vessels in it. Not everybody uses the same word for this part of their body. I mostly call mine my clit, for instance, but at different times it can be different things. When I am at the doctor's office the word I use is also penis, but not because I believe that's the right word for it. I say penis because when I do both of us understand that I am referencing the aforementioned fleshy tube that is part of my sexy parts. Likewise, I decided that I would use the word penis in this zine, most of the time, to make it clear what I was referring to.

Am I telling you that your body has a penis attached to it? No. Am I making claims about what certain organs *really are*? No, absolutely not. I made the choice to use the word penis because it's the word that most of us will recognize and understand, even if we only need to use it so that we can replace it with a better one *for our own bodies*.

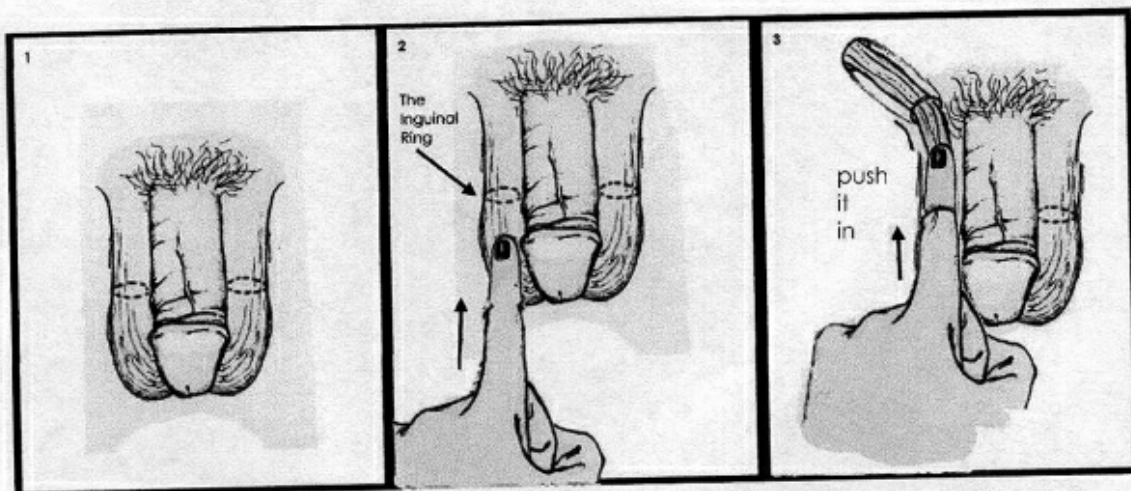
If you don't use that word for your own body and don't like seeing it in this zine, I seriously advise getting out the white-out and replacing it with the words you do like whenever it comes up. Really, I won't mind. The zine won't mind. The zine and I both want you to do what feels good for you.

Our Not-So-Mutual Friend

In this issue of the zine I am also focusing on non-op and pre-op trans women's bodies, because I'm writing from my own experience. This does **not** mean that post-op folks are unwelcome here. You are emphatically, absolutely, without reservation welcome and encouraged to write for this zine. Please. The gap is due to the fact of my own body and my own experiences, and I'm sorry. I wish I knew more, and that is why I need your help. I need you to write about your own body, your own sexuality, your own experiences and knowledge, *because I can't*. Please know that even though we are different, I want you, and other trans women want you. We want to know what you know.

This is true for all kinds of trans women with all kinds of experiences. This zine is not *my* zine, it is *your* zine. It is yours to create and yours to modify and yours to supplement. It will need *all* of our stories and *all* of our knowledge to do what it is supposed to do the best way it can. So please, please, please, understand that if you don't see yourself here, you still *should* and *can* see yourself here. The beauty of this project, and the reason I have chosen to number this issue #0, is that the first voice is not the final voice on any topic. It is an ongoing, open-ended project, really and truly a sexual cookbook for all trans women.

An Illustrated Guide to Muffing and the Inguinal Canals Basic Technique



Overview

"Muffing" is the word that I use to describe the act of being fucked in one or both of my inguinal canals. These are twin 'pockets' that are situated in the groin above and behind the testicles and scrotum. They are physically sealed from the outside by the scrotum but can still be penetrated, basically by turning the 'pocket' outside-in. (The technical term for this is "invagination.") The outside-in scrotum then acts as a natural and flexible barrier and either one, or both, can be fucked. There are almost always two inguinal canals, one on each side. In this article I will use the terms "inguinal ring" and "entrance to the inguinal canal" interchangeably. Likewise, I will also use the term "inguinal canal" with the word I use for these parts of my body, my cunts. The inguinal (sounds like linguine) canals are internal passages that hold the testicles inside the body. When the testicles descend during puberty they descend from the inguinals. After puberty the testicles enlarge and the inguinal canals tighten slightly, making it more difficult for the testicles to ascend.

"Tucking" is the word trans ladies most often use to describe the daily practice of binding the genitals. Depending on the woman and her practice, it can be very painful or very comforting or perhaps both. Not all trans women tuck the same way: sometimes all that you need or want to do is push your sexy parts between your legs and pull on your underwear. Sometimes you want most of your "external genitalia" inside of you.

There's also the option of pushing the testicles back up into the body, which sounds a lot more painful than it is. When I mention tucking in this article, this is the kind I'm talking about. This kind of tucking begins with the act of penetrating the inguinal canals with the testicles. Fucking someone by penetrating their inguinal canals is what I refer to as "Muffing" in this article. Whether or not you end up using the *testicles* to penetrate your own cunts, I'm going to show you how to muff by this method first.

Note: I really like getting fucked this way, but it's not for everyone. Many trans women have complicated and/or negative feelings about their biological testicles so please explore and discuss muffing with care.

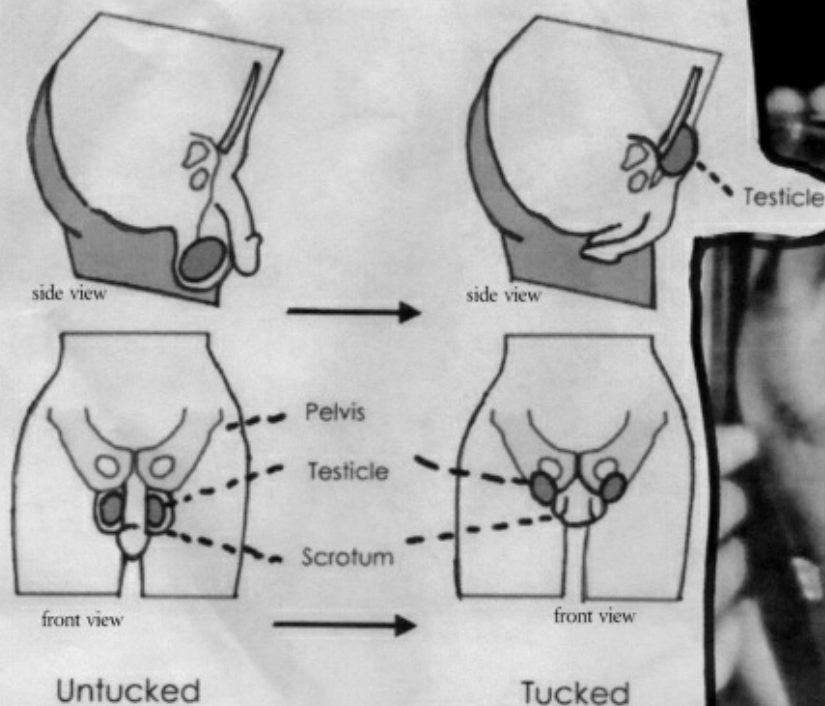
basically
you are
shoving
the testicles
and scrotum
back up
inside the
body

it sounds
painful, and
at first it is,
like so many
wonderful
things are

but this part
of the body
was designed
to stretch

Muffing Diagram 1: Before and After

"meanwhile, inside the pelvis,...."



This is a cutaway diagram of the pelvis.

It shows where the testicles and things are before and after they are tucked.

Trans women who tuck often learn to push their testicles up into the inguinal canals and to hold them there. Internally the inguinal canals are located on either side of the lower abdomen, just above where the legs join the hips. They are relatively close to the surface, branching upward and outward in the same general direction as the hip bones. Depending on how much and how often the inguinals are being used, they might initially be difficult to find, but with only a little practice they are actually quite easy to access.

A question I often get is "where's the hole?" The answer is that there is no "hole" or orifice to reach the inguinal canals, because they are covered and enclosed by the scrotum. Instead they are reached by inverting the scrotum and/or testicle that lie below them and pushing them through the inguinal *rings*, found at the base of each testicle. Because they're internal and don't have any external markings indicating their position, it's much easier to find them by touch than by visual reference. This might sound complicated or difficult but it's actually not. The only trick to finding them is to practice and of course to ask for help.

