[*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 everyone. I hope you’re having a good week. I’ve been having a rough one. But then friend of the show Z Griffler flew all the way to Oregon and we went camping and we saw the Milky Way. And we decided the Milky Way was good. So I’m okay now. Z and I also made a bunch of really exciting content for you. That’s for next week and next season. This week I’m excited to share a joint interview with Rebecca and Joanna of the Trans Specific Partnership Podcast which you first heard back in episode 12.5. But before that, I need to tell you that this podcast is sponsored by you, our Patreon donors. Thank you so much. You know, sometimes folks have to cancel their donations because life circumstances change which I a hundred percent understand and support. Please take care of yourselves. But last week a few different folks had to cancel their pledges which means that we are now further away from our goal than we were last week. And you know, we’re working on a bunch of new projects for you all including transcripts, a website, season three of the podcast, some exciting surprises that are in the works but I don’t wanna announce just yet. We can’t do that without your help so if you’ve been listening since the beginning and you’re in a position to donate, please consider doing that. Cis folks, I am talking to you. Use that good, good cis privilege. If you can’t donate financially, it is just as helpful for folks to share the show with friends and coworkers and strangers, so please do that, but if you do wanna donate you can do that at patreon.com/gender or Paypal, or Cash app, and as you know I will send you stickers in the mail if you donate just $5.

And now it’s time for This Week in Gender.

[trumpeting news music]

**Molly:** This week in gender honestly makes no sense at all, but I am going to try to make sense of it anyway for you because that is my job. Last month a Brown University professor named Lisa Littman published an academic paper in Plus One, a journal that according to an academic friend of the show is not very choosy about what it publishes. And boy is that obvious from this story. The paper we’re talking about today is entitled “Rapid onset gender dysphoria in adolescents and young adults**:** A study of parental reports.” Now, as you may already remember from this show, rapid onset gender dysphoria, which I will henceforth call rogd, because why the fuck not, is largely considered a myth by the trans community. The phrase was coined by transphobic parents of trans kids on blogs that specifically promoted anti-trans propaganda. Specifically, these parents that their trans kids aren’t really trans, they’re cis girls who were totally happy being cis and playing into gender roles until they hit puberty and were suddenly peer pressured into transitioning by their friends and various YouTube celebrities. And reading the parental testimonies on these rogd blogs it becomes extremely obvious that these parents are just in denial about their kids being trans and rogd is like not a thing in the way these parents are describing. And yet, Lisa Littman sets out to study rogd, which like sure, that’s what scientists do, that’s fine, but the way that she chooses to study it is absolutely just off the wall. She sends online surveys to the parents who claim that their children have rogd. And what she found is that many of these kids were experiencing increasingly bad mental health and increasingly poor parent-child relationships. These kids are also isolating themselves from their parents and their cis friends and “only trust information about gender dysphoria from transgender sources.” Like, holy shit of course you’d wanna use transgender sources about gender dysphoria. And Lisa concludes that these rogd kids don’t have normal gender dysphoria, they have something else, because why else would they be isolating themselves from their parents and hanging out with trans kids. Are you fucking kidding me. Of course kids are going to start pulling away from their parents if their parents are saying they aren’t really trans. Of course kids are going to have bad mental health outcomes if their communities is openly unsupportive of them being trans. That doesn’t mean they’re not trans. It just means they have shitty transphobic parents. What the fuck is wrong with all of you?

So, a bunch of folks reached out to Brown University and was like, hey, this is really bad. Could you not?” And Brown University sensibly pulled the news of the study from its website, although the study is still published. You can read it for free on Plus One if you wanna scream. Meanwhile, all of these right-wing media outlets are losing their minds, because Brown University is supposedly censoring this anti-trans research. They’re also having a field day because they finally get to report on rogd as if it’s fact and not anti-trans propaganda. The Federalist ran an article that makes me physically ill to think about. The headline is “Is transgender the new anorexia? New study suggests so.” Don’t read it, it’s just as bad as you think it is.

