[*Gender Reveal* theme plays]

**Molly**: Welcome to Gender Reveal. A podcast where we ask intrusive personal questions, and hopefully get a little bit closer to understanding what the hell gender is. I’m your host and resident gender detective, Molly Woodstock.

Hello my sweet human angel friends. Hope everyone’s still hanging in there. Before we even start the show I wanna ask that you take out your phone and send an episode of Gender Reveal to someone who just really needs to know more about gender. I recommend episode 1, Gender 101, or episode 13 with Kirby Conrad if they’re struggling with gender-neutral pronouns. You can send any episode. The reason I ask this is because so many folks still don’t know anything about gender, they’ve never heard the term nonbinary, they’ve don’t really know what pronouns are on like a basic level, they barely know what transgender means, and if we can trick them into educating themselves then we’ll all suffer just a little bit less.

Speaking of the cis: This week, I have an interview with token cis person and famed bisexual Gaby Dunn. Now, you may ask, why have a cis person on the podcast about gender? And the answer is that cis people also have genders and it’s important that we remember that. Everyone has a gender; everyone has a gender journey. And also because I think that Gaby’s thoughts are fun and very spicy.

But before we get to that I need to tell you that this show is sponsored by you, our beautiful Patreon donors. Thank you so much to everyone who donates their hard-earned dollars to help us keep making this show. It really means a lot. We are currently seventeen dollars away from hitting our first goal, which is really, really amazing. So if you go to patreon.com/gender and donate just five dollars, I will personally send you a thing in the mail. And now it’s time for This Week in Gender.

[trumpeting news music]

**Molly:** So, if you haven’t listened to episode 12 with Kevin Cook AKA Poison Waters, maybe go back and listen to that episode first, because it’s a great episode and underrated, but more importantly because that week in gender sets the scene for this week in gender. Basically, back in March the Sixth Circuit court of appeals ruled unanimously in favor of Amy Stevens, a Detroit woman who was fired from her job as a result of coming out as transgender. The court ruled that title 7 which prohibits employment discrimination based on sex can also be used to protect trans employees. As a result, republican officials from sixteen states, including thirteen attorneys general and three governors filed a brief urging the Supreme Court to overturn that ruling. In the brief they argued that title 7 does not protect on the basis of gender identity. The brief was signed by GOP officials from Alabama, Arkansas [laughs, sings] Alabama, Arkansas…anyway, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

Now, how important is this decision? Well, according to a 2015 survey, one in five trans folks have faced employment discrimination due to their gender identity. That’s nearly three hundred thousand people. And Honestly, I’d be shocked if it wasn’t higher than that. If you live in the United States and feel moved to act to prevent this, now’s the part where you call your senators and ask them to vote against the confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Nominee Bret Vaughan. Perhaps more importantly, now’s the time to talk to your state and local officials about passing legal protections for trans folks in your area. This is especially important if you’re cis because you’ve got that good, good cis privilege and folks will listen to you more than they’ll listen to trans folks begging for their own basic rights.

Sad but true. This has been This Week in Gender.

[trumpeting news music]

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**Molly:** Gaby Dunn is a writer, comedian, podcaster and actress living in Los Angeles. Her book *I Hate Everyone but You* was a New York Times bestseller in 2017. I read it, it was very good. She also makes a radical finance podcast called *Bad with Money* which I also extremely recommend, especially the episode about Amazon.

So the way we always start the show is by asking in terms of gender how do you identify?

**Gaby**: Sure, uh, I identify as a cisgender female. That’s why I was, like, nervous to come on the show, but…

Molly: I think it’s important that we sometimes get to ask cis people all of the inquisitive questions that trans people are normally asked and so, um, Gaby, how do you know that you’re a woman?

Gaby: Well that’s a great question. Uh, I think it’s just in my mind I know. Sometimes it’s, it’s jarring to me when, Like, when a waiter is like, “Hello, ladies,” I’m like, “who do you mean?” Or if someone is like “the girls” and then I’m [stumbles] also included in the girls, and like, that’s weird. But then I know I’m like, I’m a… but I am one. Like… I guess it’s just, I have like a really weird... experience where I went to an award show and I was wearing a suit, and everyone else there were wearing all the girls I was with were wearing dresses, and I felt very like they were, you know, like they were taking all these pictures together and complimenting each other’s’ dresses and being, like, you know, super… um, like cutesy about it, which is fine in their way and I felt like so left out and weird. Uhm, and like I didn’t, you know, I couldn’t really like stand with the dudes and be like, “Sup.” I mean, I could a little bit, but I also, ‘cause my date was like one of the girls that I also felt like, “Okay, where do I hang out?” Like if wear a suit, I feel like I gotta stand around with the dudes… and so sometimes I forget.

