

Gravity

On the show, Alice and Casey are dating. Alice is a lesbian and Casey is nonbinary. But Alice is also butch. As the audience, I'm aware this is supposed to be "controversial." In one scene, someone misgenders Casey and Alice doesn't correct them. She says, I don't know, what would you assume my pronouns were?

Later, in the episode's climax, they're making out and Alice takes off Casey's shirt to reveal a pale binder. At this point, Alice starts to freak out. She wants to know what it means. In a short story I wrote when I was 20, a trans character goes home with a girl. He takes off his shirt and she sees his bandaged chest. The girl recoils as if his body burns her hands. You told me to cut the scene, so I did. Casey tells Alice that a binder doesn't really mean anything.

It sounds like I'm making it up, but a man that looked like you and a woman that looked like your wife had their feet up on your front porch when I walked past the other day. A small child bounced in a round walker, holding a blue stuffed rabbit.

Don't you think I'm sexy? Casey asks, taking Alice's hand in their lap. In your first book, there's a scene where the protagonist spends New Years Eve under a billboard marking tobacco-related deaths. The clock resets while he searches for a lit cigarette in the California brush.

I leave the show playing and stand to open my window. Your cynicism is boring, but you're right. You can't always quit the thing that kills you. Alice slams the door when she leaves. Casey cries on their couch. You're in the mirror when I brush my teeth. I'm used to it. I spit. I drink.