Look, I’m not saying that nobody should study gender dysphoria, but if you wanna study quote rapid onset gender dysphoria, you really just wanna study gender dysphoria in kids with unsupportive parents, and to do that you can’t just ask the parents about what’s happening with their kids, because these parents have no idea about what’s going on with their kids, because that’s sort of the entire point. You’ve gotta talk to the kids about their own experiences, obviously. Otherwise it’s just cis people interviewing other cis people about whether trans people are actually trans and as Gaby said last week, we don’t need a Jane Goodall for trans people. We can talk for ourselves.

This has been This Week in Gender.

[trumpeting news music]

[background music plays]

**Molly:** Joanna Cifredo is a trans Latina activist. Joanna divides her time between advocating for progressive causes, performing stand-up, and supporting LGBTQ young people during the day as the media relations manager at Glisten. Rebecca Kling is an educator, storyteller, and advocate for trans rights. She’s currently the education program director at the National Centre for Transgender Equality and Rebecca has previously worked as a touring educator and and a performance artist. Both Joanna and Rebecca identify as women and use she/her pronouns. This recording involved a very long struggle with Skype, so apologies for any weird glitches that made it into the final cut.

[music ends]

I was just wondering if you could talk about your podcast and how it got started and how you two – yeah, decided to collaborate on this.

**Rebecca:** Sure, so Joanna and I have been friends for a long time, but when I moved to DC in 2016, we also were working together and through that and through living in the same city became really close and would regularly have these conversations where we would agree on a ton but then just get into really heated exchanges about maybe a little bit of things where we disagreed.

**Joanna:** Don’t say heated exchanges.

**Rebecca:** [Laughs] They weren’t heated exchanges?

**Joanna:** No? Like, maybe a little contentious, but like, I dunno, that… heated makes it sound like we were like duking it out or like fighting.

**Rebecca:** No! We would disagree with love and with respect for each other, but also with a lot of debate and a lot of contention and a lot of back and forth and not always coming to an agreement and… We were really enjoying those conversations and also, um, subjecting our friends to them or were at a party or a gathering or whatever. We would sort of go off on our own. And... decided it would be fun and a cool thing – neither of us had done a podcast before – to try and capture some of those conversations and find ways to share them with people.

**Joanna:** Every now and then, Rebecca, when I realized that like, I’m not gonna sway her and she’s not gonna sway me I’d just give in and go, “Okay, fine.” [Molly laughs] And it gets under her skin and I love it. [Molly laughs]

**Molly:** For your podcast, do you have a specific audience that you are reaching towards that you’d like to speak to?

**Joanna:** I think whether we have that audience is [laughs] is the real question. [ Molly laughs]

**Rebecca:** Yeah, I think we started it really as a project for ourselves and have been really delighted that it seems to be resonating with people…

**Joanna:** And by people we mean our friends.

**Rebecca:** It seems to be resonating with my mom and… this is a space where like… there’s sort of jokes where like we’ve hid peak podcast, that Trader Joes had a five episode podcast and if Trader Joes has a fucking podcast there’s no room for more podcasts…

**Molly:** Mhm.

**Rebecca:** Well, there are a ton of queer podcasts and there are even some that are by trans people or talking about trans issues. I’m not familiar with any that are trans women really talking with each other and engaging in a ton of different stuff but from a trans perspective.

**Molly:** Right.

**Joanna:** And also that come from, that have our… political and activist backgrounds.

**Rebecca:** Yes.

**Joanna:** You know. Both me and Becca have worked doing grassroots work. You know, um, supporting young activists, we’re both camp counselors, we both have lobbied extensively and worked on the Hill and pushed for, for, um, new comprehensive policies that support young people and queer people and so I think having that, that… both personal experience but professional experience adds to our unique perspective.

**Rebecca:** We do have all of those things in common but we come from very different backgrounds. We have different identity experiences, we have different dating experiences, and relationships with family and relationships with education and that has really given us again a lot of commonality but also a lot of places where we don’t necessarily agree.