Like when, like when I hear stuff like, “Oh, we’re [incomprehensible] like Cosmos ladies,” I’m like, “What? Who are you talking to?” But I know that doesn’t, that doesn’t… mean… that I’m not like a, you know, it doesn’t mean I’m not a girl, like I still am, it’s just super… funny what’s marketed towards me, where I’m like, I don’t… what is this?

**Molly:** So, I’m wondering, because a lot of what you described really resonates with me as someone who does not identify as a woman, and so is there ever a moment where you question that, or whether you like had to like reckon with the fact that you were just like a gender non-conforming woman in some way, or like, not presenting in the way that people expected you… like what reassured you that like you were a woman, it just wasn’t the one that folks expected?

**Gaby:** It really just is all in my mind, just how I think of myself. Like, I… I... but I did have like a period of time where I was like, maybe I’m nonbinary, I should think about that, so I like read some books and like thought about it, and I was dating a guy at the time and he would get really annoyed if I would sometimes like, I was like wearing like gender neutral bathing suits for a while, and I was wearing, uhm, like Tomboy X bottoms and stuff, and uh, and I was like, jokingly like for like a couple months I would refer to myself as “y’boy”, and he did not like that I would call myself “y’boy”, I’d be like “Oh, y’boy’s dressed up today” or like, whatever, and he was like “Stop calling yourself ‘y’boy’”. I think it made him feel like he was gay or something. And there was like a period where I… I… we… he and I went to a wedding and it was like a conservative wedding and I wanted to wear a suit and he was like, “please don’t”, and so I, I didn’t. But I also had purple hair at the time so I didn’t fit in with the like Ann Coulter ladies either, so like…

**Molly:** [laughs]

**Gaby:** I… I… I don’t know what he thought we were hiding…

**Molly:** [laughs]

**Gaby:** Yeah, I thought about it, but… I think it’s more jokey to me to be like, “y’boy”, or like I stopped wearing the, I wore the gender-neutral bathing suits for a while, then I, I stopped. So like, I dunno. I don’t identify, like my younger sister is like really girly, and I don’t really… like, have much overlap with her. So I dunno.

**Molly:** Well I think it’s important that there are people who are… demonstrating that there are different ways to be a woman, right, and like just because you don’t fit every single stereotype of being like a girly-girl doesn’t mean you can’t be a woman, so I definitely wasn’t trying to question…

**Gaby:** No, no, no!

**Molly:** …you so much as interrogate it lovingly. [laughs]

**Gaby:** Yeah! No, it’s a good, it’s a good question. I had a whole thing where… yeah, I was like, doing this thing called Hot girls 2k sixteen, where like me and my friend were trying to look hot

**Molly:** [laughs]

**Gaby:** for 2016, and then that kinda lasted into 2017 but then I went through a breakup and I like cut my hair off and I was like “now it’s Butch 2k seventeen”. And then it was like Butch 2k seventeen, 2k eighteen, and then like my fans would comment and be like “Where’s femme Gaby?” And I’d be like “She’s dead!”

**Molly:** [laughs]

**Gaby:** And then now I’m like growing my hair out and I’ve said on one other podcast where I’m like Guys I’m like, really, I’m here to announce Femme 2k nineteen. Uh… She’s back, she’s better than ever.

**Molly:** [laughs]

**Gaby:** Uhh, so like, you know, I go through phases.

**Molly:** To me it seems like the queer community gets really fixated on like femme and butch labels. Do you feel pressured ever to like pick one and stick with one?

**Gaby:** No. And I have no idea… what I actually am… I was joking like, “Oh, Butch 2k seventeen” but then people were like, “You’re not butch, are you joking?” Someone was like, “Your soft butch,” and someone was like “You’re androgynous... Like a tomboy? I don’t know what you’re doing but it’s not butch.” And then, but I, when I was, I had a boyfriend, so when I was dating a guy I really tried to look like more masculine and now that I have a girlfriend who’s, who is a legitimate butch, like, for realsies…

**Molly:** [laughs]

**Gaby:** …I’m like, oh yeah, look feminine, I don’t care.

**Molly:** Before we get too far into this, what pronouns do you use?

Gaby: Oh, uh, she/her. But I also am like, if, if people wanna use they/them just to be safe that’s fine too. Like, you know what I mean, when they don’t know.

Molly: Yeah! I would hope that people would be okay with using they/them when they don’t know.

