

April 25, 1980

Dear Dallas

Got your letter a couple of weeks ago but have been part out of town and part just swamped and didnt get to it before. I really cant take too much time now either since I have a backlog of letters and other problems to take care of but I wanted to reply and give you what help I could. I am going to give this to you in a sort of point by point way as I go thru your letter because it becomes evident in the first paragraphs that part of your problem is semantic--that is confusion over the meanings of words as you use them.

1) You have a masters in Psychology so you ought to be able to dig the points I am going to make.

2) You said that you had had relationships with males which you considered to be heterosexual because you couldnt do them as a male. Here is your semantic confusion on two levels. To begin with you have a penis and they have a penis and regardless of how you are dressed or what activities you participate in, 2 males having sexual interactions are having homosexual relations. You will not like that but you'll have to accept it because that is the true meaning of the word. Secondly you said you couldnt do it "as a male" yet you did do it as a male because you havent yet had sex surgery. What you meant was that you couldnt do it as a man. But man is a gender word not a sex word. So if he was dressed and acting like a man and you were dressed and acting like a woman then it might be called a heterosexual relation but it was certainly a homosexual one. Moreover if you provided the orifice (anal or oral) thereby acting like a female in so doing, it certainly wasnt a penile-vaginal contact.

2) You dont like deception you say. Well you had better learn to like it because any change in your current status and a male and as a man will involve deception on one level or another. If you had surgery and then possessed a vagina you would still be deceiving because people would think that you had been born and raised that way. Any lover would have a right to presume that you had ovaries and could bear children which you couldnt. So deception is part of living. The only bad part about it is when you intentionally deceive someone for the purpose of gaining something for yourself which he or she would not give you if they knew the truth. Since you want to live as a woman, do so but learn that woman and female dont mean the same thing. If you can pass O.K. as you say you can then why dont you undergo electrolysis and then just take up living as a woman. I did this 12 years ago and have lived as Virginia ever since. I have had no surgery and dont want any. I did take hormones long enough to develop B c p breasts but havent had any for the 1st 10 years. Again semantics/ You say, "it is absolutely essential that I live, dress and be accepted as a female (?)---genital surgery is not essential" You see how confused you are. 1 People dont check out your genitals all the while. If you look and act like a woman they will assume you are a female and they will do this with or without surgery because they are not going to check up to find out.

3) I am afraid that from what you tell me that I have to agree with the Vanderbilt doctors, namely that there is no need for surgery. There is a need to live and be taken for a woman (not for a female) and an understanding only your part that sex and gender are not the same thing.

Your threatening suicide and castration etc. only looks paranoid to them, as they have heard it dozens of times. They have told you to remain a male.

r.s. you may show this letter to Dr. Bussey if you like and suggest that they get a copy of the "How to" book for their own library and their patients. I have a lot of stuff in it that M.D.s would never think of I can assure you and anyone starting; to live as a woman with or without surgery would find it very valuable. Bye now

and;forget the surgery, but remaining a male (as I am) doesnt prevent you from having your name changed and living as a woman. You could probably get your diploma in Psychology; reissued in your new name--after it had been legally changed--I did. You could then work as a woman psychotherapist and you would have what you wanted. Your problem is that you confuse womanhood with femaleness and they are not the same thing. You will never become a "woman" because you castrate yourself or for that matter even if you got surgery. Womanliness is a psychosocial phenomenon that really has very little to do with the presence of a vagina etc. Little vagina people are brought up in such a way that they grow into womanliness it is a cultural thing not a biological one

4. Re hormones, I dont think DES alone is the best thing for you. You should be taking estrogen-progesterone combinations and you ought to be able to find an endocrinologist around who would check you out and prescribe them. There is some danger with them as sometimes vascular accidents occur, but that shouldnt be much of a worry to you since you talk of suicide. But for gods sake dont try self castration. Not only is it unnecessary for what you want to accomplish but it is extremely dangerous. The whole genital area is very highly vascularized and more than one has bled to death in such attempts. Additionally what good is the loss of testicles if you still have the penis dangling around? If you attempted to whack that off yourself and even assuming you were successful what would you be? Nothing but a castrated and penectomized male still. You wouldnt have any vagina and you would certainly be a deception to those who saw you.

B) Please take my advice, order from me because you cant find it in bookstores a copy of my book "How to be a Woman Though Male" Price \$8 plus 15% for 1st class postage making it about \$9.20. This is a 210 page book and will answer most of the questions you have asked and a lot that you havent. It should help you in a great number of ways because there are many problems ahead if you live as a woman whether with or without surgery and many of them you probably havent even thought about nor solved.

6) As to your specific requests...Regarding the MDs at Vandergilt, they would pay no attention to anything I might write even if I had time which I dont. MDs dont take kindly to interference from non-MDs even when they know what they are talking about. Additionally as indicated above I suspect that they are right in telling you not to have surgery. I argue against it all the time but it is hard to make those who get the bit in their teeth that that is not where it is at in most cases.

Regarding hormones, I've mentioned that. Antiandrogens are not necessary as estrogen is effectively just that, besides which the FDA had not approved them for use in this country to my knowledge. Against self castration is unnecessary and dangerous, dont do it. If you get the right dosage of hormones you will be feminized to the extent of breast development; to an adequate degree---DEPENDING on your own heredity. Even some females dont grow breasts in spite of estrogen and no androgens. I took 10 mg of Enovid and 10 mgs. of Progesterone on alternate days, 1 month on and 1 month off. It worked for me but that doesnt mean that it would for others.

As to the LA area, noone here is doing the surgery but there is a knowledgeable endocrinologist who handles the hormones and there are a number of knowledgeable Psychiatrists. But your first problem regardless is to get your beard removed no matter how you live and with or without surgery because you cant do it conveniently after you start living as a woman (not female)

You shouldnt think about going down the tube, there is no need. All you have to come to understand is that living as a woman doesnt require surgery and that shouldnt be your goal. Buy the book! It will clarify the situation considerably. Good luck,

sincerely

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