**Molly:** Yeah. Um, I don’t wanna stir up any shit but do you have any examples of like places where you don’t necessarily agree, like topics that you wanted to explore with the show?

**Joanna:** We’ve discussed possibly doing uh… like maybe a YouTube video or a video with many different trans identities and talking about, uh… transgender youth saying, uh being used as maybe an umbrella term that encompasses many different identities. So that’s a conversation that I’m looking forward to having. Also, I’m looking forward to having like a conversation on, uh, transracial identity, because like when Rachel Dolezal came out, a lot of… there was a lot of conversation around, if Caitlyn Jenner identifies as a woman and we have to believe her when she says she is who she says she is, why don’t we extend that to Rachel Dolezal, so I’ve been wanting to at some point have a conversation about that. Specifically with some of our black trans friends and unpacking why it’s problematic and why those two things are different.

**Rebecca:** I also remember us talking – um and this I do think that he did about gun reform and finding ways to make um schools in particular but public spaces in general safer and agreeing broadly that that is a good thing but not agreeing necessarily on the way to go about that or what priorities should be in the progressive movement.

**Molly:** You mentioned that both of you have a lot of like really relevant professional experience and you both lobbied on the Hill. Could you both, um, like explain the organizations that you work for and the work that you do there please?

**Joanna:** We, me and Rebecca, we met years ago at the, uh, in Chicago during an event and we, we really got close while we were both working at the National Centre for Transgender Equality located in Washington, DC, and that’s where a lot of our, well, my like lobbying and pushing for certain federal policies. A lot of my policy work came from there. Currently I’m a media relations manager for Glisten, which is the national advocacy organization that advocates for safe and inclusive schools for LGBTQ youth. And that’s another area that me and Becca have both bond over, we both have a strong passion for supporting young people. And so, yeah, that’s where I’m currently housed.

**Rebecca:** And I’m still at the National Centre for Transgender Equality as the education program director, uh, running and overseeing some of our public education campaigns helping trans folks and allies share some of their experiences as a way to build support for trans rights. And part of what that has involved is training folks to go share their stories with elected officials so that policy makers can understand really concretely how these policies impact trans people as well as the families and friends and colleagues of trans people.

**Molly:** Are there any specific policies or legal cases or anything that’s going on right now that you feel like folks should be more aware of than they are, like anything that you wanna draw specific attention to?

**Rebecca:** We recently had the Bureau of Prisons at the federal level change their policies around transgender inmates, whereas before they took into account gender identity and the safety of the inmate and now they are saying they are no longer gonna take into account gender identity which means that I as a trans woman could potentially be housed with men. That’s a huge safety issue and a huge identity problem. Um, when we look at ICE and Immigrations and Customs Enforcement they are doing similar things that are, um, dangerous and mistreating of trans people seeking asylum and treating them as prisoners. When we look at, um, policies around the affordable care act there looks like there’s gonna be movement to try and roll back some protections that courts have consistently ruled include trans people but the current administration doesn’t seem to care what the courts really think and so are looking to…

**Molly:** Mhm.

**Rebecca:** …find ways to make trans people less protected when it comes to healthcare.

**Molly:** I was wondering because like when I was a kid and in school, even high school, there were maybe like one or two out gay kids and zero out trans kids and I understand that that’s like changing across the country. And I was just wondering since you both are like really passionate about like working with LGBTQ youth, do you have a sense of like, I’m sure it’s really different across the country, but what is it like to be an LGBTQ youth right now and like what are the main issues they’re facing and how can we support them?