To give you a working image, let's go back to the idea of a pocket turned inside out. Imagine that you turn your pockets out looking for your keys or something. In order to get the lining back into the pocket you don't need a *hole*, you just need to find the edges of the pocket and gently push the lining back inside. The inguinal canal works the same way, but by default the "pocket" is inside out. The edges of the pocket form the inguinal ring.

Muffing Diagram 2: Don't you just love diagrams?



A tucked crotch. The dotted lines show the probable location of the testes. The arrows show the basic direction in which they ascend back into the body: **up and to the sides.**

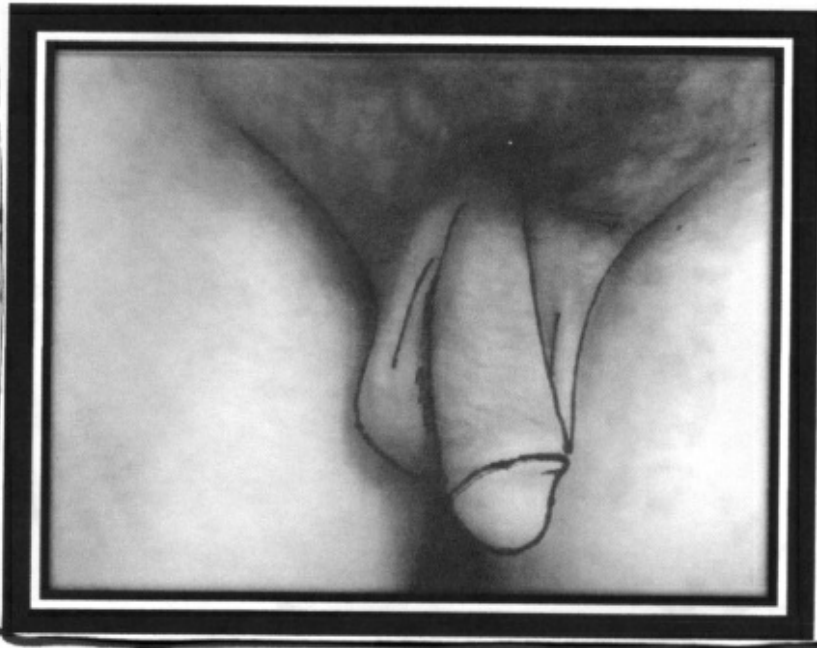
The points of access to the inguinal canals are the inguinal rings, one on each side. They are initially about the same diameter as a finger but will stretch considerably. Even so, they aren't as flexible as most other bodily apertures, so go slowly and trust your body. I have found that the easiest way to show someone where my cunts are is to have them stand or sit behind me, and then to wrap their hands around my pelvis with fingers pointed toward my crotch. From this position it's much easier to find the inguinal ring by touch: the fingers are posed so that when they bend they will curve in toward the body, upward and slightly diagonally outward.

It's good to show a lover how to locate your cunts on their own, but my advice is to expect that they'll need some help for a while: show them your cunts with your own hands. If you're built anything like me, there will be more than enough room for both of you to explore.

It's also good to remind them that your cunts work according to their own rules. Just because they are cunts doesn't mean that they like being fucked exactly like a vagina. The way mine work, for example, the angle of penetration that works best is sort of a diagonal *up and out*. Pushing straight in toward my spine will ram against my pelvic bones and cause pain; pulling the inside wall away from my body hurts just as badly. The techniques that work best on my cunts are the ones that let my cunts be what they are. And with a few delightful exceptions, I'm usually the first one to figure out what makes them feel good and what their limits are.

My conviction is that I'd much rather *show* someone how to fuck me right than depend upon their intuition. I always, always, **always** find my own cunt first, and then help the person who is fucking me to find it himself. This saves a lot of wasted time and needless apologies about not being able to find my body's secret passageways. Personally, I don't really care if someone has trouble finding my cunts; it took me days to learn how to comfortably tuck when I first started, and that was my own body. If my lover hasn't fucked me before, I take a few extra moments to help them, explore, and to show them how my cunts work. It's important to show your lovers what feels good and where all the best spots are.

Muffling Diagram 3: The Untucked Gonads and Their Environs



The penis and testicles at rest. The penis normally blocks the testicles so in order to muff, you will need to **lift the penis** (if it doesn't arrange that for you on its own.)

The testicles rest in the scrotum, the sac of incredibly soft skin that corresponds biologically to the labia. Although the scrotum is fused early in development the testicles float in separate tissue compartments joined at the middle, directly beneath the base of the penis. The testicles never actually touch one another, they just share a common wall, like a duplex.

Take a moment to play with the testicles and fondle them. The more you explore the better a feel you'll have for them.

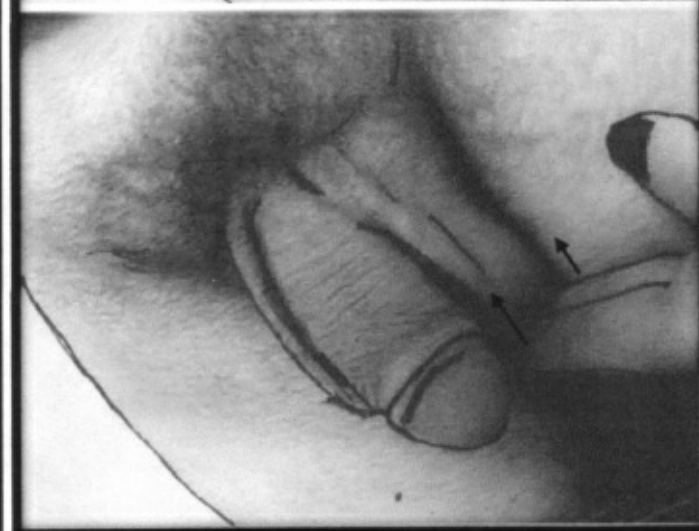
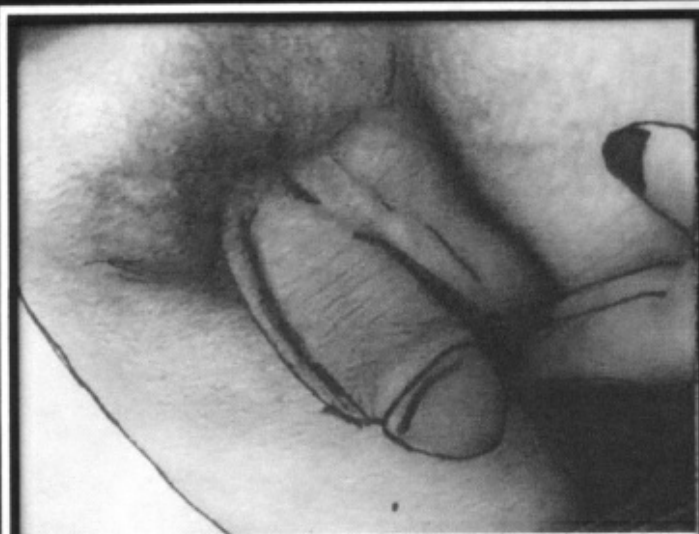
Each testicle is connected to the rest of the body by a spermatic cord wrapped densely in veins, arteries, ligament, and nerve fiber. Gently find these cords and feel along their length. One end will terminate at the testicle, the other will lead directly into the inguinal canal. Be careful with the spermatic cord but don't avoid it entirely; because it's wrapped in nerve fibers it is extremely sensitive. Fondling the spermatic cords may or may not feel good, so keep communication lines open, with your body and with your lover.

Muffling Diagram 4: The Soft Underbelly



(Ta Dah! The much-maligned testes.)

Muffing Diagram 5: My Penis' Myspace Picture from 2008
Positioning Your Fingers



This is the position of the fingers that I've found works best for tucking and muffing. Generally it only takes the first two or three fingers on either hand to gently **lift** the testicle up into the scrotum and through the opening of the inguinal canal. Like any other orifice the inguinal ring generally likes some play and gentle stretching before heavy use.

Initially the inguinal canals won't be able to stretch large enough to accommodate much more than a finger or two, but with time they will stretch and expand. This process can take a long time, so be patient with your body. If you give it time, and work with it rather than against it, you'll be surprised just how much the inguinal canals can be stretched.

But really, avoid the temptation to plunge the depths; instead, spread out slowly. It's better to know your limits than hurt yourself unintentionally.

Note: You might find yourself or someone you have sex with cracking jokes about how 'lez' it feels to use gentle and precise touch rather than fucking a hole for all it's worth. If so, stop what you're doing and make sure that the person you're with isn't an *asshole*: you've just seen a red flag.