Gaby: People think it’s weird. But I default to it just ‘cause of A Camp and you never know what people’s pronouns are so a lot of times I say they. But I just had, uh, I have a *Bad With Money* book coming out in January and I just had it copy-edited and it was like so funny ‘cause um a lot of people I interviewed use they pronouns. And so like the copy-editing she felt like says all the things for the copy-editor to know. It said, uh, on the bottom it said uh, “they/them is acceptable if the person is queer.”

Molly: [laughs]

Gaby: And I’m like… and I said, “Ooh, ooh, so close.” You know what I mean, like, you’re like, A for effort.

Molly: Speaking of they/them. Did you make some they/them towels or theirs towels?

Gaby: Yeah, yeah! My girlfriend and I made theirs and theirs towels. As… after like a joke that I said, where I was like, “Oh the his and hers towels, there should be theirs and theirs towels.” And then my girlfriend was like, “that’s incredible.” Um, so we made them and we sold a bunch of ‘em and now we just reordered and we’re… and we reordered his and hers towels and then we’re gonna pair them with the theirs so now people can order his and theirs or hers and theirs…

Molly: Yay!

Gaby: …mixed towels. We opened an Etsy shop for it so…

Molly: Great.

Gaby: ‘Cause I kept going, oh I wanna give them out to my friends. And she was like, that’s not business.

Molly: It’s nice though.

Gaby: I know, but she’s like, do you understand how profits work?

Molly: I mean, don’t you have a podcast about money? [laughs]

Gaby: Oh, I’m horrible! This is…

Molly: I know the name of the podcast.

Gaby: Right. It’s *Bad With Money*. I’m really bad. My girlfriend was like, wow, wow. And I was like, I know!

Molly: Speaking of your girlfriend, you mentioned that she’s like for realsies butch and like she’s definitely pretty gender non-conforming and because of that you mentioned on the LGBTQ&A podcast recently that you might even be perceived as like a straight cis couple in some areas.

Gaby: Yeah, it happens a lot.

Molly: Yeah, so I’m just wondering like how much do you talk to her about gender.

Gaby: Oh boy, you’re catching us on quite a day…

Molly: Oh… [laughs]

Gaby: I don’t know, I dunno if she’ll care, we had like a massive argument about that today.

Molly: About gender?

Gaby: Yeah… because… It’s hard for me to understand her experience sometimes, um, which I’m sure is… pretty relatable to the people on this pod- listening ‘cause they are like, oh for sure, cis people don’t understand a lot of stuff. I really wish I could explain what I’m doing wrong and I wish she could fucking explain to me what I’m doing wrong but alas. We were at a communications crossroads. [sighs] She’s just resentful of the roles for women and she doesn’t like them but I also, so she like wants to behave like a boy, quote-unquote, but I think sometimes that behavior, it… you… you just can’t. Like, we were at the pool today and she wanted to wear board shorts and no shirt to the pool. And it’s a public pool. And I said, “you can’t do that.” And she was like, why? And I said, “Because you will be arrested and you will be charged as a sex offender.” And she said, “no.” And then she was mad that I made her put her shirt on. And then I said, “I just don’t want to have to limit where we live because you are gonna have to knock on everyone’s door and tell them that you’re a sex offender.” And she was like, “no, no, no, you’re wrong.” And just now we parted ways for me to do this podcast and she… I’ve got fifteen texts with the Cal-…

Molly: [laughs]

Gaby: California state penal code of her trying to prove to me that she is allowed… she, it’s literally like one thousand texts with like links to the penal code on indecent exposure and how I’m wrong and she can not wear a shirt to the public pool. And that I’m like, I was being like, a naggy whatever like, no fun person for telling her to put her shirt on. Which I did not know the penal code. That’s correct. I did not know it was legal in California. But also, like, I know the rules are stupid and I can’t, and I, I agree with you that they should be different but I’m also like a rule-follower a little bit.

Molly: Oh, that’s so funny, I have a vaguely similar experience where sometimes I will complain that I cannot go topless while men can and there’s a man who’s very close to me who will say, “Well, you can, it’s not illegal.” I’m like, I mean, yeah, it’s not illegal but do you think it’s gonna go well? [laughs] Do you think…

Gaby: …but…

Molly: Do you think people are gonna love it?

Gaby: She doesn’t care. She’s been public, she’s been topless at like private pools. Like she, in front of like friends that don’t know us that well. Like she’s, she’s like completely fine, like, she posts photos to Instagram with like stars over her nipples like she doesn’t care at all like who sees her topless. And that’s great but [unintelligible] her argument like if other people aren’t comfortable it’s not my problem.