**Rebecca:** One of the things that’s frustrating about a lot of issues that are facing trans people is it can be drastically different even county-to-county let alone state-to-state. And…

**Joanna:** Or person to person.

**Rebecca:** Absolutely, or, or different classrooms within the same school based on what the teachers feel like doing. And there are trans and more broadly LGBTQ youth who are phenomenally supportive in schools that affirm their identities and make sure that the classroom curriculums include diverse voices and that, um, LGBTQ identity is celebrated. And there are students potentially within the same district or even the same school who, and, and that might be a little bit of hyperbole, but certainly within the same state, who have drastically different experiences and have administrations that are not supportive and have teachers that are singling them out and have students that are bullying them without any repercussions and that’s part of why this is such a big issue because a young person’s safety and comfort and ability to thrive in school shouldn’t change if they change grades or change classrooms or have a different substitute.

**Joanna:** I actually don’t think it’s hyperbole to say that experiences can even change within the same school from student to student. When you talk about whether a student’s able to pass as cis… [unintelligible] we complicate a person’s identity through the lenses of race and socioeconomic class, you can have two trans students in the same school and one may have access because of their parents to healthcare, to mental health services, while another student may come from a different background, may come from a different religious background, may have a different… may be living with a caretaker or be in foster care. And their experience of not having someone necessarily advocate from them can be wildly different from another trans student within the very same school.

**Rebecca:** That’s a really great point because the school can be phenomenal but if the family isn’t supportive that’s the other sixteen hours of the day and that’s gonna have a huge impact.

**Molly:** Well, speaking of race, uh, Joanna I know that you’ve worked a lot with, uh trans and Latina populations and I was wondering if there was like, anything specific about like the trans Latina experience which I understand is not a monolith just like no experience is a monolith, but is there anything to that specifically which you feel like is like underrepresented or under-talked about, I guess?

**Joanna:** One of the things that we often gloss over during, uh, the Trans Day of Remembrance which is held every year on November 20th is that the vast majority of those who are murdered globally are trans Latinas, um, from Latin America. So when we look at trans Latina immigrants here in the United States being deported or being put into detention centers, one, being placed in a detention center, any time when you look at those who are most victimized within detention and, and confinement settings, so like prisons, jails, and detention centers and juvenile detention centers, trans feminine folks tend to be those who are most victimized. They experience the most abuse from other inmates, other prisoners, and um, officers as well. And when they are deported, uh, they are often deported to countries that are extremely hostile and we’ve seen an uptick in… of that now during the Trump administration. And, like I said, last year I think it was over, like over 300 trans Latinas who were murdered globally.

**Rebecca:** Shifting slightly but thinking about that experience and Joanna please correct me if I’m wrong because this is not my own experience, I’ve also talked with folks who at a language level have difficulty explaining what their identity is in Spanish to their families. My – I just had a request from a friend who was looking for resources to try and help her Spanish speaking parents understand what her experience is and what language they can use to respect her and that’s gonna be an experience that a lot of folks have regardless of trans identity, of sometimes having to play interpreter for family members and there’s an added layer when the, some of the gendered language makes that really difficult. Um, do you feel like that’s accurate, Joanna?

**Joanna:** Yeah, I… Actually, to that point… We often forget that language is a privilege. And so, even I’ve communicated with trans Latinas from Latin America who describe themselves as *homosexuales*, homosexuals, because that’s the language that has been imposed onto them. And because they haven’t had access to be able to contextualize their experiences, um, or to more accurately identify themselves, they tend to just take on, uhh, an identity or identifier that’s imposed onto them. Um, another thing, more Latinas, trans Latinas identify as transsexuals because the word that we tend to use in Latin America for transgender is *transexual.* So you’ll hear more specifically Latinas from Latin America refer to themselves as *transexuales* and in some parts of Latin America that’s [unintelligible] which translates into transvestite. Um, but again, language is one of those things that’s forever evolving and lots of times Latin America tends to take its cues from those of us here in the United States.

**Rebecca:** And what’s important to mention with that is some of this language is new. The word transsexual was invented in the first part of the twentieth century, but the experiences are not new. There have always been people who have identities that we might today call trans, who have experiences of attraction that is not binary, or of identity that is not binary, or of gender that is not binary. So the language might be new but the experience absolutely is not. So you have people pushing back against trans folks and one of the arguments that they use is, well, this is just new, it’s a fad, it’s a phase. And it’s not! You can find trans people, or people that we might call trans but might use different language, at every part of the world, at every point in history. And yeah, the way we’re talking about it in the twenty-first century in the United States is absolutely changing but that doesn’t mean that the experience or that the identity is new.