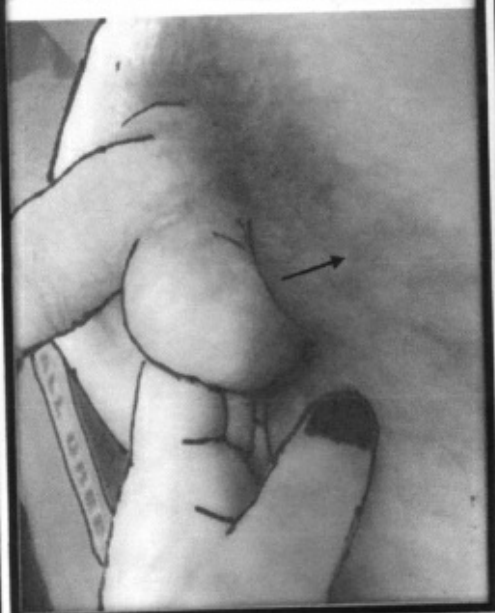
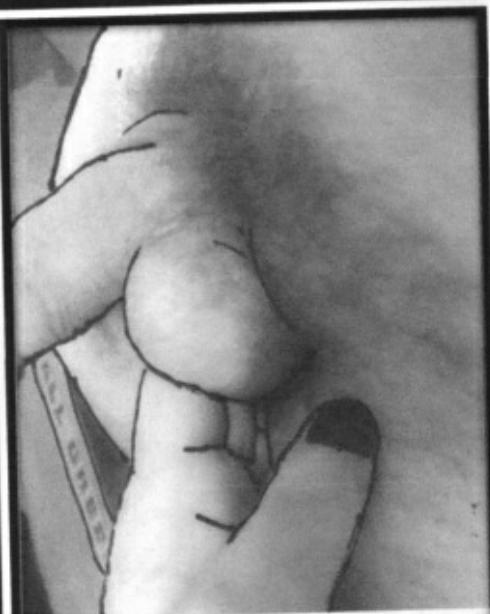
You want your lover to treat your cunts well. *You* want to treat your own cunts well. That means being careful and gentle at times, and yes, **they will probably be using their fingers**. Most inguinal canals never stretch wider than an inch or so, and only once, when the testicles descend. If you want to use yours with any regularity you're going to have to love them tenderly, especially at first. Anyone who can't respect that or bring themselves to fuck you with their fingers should not be allowed anywhere near your body.

It's hard to resist a good joke about sage, but the nasty little things that we say about lesbians often come from an equally nasty source: shame and misogyny. When someone uses 'lez' as a pejorative they're shaming women who have sex with women. Let's be clear on that. Even if you're not a woman having sex with a woman this is clearly unacceptable nonsense behavior.

(Cont'd...)

Often what's being shamed are particular kinds of sex, specifically the kinds that focus on nerve stimulation, fine touch and sensation, and efforts to take good care of each other in various ways. **These are actually really good things** and we should be wary of any lover dismissing them more or less because they're uncool. Occasionally I want or need those things, and I won't be shamed for asking for them. I hope that you won't put up with that kind of behavior either.

For your own sake please consider banishing this kind of misogynist garbage from your life. Get out the fucking sage if it helps (told you), but whatever you do don't try to play it cool by fucking the inguinal canals as hard as you can as fast as you can. When it's over you won't just ache, parts of your sex organs will be ruptured. The inguinal canals are flexible, but not as flexible as the other orifices of the body. You can do some real damage if you don't build up gradually and respect the body's limits.



Muffing Diagram 6: Here's the Tricky Part

Before you can push the testicle back into the inguinal canal you have to get it into position. Gently push your first two or three fingers up against the bottom of the scrotum and the testicle in a slightly cupped motion. Keep your fingers gently pressed against the scrotum and the testicle. Stop when the testicle presses against the wall of the abdomen as shown. It will probably look a little bulge-y. Your fingertips should now be pressed very lightly against the bottom of the ovoid testicle, the small point of the 'egg.'

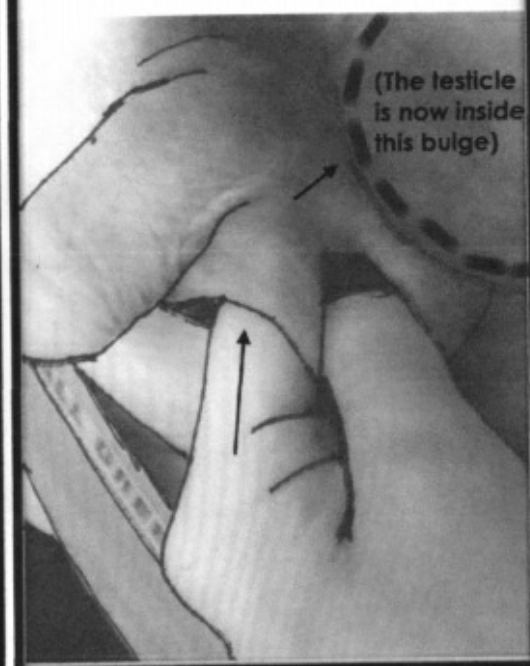
You are basically getting it ready to pop into the inguinal canal.

(A note to our not-trans-woman lovers:

It's normal to have trouble doing this at first and getting the positioning right. It's likely that you'll practice this part more than any of the others, and that's the key: practice. Do it as often as you can and sooner or later the feel of it will come to you. Don't feel frustrated. If you get stuck ask your lover to help you out by pushing their testicle up into their cunt for you. Once it's in it's much less difficult to find the opening.)

Muffing might start to sound painful, but again, it's not, or if it is painful, it's painful in a good way, the way anal sex hurts at first

Muffling Diagram 7: Push the Testicle Through the Inguinal Ring.



(The testicle is now inside this bulge)

Your fingertips will now be positioned just over the opening (ring) to the inguinal canal. Gently push upward starting with this end. See whether you can feel the shape of the opening to the inguinal canal, a soft depression just beneath the edge of the pubic bone. Remember that the testicle will usually need to turn inward a little before it can be properly aligned and inserted into the inguinal canal.

Press your fingertips at the base of the testicle and then gently push inward and up with the rest of the fingers. If you do this correctly the testicle will pop right into the inguinal canal. Keep your fingers very gently pressed against the abdomen to keep it from sliding back out. You should see a bulge in the abdomen that will show you where the testicle is now located.

Congratulations, you just learned the basic skills of muffing.

Next comes the *fun* part, right after these images.

(Don't strain your eyes, my underwear say "It's All Greek to Me.")

Muffing Diagram 8



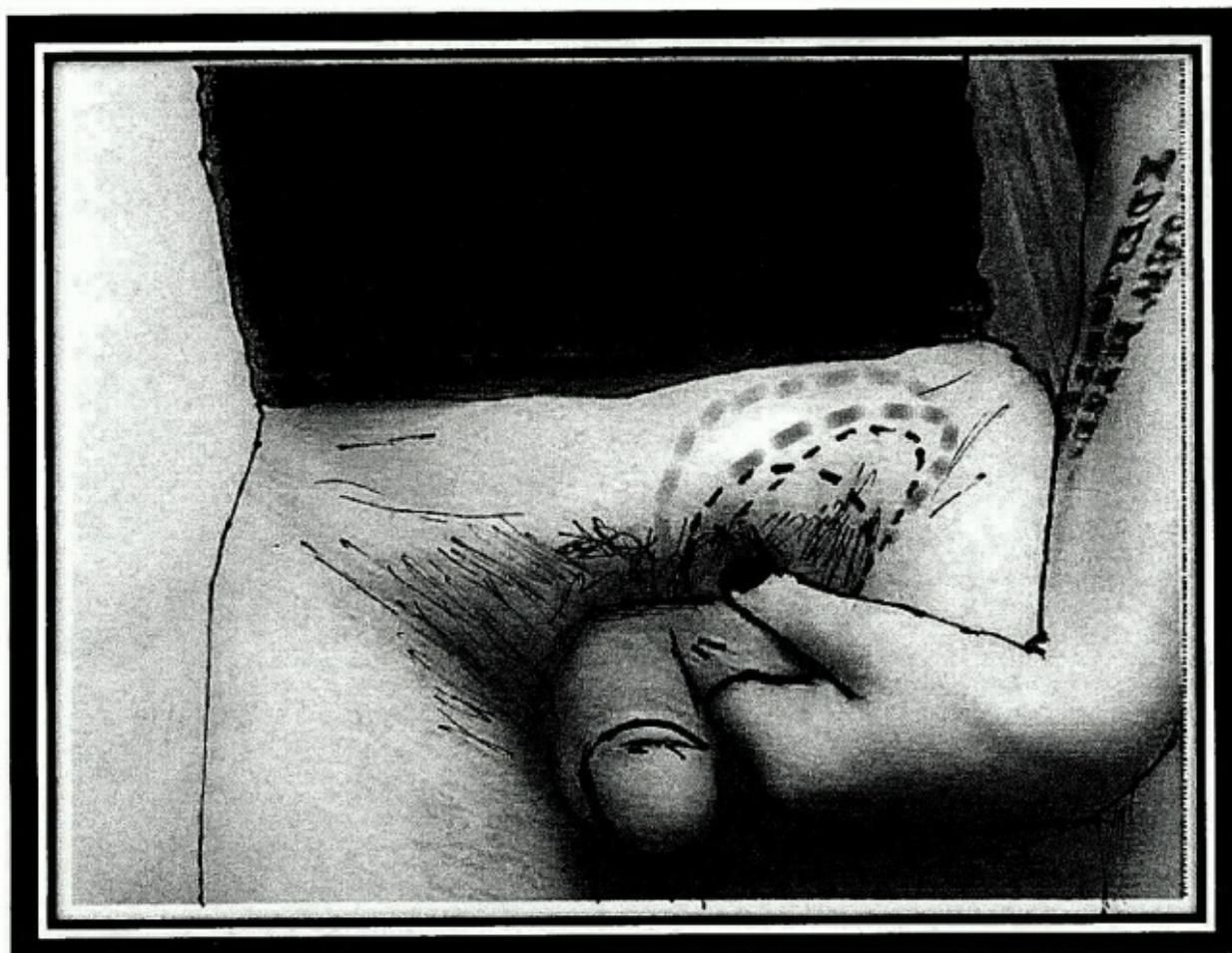
Here you can see one possible angle of penetration. My thumb is pressed against the abdomen, just below the position of the testicle inside the inguinal canal. This holds the testicle inside and also positions the thumb for external massage.