Molly: Does she identify as cis?

Gaby: What a great question.

Molly: [laughs] Oh, man… Well I can’t get her on the podcast [laughs]

Gaby: I know, no she wouldn’t talk to you.

Molly: I know.

Gaby: She, look. [Sighs]. She, she identifies as a woman, she thinks it’s bullshit that she has to be a certain type of way. She likes playing on women’s sports teams and she likes female friends like she identifies as a woman. She just kind of has always had like a very low voice and a cut jawline. We were at the pool today and this, these two little eight year old girls swam up to us and they were like, talk- playing with us for a little while we were like doing flips and they were like, are you guys together? And we were like, yeah, yeah, we’re like a couple, we’re, and then we said we’re both girl- we’re girlfriends. And then they said, “Oh, you’re a girl?” to her. She was wearing a bikini. She said, “Yeah, I’m a girl.” And they said, “Oh, why do you talk like a boy?” And she said, “Because I like to.” And they said, “Oh, okay.” And then they said, “You guys are girlfriends?” And we said, “yeah, yeah, we’re a couple.” And they said, “oh!” And then like five minutes later one of them said, “She’s my girlfriend.”

Molly: [squees]

Gaby: And I said, and we both, Ellen and I were like, “Congrats! Like, we hope it works out!” They had a moment of like, they had to figure out that she was a girl and that was confusing. But they also were asking me like, ‘cause I had my bathing suit tied up, I mean they asked if she was a boy and then in like the same breath they were like, why is your bathing suit tied weird. And I was like, you guys have a lot of questions about anything that you think isn’t normal. I also really enjoyed Ellen saying “Because I like to talk like this.” Which isn’t true, that’s just what her voice is, but I like the idea that these girls were like, oh, okay.

Molly: Okay, speaking of sexuality, you are like famously bisexual. I feel like that’s part of your brand.

Gaby: Thank you so much.

Molly: Yeah, of course. There’s been a lot of discussion lately about the difference between bisexuality and pansexuality and omnisexuality and polysexuality, um, and like whether bisexuality upholds a gender binary or is transphobic or whatever. I would love to hear what bisexual means to you.

Gaby: Well I think it means attracted to people like you and people unlike you. ‘Cause I… I dunno, like I get why people are upset but that’s just the first word that I ever heard for it and that’s what I’ve always identified as and I love the community and I, I, you know, but I don’t think of it that way, ‘cause like, I’ve dated non-cis people and I never thought of it as like, “well I can only date men and women,” ‘cause that’s just not ever entered my mind. And, like, I think like yeah, pansexuality is just kind of like an evolution and it seems cool right now, like, it seems like the cool term. So I dunno, I always thought of it as personal preference. I know people are like, “no, bi means attracted to people of all genders and pansexuality means attracted to… people despite gender.” Which I truthfully… do not understand the difference between that, but maybe I’m just like… a little uneducated, I dunno.

Molly: Also speaking of sexuality, before you left twitter dot com you and I were tweeting about the phrase “born this way”.

Gaby: Yeah!

Molly: And to what extent it’s true and to what extent it’s a thing that we made up to placate straight people. So can you talk to me about your feelings about it.

Gaby: I hate it. I think a lot of what we do as queer people is to placate the straights and I’m tired of it. I think, like, while gay marriage was super important primarily, um, because of, uh, I think a lot of times because of the AIDS crisis which Cleve Jones has talked about a lot where he says that like, after, you know, partners were left destitute and they couldn’t visit their partners in the hospital and like, so marriage became super important in the gay community because of AIDS. Which… primarily. Which is what Cleve Jones says. And I tend to agree with that. But I think that there are other problems that we have and it’s just that straight people don’t understand them, like, marriage straight people can get, like that’s an easy one. But like, you know, trans bathroom or trans healthcare, or… like, specifically like, the high rates of suicide in the bi community just certain things that are like more specific I think they don’t understand. And, to me it’s just like, it’s not, I dunno why we kowtow to them, like it’s not their business to understand, it’s their business to respect it.

Molly: Yes!

Gaby: Especially if they don’t understand it.

Molly: Yes!