**Joanna:** The way you said that it’s changing, do you remember a few years ago when we used to use trans with the asterisk?

**Rebecca:** Yeah, for like a week and a half. [Pause]. But I think that’s an example of people trying different things and the trans asterisk was intended to be more inclusive and to find ways to really celebrate different identities anda fter a couple months people felt like, you know, maybe we don’t need trans asterisk, maybe it’s already inclusive enough. Or, rather than trans being inclusive enough or trans asterisk being too inclusive or whatever, I don’t agree with that, trans asterisk is maybe just difficult to say, and difficult to write, and… um, sort of popped up and bubbled up and was really hot for a while and sort of faded away.

**Molly:** You know what’s so wild about trans with the asterisk is that the Oxford English Dictionary just added it two months ago and I’m just like… why? Why now? Why? That’s kinda my whole thought.

Um, anyway, alright, you mentioned that you’re both camp counsellors, can you talk about that? I know that y’all work at a really cool camp.

**Rebecca:** Camp Aranu’tiq was a camp founded by a trans man who grew up going to girl scout camp every summer and loved the camp part of it and not so much the gender part and as an adult decided to found a camp for trans and gender variant youth. The goal is to provide a sort of a traditional camp experience. It is not therapy camp, it is not activist camp, it is not, um, training people to be trans, whatever that would mean. It is intended to be camp. So there’s arts and crafts, and hiking, and canoeing, and field games, and camp songs, and smores, and a variety show at the end of the week… and it’s grown from forty campers, and it was in 2010, to now over five hundred campers each summer in a dedicated site. Trans Aranu’tiq was able to purchase a former girl scout camp that we now are able to run programming and, uh, not quite year round, but certainly run programming a lot longer than when we were renting space from others. And this will be I think my seventh summer with Camp Aranu’tiq. I started as a counsellor and am now helping to run some of the sessions and Joanna I managed to rope into being a camp counsellor this past summer and then we’re gonna both be at the family camp this upcoming summer. The main camp program is for, um… specifically for certain age ranges and without family. The family camp is two weekends over the summer, we’re both gonna do the Labor Day session, and family members, parents, siblings can come, as well as campers who are maybe outside of our usual age range. And I never did sleepaway camps growing up, I did day camps but never sleepaway camps, and it’s really something. To see maybe a hundred or a hundred and twenty trans and gender variant youth running around and figuring out their identity and talking with each other. Every summer there is some camper who comes in and didn’t either understand or didn’t believe that it is a camp of trans folks and will have a moment on the first day of like, wait, you’re trans, and you’re tarns, and you’re trans, and I’m trans, and we’re trans together?

Molly: Aww

Rebecca: And it’s really beautiful. And having been there for a number of years it’s been a privilege to see some of these campers who I had when they were nine graduate out at fifteen and hopefully come back in a few years as counsellors in training and I have absolutely no doubt are gonna just run the world when they… maybe not even when they get a little older, are gonna run the world starting very soon.

Joanna, what was your experience like? Because I, it’s been long enough since my first year that I’ve sort of gotten used to the rhythm, and the culture, and the things that I love and the things that I sort of hold my nose and put up with and I’m curious what your experience was.