Muffing Diagram 9



Two alternate shots of a muffing in progress, from below and in profile.

Muffing Diagram 10



The dotted lines show the approximate boundaries of the inguinal canal when it is penetrated and stretched in various directions. The fainter lines indicate the upper limits of how far I've been able to stretch my own cunts, which may or may not be a helpful guide for your body.

Again, *don't push yourself too far, too fast*. Stretching too far can weaken the walls of the inguinal canal and pull or tear all sorts of sensitive tissue. Don't risk losing your new discovery trying to impress anyone, especially yourself.

What Next?

Once you've gotten yourself into the inguinal canal you can start to explore. You'll find that the shape of the inguinal canals isn't the same as any other kind of hole or bodily orifice. They point outward in the same general direction as the hips and are more or less tube-shaped. They will stretch and expand to some degree with regular activity, but it's *very* important not to push your cunts beyond their limits. I can't stress this enough.

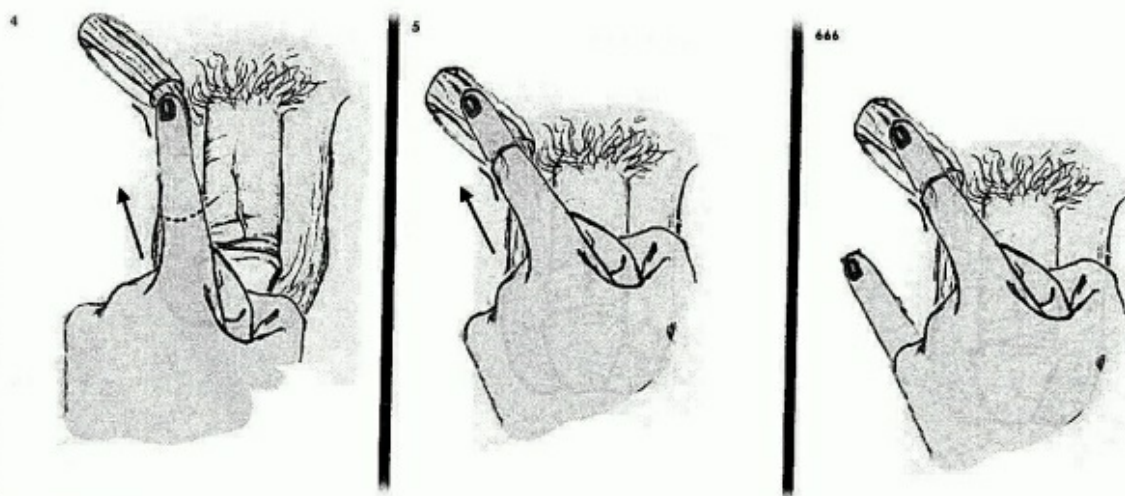
You can use each of the testicles to penetrate its own cunt and follow it in with your fingers and once you've figured this part out you can also circumvent the balls entirely. You can stick all sorts of things into your cunt! Since there are two cunts (one canal per testicle) you can also split the difference and fuck each individually and completely differently if you like. The particulars of what feels good and what works best will vary from body to body and person to person. — let's try walking before running. To get you started, here are a few very basic ways of fucking the inguinal canal for beginners:

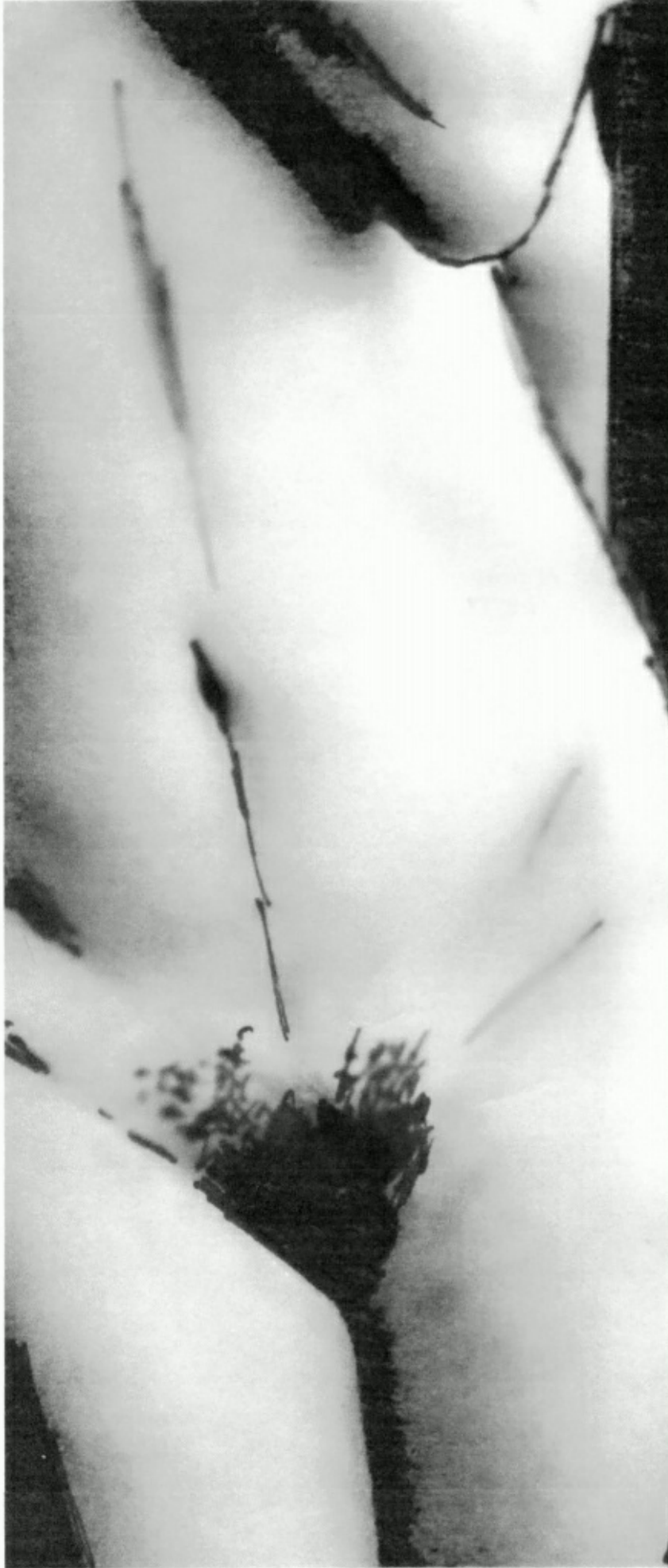
#1: Manual Penetration. Gently push your fingers up through the inguinal ring, and start fucking. Very basic but lots of fun.

#2: Autopenetration. (What a sexy word.) Push the testicle in, then let it slide out. Repeat. The testicle stimulates the nerves inside the inguinal canal and in turn the in-and-out movement through the inguinal ring stimulates the testicle. Two distinct nerve centers push against each other as the body literally fucks itself. Also very basic, also lots of fun.