Gaby: So to me, “born this way” is a made-up thing that placates straight people because also I hate the implication that we would never choose this. Like, it’s this implication that like, of like, oh, they’re just born that way, they would never like choose to be gay like, it’s almost like us saying, like, “So sorry, if we could we would be another way, but like, eh, genetics.” You know what I mean? As a bisexual, and I get in trouble with other bi people for saying this and I, and I get it, I’ve been partnered with cis men and it’s been like… like I completely get it. But for me, and and on LGBTQ&A Jeff asked this. He was like, I think that right now during like me too and Trump, like, all of my bisexual female friends are only dating women or nonbinary people because they can’t stand straight cis men right now. Or even, I have even like a bi cis male partner that I was like, I can’t deal with you. Like there were certain things that were like really unfair to him because of my mindset at this time, like… he and I were, would go out, we went out to a movie one time and there was a rape scene in the movie and he and I were supposed to hang out afterwards and I was like, “I have to go home and I can’t look at you for twenty four hours.” And he didn’t do anything wrong! It’s just that I was like I can’t stomach this right now. Like it was almost like, it was almost like I had been like mauled by a bear and then I was like sleeping next to a bear. So like, I dunno, so like I really like had been sort of seeking and more comfortable dating women and, and… I’ve had my girlfriend we’re non-monogamous but like, in the past since she and I have been together… I, I haven’t been pursuing or interested in dudes like at all. I think like it’s unfair to say that everyone is like me or that all bi women are like me or that like if you’re, if you’re not doing what I’m doing you’re some kind of like, you know, bad feminist or bad woman or whatever. I, ‘cause I do not wanna, like, a lot of bi people that I’ve talked to have said honestly that they, that lesbians and other bi women are very judgy of them and they wouldn’t want to date those people anyway and they actually feel way more comfortable with their, um, cis male partner because they feel like that person like is more understanding and is actually like their safety. And I, I’ve experienced that too and I agree with that. Um, it’s just for me personally I like can’t… deal with it right now, especially because of like, it’s just kinda like past traumas too, like, like women have been, like in my dating, right, this girl like was like super mean to me. But that, that does not compare to like… this guy punched a cabinet over my head and this guy like was cheating and like whatever, and I like I know women can do bad things too but like in my experience… any time I’ve been with a woman or a queer person or nonbinary person or whatever… they’ve, whatever they did to like end the relationship or to like make the relationship bad or what I, what I did or whatever, has not even come close to what cis men have done to me.

Molly: Yeah.

Gaby: And I think about how much time I spent, and this is again my personal relationships, how much time I’ve spent explaining my humanity. Or deal…

Molly: Mhm!

Gaby: …or dealing with, like… ex-boyfriends who like didn’t believe in abortion or dealing with the ex-boyfriend who was like concerned that I might be nonbinary when like a lot of this stuff is so normalized to the queer people that I’ve dated. That it’s like, a… I don’t, I can’t waste the time anymore. But there are woke, you know what I mean? There are woke cis men, for sure! I just, I’m talking about my experience, like, the bi cis guy that I dated was so understanding and so wonderful and like more so than some lesbians I’ve come across. So like it really does depend, it’s just in my experience I like, I guess I’m dealing with trauma and I don’t wanna deal with it.

Molly: Yeah! Def- I mean, for real though. I mean I think it’s very fair to say, like, not every bi person or every bi woman is experiencing the same thing and many of them are like still happily pursuing men and also there’s this growing number of queer non-men who are increasingly only interested in pursuing other queer non-men. Like I think that’s a fair assessment.

Gaby: Mhm! I also like that I can bring her places. It’s fun that when we go to the spa we can be in the same bathroom, it’s fun. [Laughs]. It’s like small things. It’s like fun that, you know… I forgot today at the pool my friend came with her boyfriend and I was like, “Where is he?” And she said, “Oh, he’s in the other bathroom.” And I was like, “Weird!”

Molly: [Laughs] Yeah, and I mean, like, in the spaces that I’m most interested in are for women, they’re for queer people, they’re for trans people, they’re for folks of color and like…

Gaby: Which like, with the, with the bi guy I dated who is bi and Latino, he was like tot- you know, he went to queer spaces and stuff, he’s totally fine. So it really does depend.

Molly: Yeah! Um, so speaking of non-monogamy, uh, I’ve realized that in my mind most of the non-monogamous folks I knew were queer and most of the monogamous folks I knew were straight, but I don’t know…

Gaby: Mhm.

Molly: … if that’s even true or if it’s something I made up but I was wondering if like your polyamory or non-monogamy feels tied to your queerness in some way, or if they’re separate.

