

the wish:

a manual for a last-ditch effort to save abortion
in the united states through theater*

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***a free, downloadable, highly informative and v funny play/book of spells about the fact that we might lose abortion holy fuck this is not a drill**

Developed in response to Texas Bill SB8.

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(characters) (people can absolutely take multiple parts)

JUSTICE

CLAIRE

DEAN

LONGTIME CLINIC NURSE

YOU KNOW ME

ANNIE

WITCH

AURORA

ONE

TWO

JULIA

DENA

PHANESIA

SPELL READER/STAGE DIRECTIONS/PROMPT READER

-to make this play you will need some people, a pen for each person, your phone, and a physical copy of the script (or at least the prompts, or paper) for each person participating

-that's at a minimum but if you have a bunch of red paint and a big canvas and a baby pool that would also be helpful



1

JUSTICE

There's a lot of things you could do with this

Read it

or act it

Or use it for notes like big notes and epic letters

That say things like "i am in love with you" or "i've always hated the shape of your eyebrows" and "i'm sorry i was a dick when i was a child"

You could read it aloud to a lover

Or yell it at a horrible person

Or you could sing it

Which is all to say i don't really care what you do with this.

I don't know what it is.

I just know i keep seeing red over and over and over

Because Roe is gone.

When you heard, what did your body do?

I crouched on the floor of my kitchen

And I didn't want to get up.

I felt my legs all folded under me

(I felt my heart look down at the center of me)

(I felt the center of me look up at my heart)

And for a while I just

Didn't

Want

To

Get

Up.

I didn't wanna get up.

But I did, because:

there is nothing to do on the floor.

And if i have a kid one day

And they ask me

What did you do

(that day)

(that week)

(those months)

I don't want to say I was on the floor.

And if I don't have a kid one day

And I ask myself

What did you do

(that day)

(that week)

(those months)



I don't want to say I was on the floor.
I don't want to look into anyone's eyes and say
I let my sadness be more important than my body
(or than your body)
(or than anyone's body)
So i'm trying to do something
I am trying to be a wild woman
I am trying to throw my bones in the teeth of the monster so he will have to stop biting for a second to pick
me out of his mouth and in that moment someone else can run away
So i started making this thing and it's like a play
But it's super chill kind of but also like
MILITANT
And it's like kind of about abortion and my idea was
You could read it with your friends or family (maybe idk if they're cool)
Or like with actors
Like really do whatever you want like you can change it if you want
Like i'm writing
ORANGES
And then you can like cross it out and be like
CLEMENTINES
Or switch the order around
(Thanks caryl churchill)
You can drink tea and read it on couches and the fun thing about reading theater is like it's a really profane
guided meditation and it lets all of us be a little fearless or sexy or strange and i think we all want to be
those things sometimes
Even now
Maybe especially now
Or you could read it into a bullhorn at a protest or something
And i don't know this for sure but i am pretty sure my words would be real nasty little bitches coming out of
a bullhorn because i say crazy shit all the time and like honestly that might be perfect because try to think
"don't kill babies" while i yell
ONCE I GOT FUCKED SO HARD HIS PENIS BLED ON MY DESK
I FLIRTED WITH A GUY FOR AN EXTRA SAMOSA CHAAT ONCE
I THREW UP ON AN ESCALATOR
I REGULARLY PEE IN THE SHOWER
SOMETIMES I IMAGINE I'M SITTING ON ROBSON GREENE'S FACE WHICH IS WEIRD BECAUSE I
DON'T EVEN REALLY WANT TO FUCK HIM
See? Like you can't, it's hard to think other things when you yell stuff like that
And abortion isn't protected by the constitution anymore
(abortion isn't protected by the constitution anyone)
but you can do theater wherever you want
You can learn wherever you want
You can yell ONCE I GOT FUCKED SO HARD HIS PENIS BLED ON MY DESK and brett kavanugh would
weep because he'd be like yeah she can say that



And also the thing about theater is you can't censor it
Once i write something it's there forever like watch this like this is the number for the national abortion
federation hotline
1-800-772-9100
That's the real number i didn't make it up
And now it's there and you can't do anything about it
That's there forever in every pdf and printed copy and to be yelled over and over
I put it in my play and amy coney barrett would weep because she'd be like yeah she can do that
She can do that
She can do that
She can do that
So i think it would be good if we have some funny scenes and then also
SPELLS?
And like other realms
And information like the hotline so it's protected like
A fly in amber
Like fuck SCOTUS anyone with this pdf will still know
1-800-772-9100
And also hopefully more things
(((Because no one is coming to save us)))
(((Because i think we're gonna have to save us)))
My grandmother used to say when i was two "that girl is brilliant"
It was the best compliment i can't remember getting
And i can't really imagine her saying "that girl is brilliant" but i would really really like to be and i think
brilliant people when they see disaster they say
What can i do
And then they think about it for a while and they do whatever it is they can think of
So i asked some other writers i love if they would do something with me
And they said yes
And this is what we did



2

CLAIRE *is peering into DEAN'S vagina with a flashlight.*

CLAIRE

I don't see anything. And like I don't have a speculum. So it's like not super open.

DEAN

Something is in there.

CLAIRE

Like/

DEAN

/Like a piece of tampon or something.

CLAIRE

If tampons did that everyone would be like dead all the time.

DEAN

What?