#3: Massage. Push the testicle through the inguinal ring and gently hold it in place from the outside. You'll find that the thumb is very useful for this. Now push your fingers into the inguinal canal and massage the testicle, the walls of the cunt, and the nerves of the spermatic cord. Once your fingers are inside, however many feel best, you can also massage from the outside where the testicle bulges against the abdomen. Persistent massage will stimulate spinal nerves and can produce orgasms without even necessarily involving the penis. This takes some patience but it can *really* be worth it.

In issues to come, I hope to hear more about muffing from other trans women. What else have you tried, what works for you, what feels good? What are your favorite things to be penetrated with? And what else do you like to do while you're getting muffed? Do you like someone sucking your clit at the same time, or do you prefer a good rimjob? Keep muffing and start writing!





Hold Tight

The reason I started tucking was because I started wearing dresses, but the reason I *kept* it up was because I liked the way it felt to hold part of myself inside me. It's a comforting feeling, having my balls shoved deep up inside. It feels something like how my belly feels after a really big, delicious dinner, and something like getting fucked in the ass. My balls feel cared for, compressed, hugged, squeezed. I feel ripe, deeply interconnected to every part of myself. I feel the spider's web of nerves stretching out through my hips, my bowels, my crotch, all the way up my spine and through the twin, hollow horns inside me: me holding me tight.

For a long time "tucking" felt vaguely uncomfortable, in a good way, well, a painful way, well... it felt lots of ways. I've never gotten any kind of pleasure from my testicles when they were riding outside my body, jauntily slapping against my thighs or pressed up tight against my taint by a tight pair of jeans. I don't like them played with, I don't like them squeezed or really even licked, at least when they're outside. Swinging free, they only feel like lumps hanging from my crotch.

But once they're inside of me, most of these things feel totally different because almost any stimulation drives me wild. When someone plays with my testicles inside me the hair at the base of my spine perks up, I feel tingling through every nerve in my body, right on out to the tips of my fingers and toes. Inside, where the warm is, I like them licked, pressed, fucked, squeezed. They press against the various cords of nerves and arteries of the spermatic cord, they grind against the walls of my abdomen, bounce back and forth against my bladder and stimulate my prostate. My breathing slows, my muscles relax. It hurts so fucking good.

Soft Science

At a certain point when I was a little kid all the little boys started talking (lying) about penis size. I was probably somewhere around 9 or 10 years old and, stereotypically, the little boys would hang out around the jungle gym and talk about sex. There were the usual inaccurate, confused accounts of sex all mixed up in the bullshit lore transmitted by older brothers, cautionary tales from parents, and half-remembered 20/20 specials. One boy insisted that women gave birth out of their asses; another told stories about penises breaking off inside of girls. But the main subject of discussion was always penises and penis size.

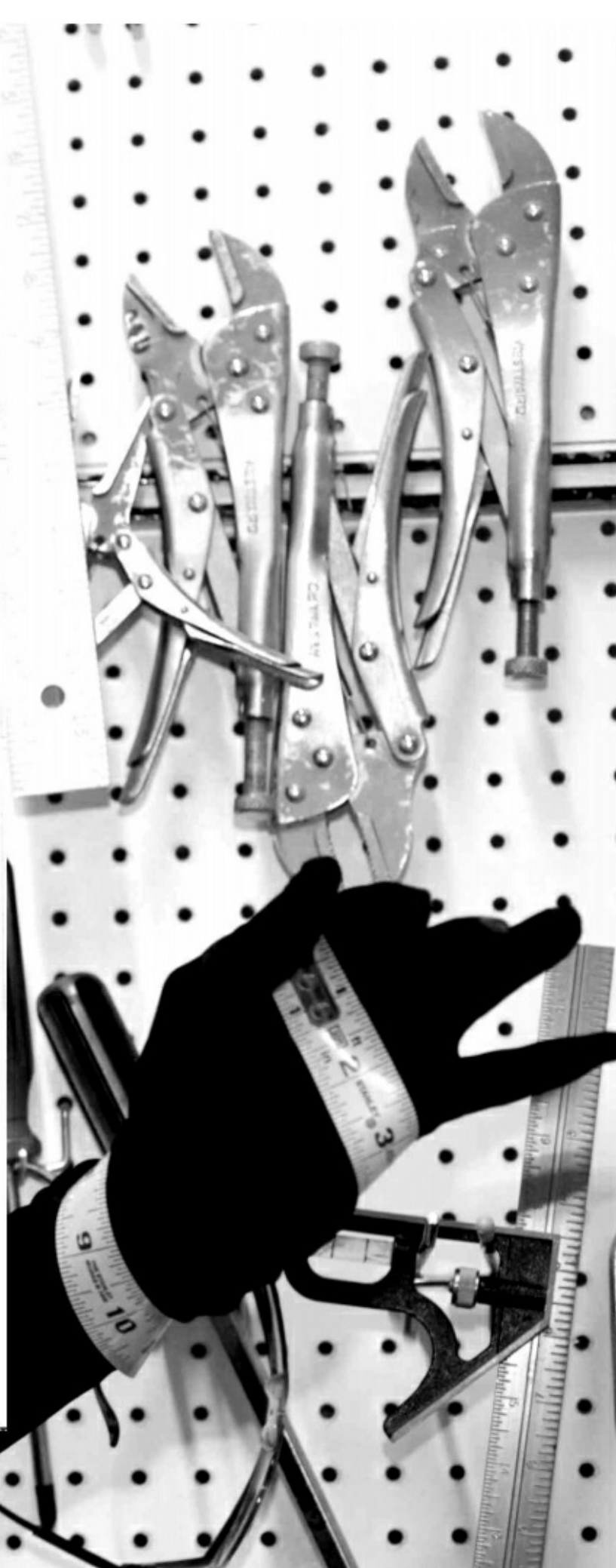
It seems reasonable to me most little boys get preoccupied with penises at a certain point, usually well before they actually start causing any trouble. I mean, they're kind of a big deal for boys, (although potentially not *as* big a deal as they are to the girls who have them,) and they look weird. Also, at that age it's hard to know how to feel when you realize that, someday, someone will want you to put the thing that you pee out of inside their body. For fun.

But looking back, what seems really strange to me isn't that the little boys at my school were talking about the size of their dicks. In fact, they shied away from that topic, probably because they feared along with everyone else that they were much, much smaller than they should be. But they still *loved* talking about big dick; they just preferred talking about their *dad's* big dick and their *brothers'* big dicks. I have no way of knowing whether that's typical, but I hope so. It's vaguely reassuring to imagine that all of the shitty little boys who used to bully me were constantly daydreaming about monstrously large cock.

Anyway, because these little size queens talked about their dad's big cocks during recess every day, I soon had the impression that penises were typically well over twelve inches long and five inches thick. And once I had a number in my head, it was only a matter of time before I did the inevitable scientific comparison. So one Fall night after everyone else had gone to bed, in a corner of my dad's office, I nervously held my hairless, soft little penis against the cold yellow metal of a tape measure. I looked at the black lines and numbers with horror and thought to myself, "Oh my god, I'm tiny! Four inches has to be the smallest penis in *history!*"

It seemed obvious to my 10 year old brain that penises are soft most of the time, so that was how I measured mine each of the four or five times I re-checked it in my early teens.

I finally learned *slightly* more realistic penile dimensions as well as the embarrassing fact that they were usually measured hard. Both facts were obtained from the usual source of hard scientific teenage data on sex: old men at a barber shop.



Soft Bodies Erotically Flaccid

As far as I can tell, soft penises are one of the most neglected subjects in studies of sexuality. That's not to say that no one is talking about soft penises, because plenty of people are, but they're only talking about how to make them hard. I've yet to find a single article, essay, story, or description of a sexy soft penis. The very idea that a soft penis could be sexy is a little hard for most people to grasp, so to speak, and the suggestion that it could be just as much fun as a hard one is even, well, harder. Search Google or most books on sex for mentions of un-erect penises and the most you are likely to find is suggestions for how to make them hard. If you're lucky you might find a mention that you don't need a hard penis to have sex, which is completely accurate, but also entirely ignores the question of how to pleasure a soft penis or get pleasure from one.



The annals of sex advice columns and sexual horror stories are full of soft penises, as well as descriptions of the response that men and women and everyone else typically have to them: a combination of disappointment, pity, and horror. They're the punch line of a joke with no setup, no content, only mute assumptions and expectations that all cocks are rock-hard. If not, they're assumed to be useless or pathetic or both.

To illustrate how massively unimaginative this assumption is, consider the completely obvious fact that just about half of the population functions sexually without ever having had a penis, a fact that is nonetheless worth repeating as often as it needs saying.