Gaby: For me, I don’t think they’re because of, but I think it’s helpful. It had been helpful to me when I’d been dating men, it’d been helpful to me… uh, to be able to hook up with women, but, which is, whatever, a stereotype, blah blah blah. Now that I have a, a… I guess my ex-girlfriend from 2014 I was still hooking up with men when we were non-monogamous but… now with my girlfriend I don’t, I’m not interested in men, so like if I hook up with other people it’s women or nonbinary people. I don’t know. Like, I… uhhh, I think I, I’m, I… I’m already open-minded from being bi so I think that is like helpful. Also that thing of like, oh, he’s looking at the waitress. I’m like, “So am I!” So like, I don’t know. Really, I look sometimes at straight memes a lot… to try to understand straight people [Molly laughs] ‘cause there’s like a lot of memes where it’s like, “When bae leaves his phone in the other room” or whatever and I’m like, what? What is that? Or like, there, you know, like, it seems like from straight memes they’re all cheating on each other. [Molly laughs]. From what I’ve gathered from my research. A lot of times my best friend Allison a lot of time she’ll tell me something her boyfriend did, she’ll be like “this, this and this,” and I’ll be like, “uh-huh,” and then I’ll be like, “Yeah! I know why we’re upset but if you could just…” [Molly laughs] “…tell me, that would be great. Why are we mad? I know why we’re mad, oh, I completely know, but if you could just also tell me that would be…” ‘Cause a lot of times straight girls are mad about stuff and I don’t really know why. But I’m also an alien where like I think monogamous people are mad all the time and I don’t understand why, like. I think I’m like missing some jealousy components where like people will be like, “and then they did this,” and I’ll be like, “and you *didn’t* think it was hot.” [Molly laughs] “Got it, got it, got it, I’m gonna write that down.

Molly: There’s like a reverse too thing though where like sometimes straight women will describe their partner and you’re like, “why aren’t you deeply upset about this?” You know? Like I’ve heard straight women be like, “Yeah, I would never have like a serious conversation about my feelings with my boyfriend,” and I’m like, “Why are you…”

Gaby: Oh my god! One of my, it’s like, Stockholm Syn- I’m really sorry, people are gonna get so mad. [Molly laughs] One of my friends said that she was talking to her boyfriend who she lives with and she was like, “he told me that he thinks Dylan Farrow’s lying.”

Molly: What!?

Gaby: And I was like, “And you live with him! Like, what are you gonna do?” And she was like, “I dunno, it’s fine.” And I was like, “UGHHH!” [Molly laughs] That to me is like a horror movie. But I was deep in a relationship with a dude in New York and he was like, and I said something about if I had to get an abortion and he was like, “Oh I don’t think I would want you to do that.”

Molly: Woah!

Gaby: And I was like, “Oh, I wouldn’t tell you.” And I was like a year in and I was like [long scream] What?

Molly: [Laughs] There is like the best audio from this podcast ever, just like a lot of pterodactyl screaming.

Gaby: Oh, uh, that’s kind of a habit that I have where like if I don’t know what to respond to someone I’ll be like [long scream]

Molly: [Laughs]

Gaby: Like if, and I have never… had that happen where I’m dating a queer person. Like I have never had even the bi guy like I have never had them say something to me that was so bananas like I have with cis straight men. Like I have never had, I mean the, like maybe my girlfriend will come to me and be like, “I’m a flat-earther,” but it’s never, it’s never anything that like questions my humanity, you know? The worst thing she could say is she like she’s like, “I think vaccines are bad.” And I’d be like, “…okay, that’s lunacy, but…” [Molly laughs] “…it doesn’t mean that you think I’m not human, you know?” I’m talking so much shit. Is your audience gonna like that or hate that?

Molly: I dunno, we’re gonna find out together. I feel like I talk a lot of shit. We’ll see.

Gaby: Oh, I have so many problems, like I was on… *Yo, is this Racist?* which is my friend Andrew’s podcast. It was like years ago and I was talking shit and I was being really vague about who I was talking about, like famous comedians, and then I was, I, he, at no prompting of his I went, “Ah, fuck it!” and started naming names. [Molly laughs] And he, he didn’t ask me to do that and he didn’t prompt me to do it, like I like talked myself into it in my own… I like don’t thi- [sighs] It’s fine.

Molly: I love that. It’s great.

Gaby: Thanks.

Molly: I can’t stop thinking about Ellen just not wanting to wear a shirt to the pool. Do you have any other examples of like her just being like, I don’t want to do this thing for gender?

Gaby: I know and I… and I feel like maybe I’m unsupportive but there’s certain things like if we’re walking on the sidewalk I’m sort of conditioned to like if a man is coming to like walk out of the way and let him walk where, in, where he was going. And Ellen will stand her ground. So either he has to move or they bump into each other. That, and I get so scared of that, like I’ll just subconsciously move and she will barrel into someone. And I’m like, you live with no fear. Like, how is this possible? Every day I go, that person could have a gun.

