[*Gender Reveal* theme music starts]

**Tuck:** Welcome to Gender Reveal, a podcast where we hopefully get a little closer to understanding what the hell gender is. I’m your host, and resident gender detective, Tuck Woodstock.

[*Gender Reveal* theme music ends]

**Tuck:** Hi! I hope you’re hanging in there. It has been so long since our last episode, and it was so long for our episode before that, and, I just miss you all so much that I’m just going to record some sort of improvised bonus episode to say “Hi.” So, I don’t know what’s gonna happen. It’s gonna be chaotic, and if you just recently subscribed to the podcast and you maybe haven’t listened to any actual episodes yet, there are so many real, wonderful, episodes you can listen to. Uh, favorites off the top of my head include our talks with Alyssa Pariah and Morgan Givens. We recently rebroadcast both of those, so you can just scroll up a little bit. Uh, our chats with Danny Lavery and Cyrus Dunham earlier this season. Chats with folks like Vivek Shraya, and Meredith Talusan, and Thomas Page McBee, and all sorts of other folks from other seasons. Really just any, any actual episode is where I would recommend starting. This is just for folks who have been with the show for a couple years and are like “Hey Tuck, uh, where the hell did you go?” That’s what this episode is. So…hi. [chuckles slightly]

You know that I’ve been covering the protests in Portland, and despite that, I really thought that things were calming down and I got the last episode of this season like, halfway done, and I was excited to get it out, uh, last week. And then, as I am sure you saw, honestly, the Portland protest went from being local news, to being national news, and even international news. Uh, Trump had sent federal agents to Portland to quote unquote “Quell the protests.” And uh, he had been doing that for a couple weeks before people really noticed. And then some folks that I know and really respect at OPB broke the story that federal agents were snatching protesters off the street and throwing them in unmarked vans and driving them to the courthouse with no charges, and, that at the time didn’t seem surprising to me, as someone who had been covering the protests for two months, but it was understandably shocking to folks across the country and beyond. Especially folks who were worried that if Trump sent those troops to do that in Portland, he might send troops to their city next, right?

So, as you probably know - in fact maybe this is how you found the podcast, you’re just listening anyway even though I told you not to [chuckles slightly] – Uh, as you know, like, I am one of this sort of unofficial collective of independent journalists who has been covering these protests, and so I had already been going out almost every night from 9:00 PM to anywhere from midnight to 3:00 AM to cover these protests, right? But I still thought that I would have time during the day, [chuckles slightly] when I wasn’t asleep, to finish up the podcasts, and now that it’s national news my entire day is talking to different news outlets about what’s going on, and trying to keep track of things on Twitter, and talking to potential leads and sources and other folks on the ground and other journalists, and it’s just been completely impossible to do any basic thing for myself. Uh, and so, [chuckles nervously] what I’m saying is that the podcast is still on hold and I don’t know when the last episode’s coming out, and I’m so sorry, and also just that I haven’t been on social media, uh, specifically with @gendereveal. I’ve been on twitter all of the time for protesting stuff under @tuckwoodstock, but, I haven’t been on @gendereveal twitter, I haven’t been on @gendereveal Instagram, and, I like, literally just miss all of you so much. Like, there is [sighs slightly] so much shit going on for trans people that I don’t even know is going on, because I can’t even see out of my bubble of the protests. I tried to go to the @gendereveal twitter feed, which always just shows me trans stuff, and it’s showing me protest stuff, and I’m just like “Literally what is happening with trans people, what are you all up to?”