Sexual expectations of penises and cocks begin with the assumption that they are stiff, firm, hard as wood. But by the numbers, penises spend most of their time being soft and yielding. Some statistics might helpfully illustrate this. These statistics are mostly about *men*, but bear with me, sexology has simply not caught up with trans people.

For instance, penile erections typically last somewhere around 30-40 minutes. The average number of erections a penis has per day varies considerably between individuals but after a quick scan of statistics on masturbation, sex, and spontaneous erections, 3 per day would probably be a generous average for anyone over the age of 22. So let's say that on an average day, most penises are erect for about an hour, perhaps two. That means that penises are erect less than 10% of the time, and that is a pretty generous figure. Ten percent is also the approximate figure given for the number of people with penises who will have "erectile dysfunction" or "impotence" at some time in their life.

Now, I have no doubt that for lots of men in our culture not being able to have an erection when you want one is really very stressful, and I don't discount the shame or suffering it must represent. However, I'm wary of categorizing anything that affects 10% of a population as a disorder. I'm also skeptical of the 10% statistic, because it's been estimated from the number of men who self-report recurring difficulty having an erection. It's likely that the number is so low because *more men aren't self-reporting*, and because many men don't consider occasional difficulty to be erectile dysfunction.

I passionately despise the term "erectile dysfunction" almost as much as I dislike the word impotence because both terms are used to shame and pathologize soft penises and name them as asexual, ineffective, un-erotic, and troublesome. Let me suggest that in addition to the many and varied treatments currently available for "ED," we should also consider the not-so-radical possibility that we're going about this the wrong way. Because penises can be just as sexy when they're not erect.

Over the past several months I've spent hours looking for something written on the topic of pleasuring soft penises, and you might not be shocked to discover that I found nothing. In short, when sex advice columnists, doctors, sex educators, or anyone else talks about non-erect penises, they're probably talking about ways to make them erect. Occasionally someone mentions that, just because you're having sex with a person who has a penis, that doesn't mean that penis has to be hard and penetrating. But so far as I can gather no one has actually proceeded to write suggestions for what to *do* with a soft penis. There's no guide, no ideas, no suggestions beyond "make it hard" or "do something else." What a lamentable state to find ourselves in, that after decades of progressive and sex-positive sex education and practice soft penises are still treated like a fifth wheel.

So here are a few ideas for how to use and play with a soft penis, including some ideas for how to make it easier to talk about and explore your lover's body.

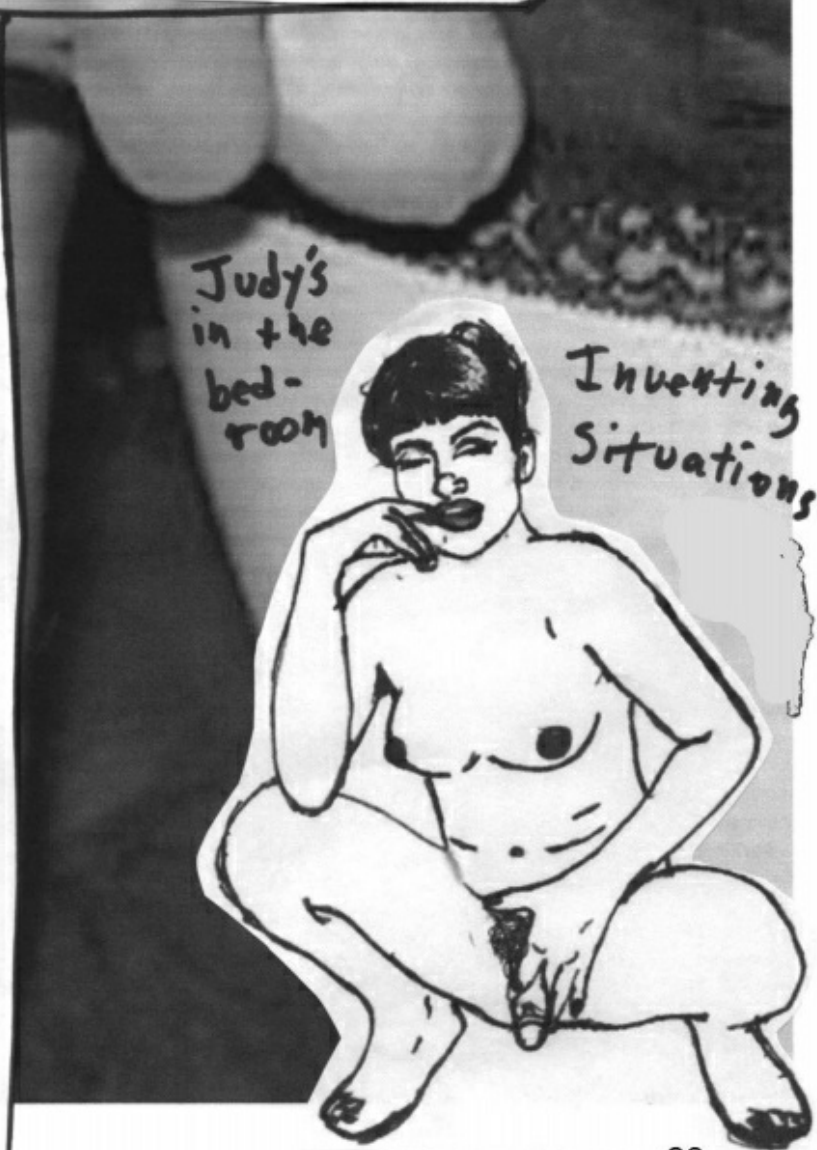
First of all, it's important to create a good space for playing with a soft penis. This can mean lots of things, so perhaps the best thing you can do is introduce the topic in conversation and listen to what your lover says. "Let's talk about when this is soft." Likely the best time and place for such a conversation is *not* after your date has had or attempted to have an erection. For instance. I am of the opinion that playing with a soft penis shouldn't be treated like a sort of runner-up activity to the various things you can do with an erect one. So my advice is to set aside time and space for playing with each other's bodies.

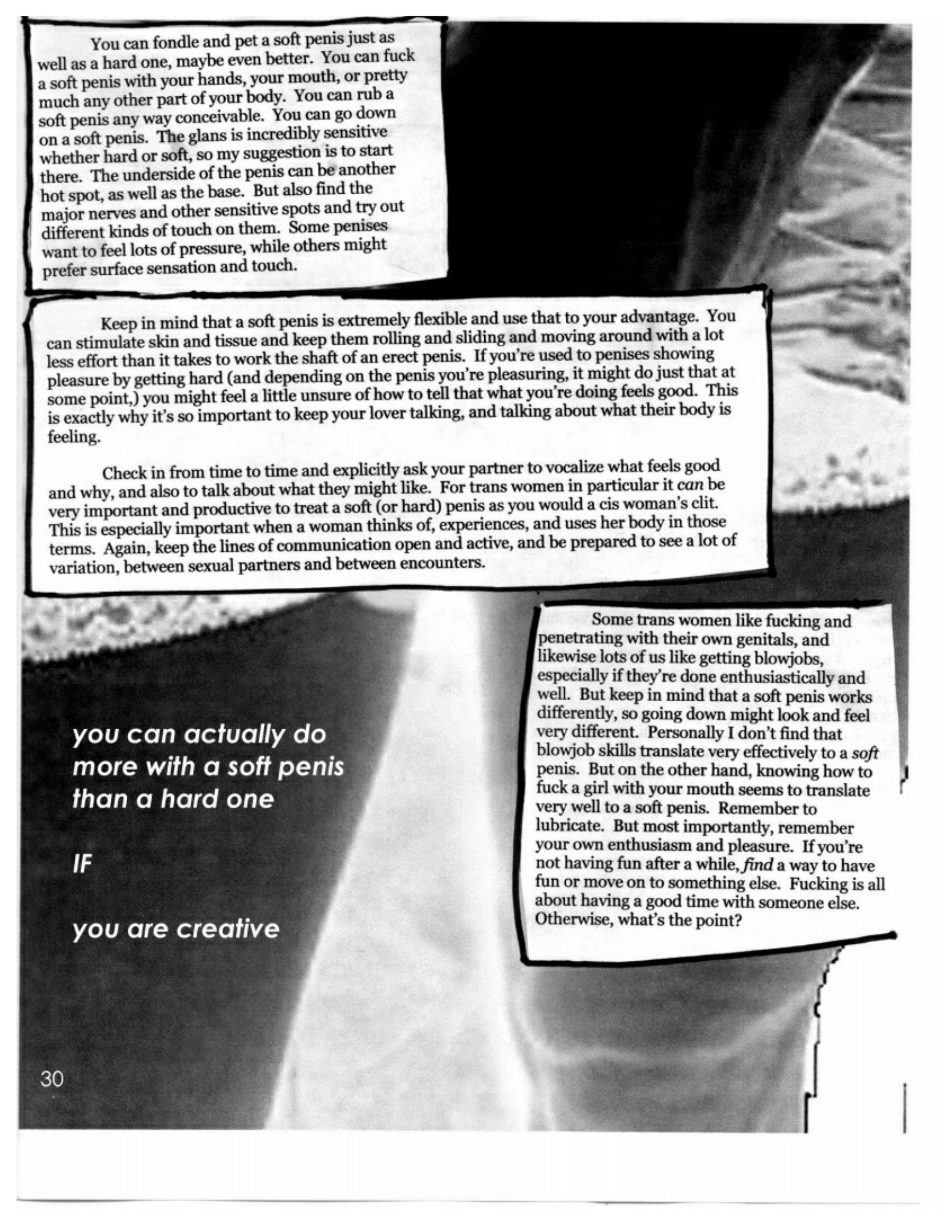
If you're both into it, taking a bath together can be a good way to keep things relaxed as well as comfortably intimate. I like that bathtubs put you in very close quarters. They make you touch each other a lot and press against each other, and they're not particularly dignified, which cuts down on pretension and pride. For my money they're one of the best places to get to know someone else's body as a body. But whether you find that space in a bed, on a couch, in a bath tub, or sitting in the middle of the floor, the bottom line should be making each other comfortable. If you can create safe space for playful and interested exploration of the genital terrain, you're likely to come up with new ideas as well as useful questions, and also have a good time.