Molly: Yeah!

Gaby: And she’s like, “Why am I gonna live in fear just ‘cause I’m a woman,” and I’m like, “I dunno, um, experience and life?” But I, I also like have anxiety so she has to understand sometimes that like my anxiety wins out. She gets frustrated by how much fear I have. She thinks I’m like a catastrophizer so like if I’m like, if I’m like, “You can’t wear not a, you can’t not wear a top at the pool, you’re gonna be a sex offender!” She’s like, “How did you jump to sex offender.” But I feel bad because like she’s right, she shouldn’t have to follow those rules but I also know that there’s consequences.

Molly: Yeah, like she shouldn’t have to follow those rules and also, there could be a gun, you know? Wow, let’s ask a question, shall we? You make a podcast called *Bad With Money*. You’re also coming out with a book, I’m stoked on it.

Gaby: Thank you.

Molly: I love your podcast because there was a time several months ago where I was looking explicitly for any sort of like financial, economic wisdom that was queer or intersectional or radical and your podcast was the only thing I could find, like there is just not that resource out in the world.

Gaby: No, I’m trying to be the intersectional Suze Orman. She’s gay, I’m comin’ for her [Molly laughs] but there’s, there’s also, she’s gay and very mainstream about her advice which is sort of weird, but also there’s a podcast called *Queer Money*…

Molly: Oh!

Gaby: … that is two cis white gay dudes, so it’s a little bit of a different thing but they, um, they’re less radical than me because they’re coming, they’re a partner, they’re partners and they worked in finance together so they have, I’ve interviewed them on my show and they have like good perspective but it’s a little… more mainstream than me.

Molly: Yeah. So with everything you’ve learned about money over the last three seasons I’m wondering if you have any advice for all the queer and trans folks that are suffering under capitalism and like, you know, experiencing all of those systemic shit that comes with that. Obviously that’s a huge question but.

Gaby: Mhm. I’ve a lot of, um, problems… ‘Cause part of me is like, “yeah! Let’s go throw bricks through Bank of America windows!” And then the other part of me is like, “I gotta have a retirement fund.” I mean, I think like voting and really like being engaged with student loan forgiveness and minimum wage and stuff that really affects our generation is very important. Um, and like voting for people who believe in trans healthcare and stuff like that. But I also think, uh… it’s, it’s good to find financial advisors or like friends who are like you. ‘Cause you don’t want a financial advisor who’s like, a, a old white guy, I think, like… It’s hard to find, you’ve to seek them out, but you can find people who are like you or even talk to your friends about what they’re doing to get financial advice, like… Uh, you know, there aren’t that many but there are some trans financial advisors that you can like do Skype sessions with no matter where you are. And you should like seek them out if you are trans or, um, I met a girl at A Camp named Cat Burns who is a black queer financial advisor. And you can, if you’re black and queer you should talk to her. So like, I think seeking out people who are like you because like data shows that the people who can give you the best advice about your financial situation are the people who are in your same community and who live in your community. So even like your, your… personal community but also it’s really important to talk to people like that li- your friends that like live near you, because they’re most likely to have similar financial situations. And just ask them, like, “Who’s your accountant? What do you pay in rent? Where do you go for car repairs that has good, you know, rates, or whatever.” Because people don’t talk to each other. And like, talking to people in your community and talking to people… even in your like physical community is really important.

Molly: Speaking of advice… I have found that as a person who doesn’t identify as cis… cis people find other cis people infinitely more credible than me…

Gaby: I know…

Molly: …about my experience and I know that this is like the same as every marginalized group but I’m using myself as an example… um, as our resident cis person, do you have any advice for other cis people about how they could not be so bad about gender?

Gaby: Shut the fuck up.

Molly: [Laughs]

Gaby: Shut up!

Molly: That’s exactly what I was looking for.

Gaby: I did a meme… I do memes now. And I did a meme that was, it’s the picture of Ariana Grande licking a lollypop looking at Pete Davidson, and I did a meme that was Pete Davidson was “Trans people minding their goddamn business” and then Ariana Grande looking at him like thirsty was “Cis reporters with hot takes”.

Molly: Oh my GOD! [Laughs]

Gaby: ‘Cause I was just like, I can’t deal… why do you hire… why would you hire a cis person to write about trans people? As if you guys are some sort of alien community [Molly laughs] who can’t write about themselves, and like, we, the objective person is the one who’s like outside the community. Are you kidding me? Like, really, like we have to go study you guys like apes? Like it’s not, there doesn’t need to be a goddamn Jane Goodall of trans people [Molly laughs] You guys don’t need to… you guys can talk- tell us.