Uh, I will mention, by the way, that there are at least three, or four, five other trans journalists that I’m working with to cover the Portland protests, and I think that is incredibly special and cool and good, and I want to acknowledge that, but, as far as my larger trans community, I – I really feel out of the loop and I – I kind of hate it. So, if you wanna send me a message to say “hi” or let me know what’s going on, or what you’ve been up to, uh, I’d love to hear it. I may not be able to respond right now, but I love hearing from you. Uh, I did a thread on twitter the other day that was just like “tell me anything that’s not protest related” and people were sending me wonderful pictures of their animals and all sorts of stuff. So, uh, yeah. I just wanted to say that like it sucks and is bad that I haven’t been able to finish the season, and I know that none of you deeply care, uh, you’re not sitting around being like “Well, I really really needed this one other episode of Gender Reveal in my life.” But, I just, it feels so unprofessional, for me, uh this podcast means a lot to me, it is normally my full time job, and I have really let everything slide. Like, Patreon rewards are really behind, obviously episodes are really behind, everything, um, just everything, I can’t even think! I have a whole to-do list that I sent out in our weekly newsletter. Haven’t sent a weekly newsletter out this week, or possibly last week, because everything is just protests, and I wouldn’t do this if it didn’t feel, like, a really important moment in my life and in the – in my city’s history, and even in the country’s history. Like, I just feel like, I am one of a – a handful of people in a really unique position to help tell this story. And it’s not because I’m special, it’s because I just happen to be one of the people that are going out there, right? Like, this isn’t about me, this is extremely about black lives and police brutality. And that’s another thing I worry about, is that, uh, [chuckles nervously] I have a weird amount of followers on twitter now, and like, this – it – this isn’t a cult of personality around any of the journalists. It’s about black lives and black people, and I just wanna say that over and over again. Um, these protests have been led by black folks since day one. Uh, particularly young, queer, black folks, uh, in many circumstances, and, did you notice that when I don’t script things everything is just one long sentence? [sighs]

Anyway, I just wanted to say “hi,” because even if you don’t miss me I miss you, and let you know that as soon as I can that I will be back catching up everything with Gender Reveal as fast as I possibly can, and thank you so much for your patience. I know some folks have cancelled their Patreon subscriptions lately, and I am assuming that is because of COVID budget reasons, but if it’s because I couldn’t get back to you in time, like, I completely understand, or if it’s because I’m not putting content out, I completely understand. Uh, to the folks who have written and said that you’re just supporting me doing work and it doesn’t matter what work I’m doing, that is so [sighs] deeply appreciated, and – and means so much to me. Uh, so thank you so much, but if you want a refund for this month, or next month, or you want to cancel, or anything like that, like, I totally totally understand. Also, new people have joined, so if you’ve joined us recently on patreon.com/gender thank you so much and I will get your rewards out as soon, as, I, can.

If you want to listen to podcasts while you are waiting for Gender Reveal to come out, there’s a couple of podcasts that I’ve really wanted to check out that are made by, like, black queer and trans folks that are called *Strange Fruit* and *Marsha’s Plate*, and they’re not new, I just found out about them recently. So if you also haven’t listened to those shows yet, those are two you should check out, we can all see what we think, I’m sure they’re absolutely incredible.

Uh, gosh. I wish I had more to recommend you. Instead, I’m just gonna [chuckles slightly] tell you shows I’ve been on, ‘cause I’m insufferable. So, uh, if you miss hearing my dulcet tones, I was on KPCC yesterday, on a show called *AirTalk*, talking about the protests, for like ten minutes. I was on *UpFront* KPFA at 8:00 AM today, uh, [chuckles slightly] talking about the protests. And I was also on OPB’s *Think Out Loud*, with Dave Miller and my friend Sergio, talking about the protests. I dunno, tune in if you want, if I was gonna recommend one of them it would probably be *Think Out Loud* with Dave and Sergio ‘cause I really like both of those people very much, and I had a really great time talking with Sergio about the protests.

Otherwise, like I said, I don’t have much to tell you other than that [sighs softly] I know things are going to shit, I – they’re always going to shit if we’re trans, right? Uh, I know things are going to shit in like, new exciting terrible ways, and – and I’m sorry that I’m not there right now, and also I want to acknowledge that like, I am no one’s trans savior and it doesn’t really matter if I’m out, but, like, it matters to me, and I miss you and I wish I was doing more.

This is such a ridiculous episode, I’m so sorry. Uh… sleep, and, it – [sighs] eh. Hi. Hello. I’m gonna go now. I love you very much. I will be back as soon as I possible can, with more feelings about gender.

[*Gender Reveal* theme music fades in]

**Tuck:** Throw a brick at a cop.

[*Gender Reveal* theme music continues and then ends]