Second, wherever you station yourselves, go out of your way to *play*. Ask the person you're fucking to play with themselves, and emphasize that you're not necessarily talking about masturbation, but literally *playing* with their penis. Play around with your body and keep conversation moving, and ask to play with their body as well. With permission, get your fingers and hands right in there and start exploring, touching, rubbing, and stretching. Ask the person you're fucking (what a sexy phrase) to let you know how things are feeling and talk as much about their body as they want. Ask them to talk about what feels good and why, and about what doesn't feel good and why.

Soft penises like to be touched in very different ways than hard ones. In my experience you're more likely to be stimulating nerve endings and nerves much deeper in the tissue that might respond to completely different kinds of sensation than when erect. Trust that your lover will let you know if you're doing something uncomfortable. With trans women in particular, you're likely to find more emotional discomfort than physical, but if you do pinch something or cause some pain, wait a moment and then ask to continue. Don't panic. Penises are remarkably flexible and pliable, *especially* when they're not erect. The skin and tissue of a penis can stretch all sorts of ways, and there are major nerves and nerve ending running all through the penis and its surrounding neighborhood. Penises can work very differently soft, and you'll find tremendous variation between them. Whether you have a penis yourself or not, you're likely to learn a few things about penises, and in particular about the penis that is right in front of you.

This is all well and good, and very important stuff, but you may be asking what kinds of **sex acts** you can actually *do* with a soft penis. The answer will vary from person to person, but for me the answer is "almost anything." Practice safer sex by using condoms and other barriers if there's going to be contact with any fluids **or** mucous membranes. Remember that our friend the penis doesn't need to be erect to ejaculate. Soft penises usually aren't too much trouble to get into a condom after you practice a little. So get a condom on it and start finding out what feels good.





You can fondle and pet a soft penis just as well as a hard one, maybe even better. You can fuck a soft penis with your hands, your mouth, or pretty much any other part of your body. You can rub a soft penis any way conceivable. You can go down on a soft penis. The glans is incredibly sensitive whether hard or soft, so my suggestion is to start there. The underside of the penis can be another hot spot, as well as the base. But also find the major nerves and other sensitive spots and try out different kinds of touch on them. Some penises want to feel lots of pressure, while others might prefer surface sensation and touch.

Keep in mind that a soft penis is extremely flexible and use that to your advantage. You can stimulate skin and tissue and keep them rolling and sliding and moving around with a lot less effort than it takes to work the shaft of an erect penis. If you're used to penises showing pleasure by getting hard (and depending on the penis you're pleasuring, it might do just that at some point,) you might feel a little unsure of how to tell that what you're doing feels good. This is exactly why it's so important to keep your lover talking, and talking about what their body is feeling.


Check in from time to time and explicitly ask your partner to vocalize what feels good and why, and also to talk about what they might like. For trans women in particular it can be very important and productive to treat a soft (or hard) penis as you would a cis woman's clit. This is especially important when a woman thinks of, experiences, and uses her body in those terms. Again, keep the lines of communication open and active, and be prepared to see a lot of variation, between sexual partners and between encounters.

**you can actually do
more with a soft penis
than a hard one**

IF

you are creative

Some trans women like fucking and penetrating with their own genitals, and likewise lots of us like getting blowjobs, especially if they're done enthusiastically and well. But keep in mind that a soft penis works differently, so going down might look and feel very different. Personally I don't find that blowjob skills translate very effectively to a *soft* penis. But on the other hand, knowing how to fuck a girl with your mouth seems to translate very well to a soft penis. Remember to lubricate. But most importantly, remember your own enthusiasm and pleasure. If you're not having fun after a while, *find* a way to have fun or move on to something else. Fucking is all about having a good time with someone else. Otherwise, what's the point?

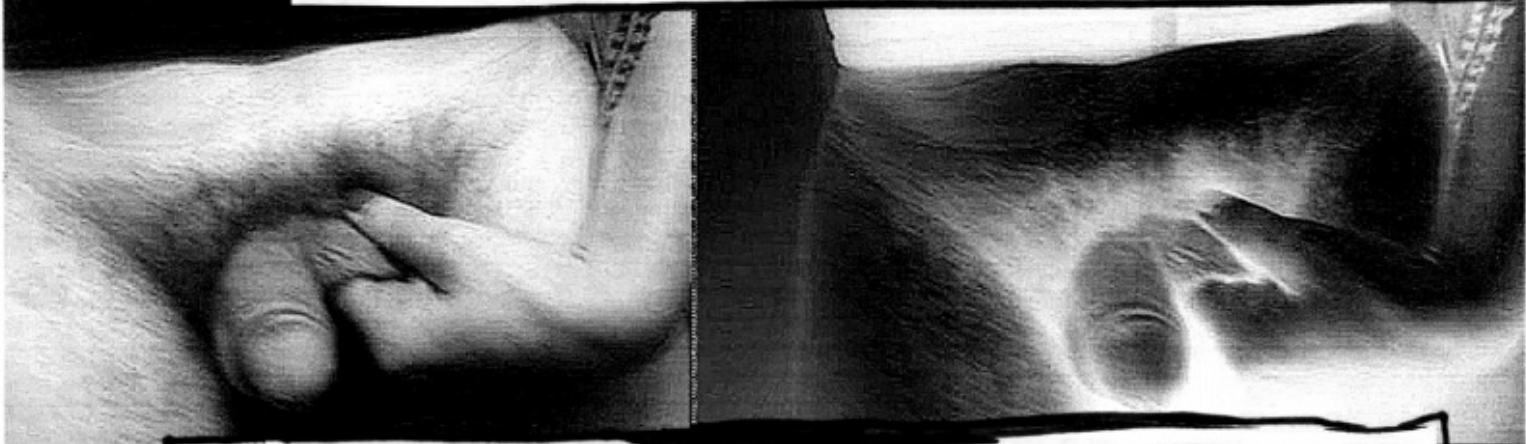


Our bodies are not hard by nature. The bones and nails and cartilage gristle in us are our hardest pieces, but they can also be the most fragile, the most brittle. Under the surface of our pliable skin are veins, soft subcutaneous fat, rubbery nerves, joints, meaty muscles, and squishy organs. We have asses, we have tits, we have bellies. We have second chins, we have muffin tops, we have thighs. Where there isn't fat, there's water, in our blood and muscles. All in all our bodies are somewhere between 50-70% water. Our bodies are so very soft.

In so-called mainstream culture hard bodies have been popular for a very long time, especially for men. It's no secret that our actors and models tend to be grotesquely thin; they're lean, bone-dry, apparently cut from wood, like Edward Norton in "Fight Club." They're so... solid that in movies they can survive being hit by cars or punch their way out of buried coffins with only a little blood to show for it. We live in a culture that venerates hard bodies above all other types, especially when it comes to masculine bodies.