Joanna: So there was the experience of camping and roughing it which I hated. [Laughter] Like I grew up poor and lived without AC and, you know, all that stuff, like, but not, and I’ve been homeless, so I don’t really care for camping all that much, I’ll be honest with you. But seeing the young people and hanging out with them and getting to know the parents, that was amazing. I was in charge of, so I went to family camps, so you’re able to bring your parents and siblings and stuff like that, and I was in charge of the three six year olds so it consisted of some trans children and some of the siblings, and they were so adorable, and they were so much fun, um, so yeah, I loved camp. It was really great being able to provide some kind of reassurance to the parents who were like unsure about the future of their young person and like just being, for them to be able to see like, you know, adult trans people who are not just surviving but thriving, um, I think it really changed their outlook and just being able to like engage with the young people and talk with them and find out like, you know, how their experiences are, as young queer, young trans people. SO yeah, I found it extremely rewarding in that sense, the like compost toilet not so much.

Rebecca: It’s funny you should say that because one of the things that’s always really interesting is the reaction of campers and the reaction of parents to the site. And here are parents who, you know, the campers are in cabins and they’re not insulated cabins, they’re three season cabins, so they have three screens and stuff, they have electricity but not air conditioning. And the toilets, I thin we’re getting the toilets replaced so they will no longer be composting, but you have to walk to them and there’s a shower house and that sort of thing. And every summer there are some parents who come and say, “Wow! This is amazing! This is so much nicer than the camps I went to growing up!” And there are some parents, and every year some campers who have a similar reaction of like, wait, what do you mean no air conditioning, what do you mean bugs, what do you mean dirt? The other thing that is always powerful is – and thank you for bringing it up – is a lot of these parents are in isolated communities and don ‘t necessarily have adult trans folks that they’re interacting with on a day-to-day basis. So it’s fun to see the campers every year, oh my god there are so many trans people here, and it’s also fun to see the parents here every year, of, wait, there are parents going through the same thing I’m going through and there are trans adults here who are helping with this camp and are running this camp and are taking care of our kids and then are going home the rest of the year to live amazing lives and in those ways it’s not stuff that we hit over the head, but it is this really beautiful subtle form of helping change what people think about being trans.

Molly: I did ask both of you if there’s anything you specifically wanted to talk about so I wanted to make sure we touch on that before we go. So Joanna, I know you have a lot of feelings about transgender representation in media. So, what are we seeing in the media right now and what do you want to see in the future?

Joanna: Well, *Pose* just came out on Fox, what was it, June third, it was this Sunday, and I’m so excited to devour that piece of media deliciousness. Janet Mock is one of the creators and one of our good friends Angelica Ross, who we’re really proud of, and I’m really excited for that, to see a product, a mainstream product that is created and starring trans people, and seeing how they attack difficult issues such as HIV/AIDS, and men who are attracted to trans women, and sex work, and chosen families, so I’m really excited to see what that looks like when it comes from a trans lens. Specifically, from people who have experienced many of those things.

Rebecca: There are a huge range of depictions of trans people in the media and it’s really easy to focus on the ones that are imperfect or negative or sometimes even actively harmful. And so I, Joanna, I am so glad that you brought up *Pose* and that we’re in this moment where there is a shift and there are some really phenomenal, authentic, nuanced depictions of trans people as well as trans folks making their own media whether it’s us with our podcasts, whether it’s Her Story, which is a phenomenal web series that everyone should go watch –

Molly: Mhm!

Rebecca: -- whether it’s some of the writers or actors from *Transparent* who have used that, some of the trans folks in that show, who have used that as a launching platform for their own careers, it’s… there can always be more depictions of trans people and there can always be better depictions of trans people, and I would say that’s true of every identity, not just trans folks. But it’s really exciting to see what feels like a real shift in the right direction.

Molly: Rebecca, you said that it was really important to you that we talk about the importance of speaking out for minority rights of all sorts. So I guess what is your advice for like, speaking out for minority rights of all sorts without getting overwhelmed and sort of becoming ineffective?