Molly: Yeah, but see we’re biased, ‘cause we have like the transgenda to uphold. [Laughs]

Gaby: Whatever! You guys have the cis agenda! It’s so so weird. Also like this preoccupation with, I really think… here’s my theory. As I just said, cis people shouldn’t have takes but here’s my theory. [Clears throat]. I think that cis men are obsessed with trans women because they are worried that they might have at one point kissed a trans woman and not known. And it’s just like a gay panic and toxic masculinity coming together for a perfect storm. And it is so based in fear. And I’m like, this makes you look so like, it’s like, you’re like a person who’s like in the eighteen hundreds like scared of electricity. [Molly laughs] “It’s the devil’s electricity!” I’m like, “You sound nuts!” That’s my take!

Molly: It’s a good take. Alright. The way we always end the show is by asking in your ideal world what does the future of gender look like?

Gaby: Just leave people alone to do what they want. Why do you care? I’m so confused as to why they care so much what other people do. Like, you don’t go, like you, it’s just like, why do you care? Like, nobody’s hurting anyone. Who gives, who gives a shit what other people are doing? It’s so weird these people who are like so into like privacy laws or whatever and they’re so concerned about what other people are doing in their own homes. It’s like, just… let people do whatever they want to do and leave them alone. Like a person is like, “I would prefer to be called they/them.” It’s like, okay. Fuckin’ Lady Gaga asked us to call her Lady Gaga and we all do it! [Molly laughs] Everyone’s like, “This is, this guy’s name is Ice T” and everyone is fine with that! [Molly laughs] And then like a trans person is like, “Call me Jenna” and everyone is like, “no.” What?? No one makes any sense to me.

Molly: [Laughs]. I mean the only thing I can think is just that there are lot of cis people who… followed… gender roles because they thought it was literally the only option and maybe it was the only option and then when they found out that other people didn’t have to follow those gender roles they’re like very intensely jealous that there’s actually an existence…

Gaby: I think so to! I think that’s why people are anti-polyamory, ‘cause they’re jealous. [Molly laughs] Oops! Oooh, [screams]. [singing] This is why I don’t have twitter anymore, you can’t at me.

Molly: [Laughs] Yeah, I’m gonna get all of your, uh… angry DMs, I don’t think we get angry DMs. Maybe we will now.

Gaby: I’m here for controversy. I said that to Cameron Esposito on her podcast, I was like, I’m just here to end your show.

Molly: I listened to that, that was a good episode.

Gaby: People got real mad.

Molly: Really?

Gaby: Yeah, because I… because I… they thought that I was saying that bisexuals shouldn’t date men.

Molly: But it’s okay, we clarified. We’ve got a whole clarification in this episode, so…

Gaby: I know…

Molly: …you have to get mad about other things.

Gaby: Yeah, well, I say that all the time, I’ll be like, “Dating men, in this economy?” But that’s a JOKE! And also I’ll be like, look, I’m here to get written about and to like cause controversy. Like I always say, I would rather be on the worst dressed list than not talked about at all.

Molly: Yeah, you’re secretly like a really meek, mild-mannered person but you’re like, oh for my, for my buzz I gotta come in and stir up as much shit as possible.

Gaby: That’s honestly the truth, Molly. [Molly laughs].

[*Gender Reveal* theme plays in background]

**Molly**: That’s gonna do it for this week’s show. If you liked the show, please rate and review on iTunes and be sure to tell all your friends who are bad with gender that this is the show for them. That was actually a *Bad With Money* joke that landed with maybe three people.

But anyway, please do send the show to all of your friends and clueless relatives and if you have thoughts or feelings about this show you can reach us by email, twitter, an anonymous google form, all of those links are in the show notes. You can also find me on Instagram and Twitter. You can also find Gaby on Instagram @gabyroad.

Gaby has a new book called *Bad With Money: The Imperfect Art of Getting your Financial Shit Together*. It’s available for preorder now. Please preorder it, and please preorder it from pals.com and not amazon.com. Please, I beg you.

I don’t have a new book out, but I aspire to one day. And you can help that goal by donating to the show [Patreon.com/gender](http://patreon.com/gender) or [PayPal.me/MollyWoodstock](http://paypal.me/MollyWoodstock) or even cash at mollywoodstock, why not? Our show was edited by me. Our logo is by the talented Michelle Leigh, our theme song is by the legendary Breakmaster Cylinder. We’ll be back next week with more feelings about gender.

[theme song ends]