Our "heroes" these days don't qualify by having brilliant minds, excellent morals, superior compassion, or making great things. Instead their main qualification is that they can crawl through broken glass and gunfire and emerge, perhaps bloody, tired, likely coated in a thick layer of soot for no evident reason, **but still hard**. John McClintock, Jack Bauer, and every male cast member of "LOST" except Hurley, yes I *am* looking at you. **Put your shoes on.**

As much as I love them, our comic book superheroes are the worst of the lot: even in the 21st century their bodies are *still* fashioned from clay or made of steel or rock. They clothe themselves in iron, wear metal gauntlets, carry big stone hammers, and sport claws or shields made from unbreakable metal. They wear armor over leather over muscles so taut you can see the outlines of their internal organs.



I don't think that anyone has ever complimented me on how sexy my penis looks when it's soft, but whatever, it's totally sexy.

But is hardness really all that?

One of my favorite essays on sexuality, desire, and pornography is Angela Carter's The Sadeian Woman, a distinctly sex-positive and bdsm-positive book published in 1979, at a time when that kind of thinking was still unfashionable. In her "polemical preface" Carter lays down some of the smartest shit I've ever read about the ideology of pornography and normative sexuality. Pornography, she says,

...involves an abstraction of human intercourse in which the self is reduced to its formal elements. In its most basic form, these elements are represented by the probe and the fringed hole, the twin signs of male and female in graffiti, the biological symbols scrawled on the subway poster and the urinal wall, the simplest expression of stark and ineradicable sexual differentiation, a universal pictorial language of lust – or, rather, a language we *accept* as universal because, since it has always been so, we conclude that it must always remain so.

Basically, the formal elements of human sexuality as we usually represent them are a hole and something that goes into the hole, a cock or a dildo or a fist. This has huge implications for what we think of sex that doesn't fit this description, and as sex-positive and open minded as all of us are, the ideology of our culture still bears down on us and makes it difficult to appreciate sexuality that doesn't fit this shape. Carter, writing in 1979 and partly in response to anti-pornography feminists and lesbian feminist theory, is mostly concerned with appraising what value there is in pornography as an art and as a practice that, she believes, can be salvaged.

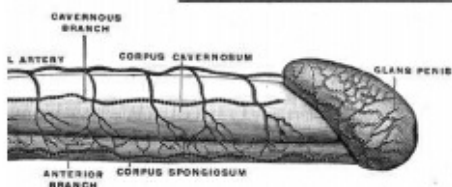
"Pornographers are the enemies of women," she writes, "**only** because our contemporary ideology of pornography does not encompass the possibility of change, as if we were the slaves of history and not its makers, as if sexual relations were not necessarily an expression of social relations, as if sex itself were an external fact, one as immutable as the weather, creating human practice but never a part of it." But of course that's exactly what sex is: a human practice. And we can change it in all sorts of ways, usually little by little but sometimes in big ways. Each of us has an ongoing relationship to sexuality that is something like a negotiation. We can't *escape* sex or pornography any more than we can escape any other kind of ideology. And who would want to?

But we can reshape the way we talk about and understand our bodies. That's actually pretty amazing. The elasticity we enjoy in our words and minds is extensive. Our bodies are bound by the ideas and words we have at our disposal, but we're like a figure in a painting that has her own, real pencil to draw on top of what is already there. Like a pencil the changes we make can also be changed by others. But at least we've got a pencil.

Trans women's bodies are soft bodies, firstly because our bodies are human bodies. Our bodies can also be soft because they *feel* soft, or *because we say they are*. So much of what we are and how we feel is about how we frame it. Softness is like that.

So our bodies can be soft bodies. And I am going to go a step further and say that they *should* be soft bodies. I'm not talking about the message that all women are given that our skin should always be made buttery-soft, usually by using X product. I am saying that we should make a commitment to noticing the parts of us that are soft and respecting them. We should make a practice of enjoying both the hard and soft parts, and the fact that they frequently alternate. Muscles work in groups and some are always at rest, unflexed, soft. Our flesh is soft. It is beautiful soft. It is sexy soft. It is *soft enough already* and never *not hard enough*.

Soft is pretty. Soft is sexy. Soft is beautiful.



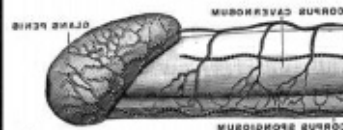
Why I Don't Hate My Penis

I don't hate my penis. I never have. I don't really hate my testicles either, although I have, in the past, been puzzled by them at times. But hate? Never. I'm not sure why this is, but I feel lucky. Most of the trans women I know feel ambivalent about their sexy parts at best, and lots of us do hate the parts we were born with. So why am I different?

It's tempting to say that liking my body is a sign of being well-adjusted, but I know that's not true. For lots of us a change is exactly what we need, for trans folks in particular. There are other parts of my body that I feel dysphoric about, and I think more than anything it's a happy accident that my penis escaped that fate. On the other hand, it might actually feel easier to be a trans woman (and perhaps I would have transitioned sooner) if I had always felt disconnected from my penis. It makes explaining my situation slightly more difficult when I have to add that, in addition to being a transsexual, I am not actually interested in changing my genitals at all.

And it makes my life more difficult that what I have between my legs is not just a penis, it's a woman's penis. That's something that took me a little while to put into words, but those are the right words. *My body is a woman's body and part of it is my penis*, a woman's penis. (You can also call it a lady penis if you want to, I think it's lady-identified.) But what does that mean in practice?

It means that my penis wants different things than most penises, and as I've gotten better at listening to it my sexual practices have changed somewhat. I knew early on that while I was into fucking someone with a cock, my penis was only into occasional cock-being. The rest of the time it would rather be a clit, and for the most part that's how I treat her. She likes to be sucked, rubbed, all of the usual things. Really the only difference is size, the hole at the tip, and every so often she wants to get into penis-drag and fuck someone's mouth, cunt, or asshole. In that way we're well-matched: I also enjoy occasional boy-drag. I think for both my penis and myself, the part that feels gross is the coercive assumption that because we look like we do, we should want to behave masculinely all of the time.



"My body is a woman's body and part of it is my penis"

— As I said, I figured out early on that my penis was only occasionally interested in penetration. This is usually one of the first things I tell new lovers when we have our 101 (or at least 1-on-1) talk: yes, that's an option, but only every so often and *only* when I'm in the mood. Failure to hear me on that can have some pretty significant negative consequences; I clam up, I cross my arms. Being asked to fuck someone with my penis as a cock generally puts me off, and sometimes enough that I get angry or upset. I don't understand the desire. Or I do, but I'm defiant: why ask for the smaller, unreliable, and most importantly *uncooperative* cock when there are plenty of dildos available? When I try to force the issue on my penis she is even more defiant: she basically crosses her arms as well, and things get difficult and annoying.

For a few years I misinterpreted this as a problem with my libido, but then I started paying better attention to my body: my libido was just fine, I masturbated all the time. I was almost always interested in fucking but usually my penis didn't feel like penetrating anything. This is a difficult sensation to describe but it's one that I am utterly familiar with: the dull ache of wanting to get fucked emanating from my clit.

To explain very inelegantly, it feels just like when I want to get fucked in the ass, but inside out, and on the other side.

Until I discovered my cunts (the inguinal canals) this was frustrating because there was nothing to *ger* fucked. At this point I know myself well enough to understand how I can satisfy that urge, and that it doesn't come from lack of libido but from having a woman's penis. The key to figuring that out was thinking of my body differently. As a woman's body, yes, but also as parts that communicated and negotiated with my brain.

I think that's a very trans way to think about one's body: that it can have its own opinions about what it is and what it wants, quite apart from the brain. The nerves that generate sexual feeling are, after all, spinal nerves that more or less only communicate with the brain by *sending* information, not receiving commands. But of course not only trans people can and do understand their bodies this way. The people I hear talking about their bodies this way are disabled folks, older people, sometimes fat-identified people; what I hear that sounds familiar to me isn't so much the content of their words but the agency they give to their bodies. I think this is because our bodies don't always function in the same way as others, for whom the world is designed, and so we begin to pay attention to our bodies' messages.


the squeaky wheel gets the grease, or in this case the attention necessary to really *hear* what it's saying.

I would never tell another trans woman how to feel about her genitalia, but I think I do want to invite anyone reading this, trans woman or otherwise, to try listening to the body more closely. It may be the case that your parts are telling you that they need to change in order to give you pleasure, or it may be the case that they are telling you things that you haven't paid close enough attention to hear. I hope that whatever is going on, you find your own strategies for working *with* your body rather than against it whenever it's possible. After all, it's rude to ignore a lady.




TALKING SEX

"Second Guessing Your Orgasms"



When I describe sexual experiences I often second-guess my own body, interrogate my own memories and sensations and doubt the legitimacy of my experiences.
"Nobody else has ever told me that they've felt that before - am I just imagining things?"
"Is what I'm trying to describe even possible?"



I try to remind myself that these unproductive doubts and fears can only occur to me because most of the time I have no frame of reference for my body except my own body.