Rebecca: Well, I would say the first thing is, there is a range of things that people can do. I don’t think everyone has a responsibility to be out marching every day. I do think everyone has a responsibility to do something. And that might be as simple as asking a question when a friend posts something really mean on facebook and saying, “Hey, I’m not sure why this is funny.” It might be as simple as when you’re making a form at work you’re being mindful of how people are gonna self-identify so you’re not limiting people’s ways to describe their own identity and experience. It might be as simple as, there are a ton of really amazing websites and apps and software programs that can help you connect with your elected officials so it might be writing letters or sending emails or making phone calls. And then, yeah, it might be one issue or two issues that are really close to your heart that you are gonna go out and march for, but I still think you can keep, be mindful of those other things. We’re at a time right now where the bigots feel really empowered and there is from unfortunately the highest position in the land on down, people who justify and who empower really nasty, mean, um, language and behavior. Behavior comes from that. And I think that makes it all the more important to at the very least question that. You know, when that friend says something really homophobic saying, “Hey, I’m not sure why that’s funny.” When that coworker says something about, um, people of color saying “Hey, that makes me really uncomfortable, please don’t use that language.” When a family member makes an off-color joke at Thanksgiving say, “Hey, I really would prefer us not to make jokes like that.” And at the very least make sure that you’re helping people be mindful of being kind to each other and being respectful to people who are different. And hopefully there’s also that one issue that you’re passionate about that you’re gonna get out there and kick some butt, but you’re absolutely right, there are too many issues for any one person to know about and to process and to be totally invested in 24/7 because there’s just…

Molly: Mhm.

Rebecca: …too much going on in the world. But I don’t think that’s an excuse to do nothing. And I know that’s not what you were saying but I have definitely heard people say, “There’s too much going on, I’m just gonna throw my arms up and do nothing.” And I think that’s not acceptable.

Molly: So I wanna check before I ask you the very last question whether either of you have anything you wanna make sure that we talk about that we haven’t talked about yet.

Joanna: We recently just did a live episode, a live recording where we both performed, I performed, so I do standup, I take classes at the PIT Theater here at New York and I’m taking an all-women’s standup class, so comedy’s somewhat of a passion of mine, so I performed and Becca, she performed as well. Through TSPP I wanna give voice to more artists, to more trans and gender non-conforming artists and non-binary artists, to elevate those voices. Becca, what do you want?

**Rebecca:** I would say that the way I get into advocacy is through theater and telling my own story and the idea of using, I absolutely agree, the idea of using the Trans Specific Partnership Podcast as a way to help other trans folks and other queer folks tell their stories or just share their voices is just super exciting to me.

**Molly:** Alright, well, the way we always end the show is by asking in your ideal world what would the future of gender look like?

**Rebecca:** I would say that the future of gender would, um, allow everything while requiring nothing. One of the things that I think, there’s there’s some activists as well as some people who are against trans rights who sort of claim that the end goal of the trans rights movement is to abolish gender. And as someone who identifies on the binary, I identify as a woman, I like wearing makeup and I like wearing jewelry, not that those things make someone a woman or not a woman and now I’m getting into the same trap that everyone else gets into. [Molly laughs]. I want to be able to do those things as part of my womanhood but I don’t wanna assume that anyone should have to do those things to be a man or be a woman or be whoever they are.

[*Gender Reveal* theme plays in background]

**Molly:** That’s gonna do it for this week’s show. Don’t forget to check out the Trans Specific Partnership Podcast if you haven’t already. And if you wouldn’t mind sharing this show with a friend or with someone who needs to learn more about gender. We are $25 away from our first fundraising goal at this exact moment. You can help us reach that goal at

[Patreon.com/gender](http://patreon.com/gender). Thank you so much for supporting trans and non-binary media. If you have questions, comments, suggestions thoughts, feelings, you can reach us at [gendereveal@gmail.com](mailto:gendereveal@gmail.com) or on twitter. You can also reach me personally on Twitter or on Instagram. And of course there is an anonymous Google form in the show notes. Our show was edited today by me, Molly Woodstock. Our logo is by the talented Michelle Leigh, and our theme song is by the legendary Breakmaster Cylinder. Special thanks this week to friend of the show Jeremy for letting me yell in your DMs all night about the Brown University paper. We’ll be back next week with more feelings about gender.

[theme song ends]