CLAIRE

Like if they pulled apart and left pieces in your vag everyone would get TSS and die.

DEAN

When I like move my hips I can feel something like high up.

CLAIRE

Did you try reaching for it?

DEAN

With a tampon I did, I like popped a tampon halfway and like swirled it.

CLAIRE

Like/

DEAN

/Like how you clean a toilet with the brush like I got it up there and swirled it.

CLAIRE

Did you try your fingers?

DEAN



No.

CLAIRE
Wait/ why

DEAN
/That's what, that's what I need you to do.

CLAIRE
Why didn't you.

DEAN
It like freaks me out, I don't know what I'm doing in there like I could go up too high.

CLAIRE
Ok. Ok, I just wanna like, confirm. Um. You allow people to shove their dicks in there and just like fly blind in there, correct?

DEAN
Yeah.

CLAIRE
Ok. And you've had other people's fingers? In there?

DEAN
Fuck you can you just/

CLAIRE
/But you're worried you're gonna put your own finger up too high in your own vagina.

DEAN
I know it doesn't make any sense I KNOW THAT/

CLAIRE
/Ok/

DEAN
/But like I can't, I can't deal with that right now/

CLAIRE
/Ok fine/

DEAN



/So I'll like work towards fingerbanging myself or whatever but right now I need you to figure out what is in there so I need you to put your fingers in there. You have like little long dentist fingers.

CLAIRE
FINE fine.

DEAN
Will you do that for me?

CLAIRE
Yeah obviously I'm gonna do/ it.

DEAN
/Ok/

CLAIRE
/I mean I think we should do something to like commemorate, like. This is the last moment of our friendship that I won't have had my hand in your vag.

DEAN
And it's been a pleasure.

CLAIRE
Yup.

DEAN
I look forward to this new era.

CLAIRE
Ok ready?

DEAN
Yep. Are your hands clean?

CLAIRE
Fuck you are my hands clean/

DEAN
/Fine fine/ sorry.

CLAIRE
/I washed them when you asked me to LOOK at your va/gina.

DEAN



/I'm sorry I'm very nervous. I'm very nervous.

Beat.

CLAIRE

Ok. Like. Do you want me to do it/ or

DEAN

/Yes I want you to do it.

CLAIRE *attempts to put her finger inside. DEAN is too tight.*

DEAN

Ugh sorry.

CLAIRE

Well don't be sorry you just have to relax.

They take a break.

CLAIRE

Think about the Irish seal rescue we found.

DEAN *laughs.*

CLAIRE

Remember the little baby one? In the bathtub? And it was learning how to eat the fishes. And the one that looked exactly like your dad's dog?

DEAN

I love the spotted ones.

CLAIRE

The spotted ones are great.

Half-beat.

CLAIRE

I'm gonna try again, ok?

DEAN *nods. CLAIRE gets a finger inside her.*

CLAIRE

Ok.



DEAN
It's farther up.

CLAIRE
No I know I just don't wanna like shoot up there too fast though.

CLAIRE *tries to get her finger up higher.*

CLAIRE
Like here?

DEAN
Yeah just like, maybe feel around there?

CLAIRE *does.*

CLAIRE
Ok I think, like. Ok. I'm gonna put another finger in.

DEAN
Yeah.

CLAIRE
Does that, I don't want to pinch you/

DEAN
/I don't care if you pinch me I can like, I just need it out.

CLAIRE
Ok.

CLAIRE *tries to grab the thing, DEAN is profoundly uncomfortable but holding still. CLAIRE pulls her hand out of DEAN holding a small piece of condom.*

CLAIRE
I got it.

DEAN
SERIOUSLY. Oh my god.

DEAN *sits up to look at what is on her friend's hand.*

DEAN



What is that?

CLAIRE *moves her fingers to very clearly reveal the tip of a condom.*

DEAN

Fuck.



Longtime clinic nurse. She eats a large deli sandwich.

Do you know how it works though?

I mean do you really know?

Can you tell me which two medications you take? Can you spell their names?

Yeah. See, so that's, that's the problem.

You need to know what the medications are. You need to be able to ask for what you need.

Because where we're headed maybe you have to get the medications yourself. I'm serious, I'm serious you know, as a matter of fact, it's ulcer medication, in Mexico, misoprostol is. Over the counter.

So ok, I can. Ok. This is the basics, yes, just the basics.

With the medication abortion it's two pills, ok, and they're gonna work together to terminate your pregnancy. And this is, this is if you're up to 10 weeks you can do it this way.

You go to the clinic and they're gonna give you two pills, you're likely gonna take the first one there. The first one is mifepristone. M-I-F-E-P-R-I-S-T-O-N-E.

You might wanna write that down.

And this sort of freezes the pregnancy, ok, mifepristone is a progesterone blocker.

You know what progesterone is? It's a hormone, and you need it to be pregnant. You need it for the embryo to grow. So you take the mifepristone, progesterone blocked, uterine lining breaks down. And the second medicine is misoprostol. M-I-S-O-P-R-O-S-T-O-L.

They'll tell you when to take it, usually 24 to 48 hours after you take the mifepristone. Four pills you dissolve under your tongue, or between your tongue and cheek; you let them dissolve for 30 minutes, then wash what's left down with water. Some people will dissolve the misoprostol vaginally, same, same principle; it's inserted in the vagina, you lay back and give it 30 minutes to dissolve. The misoprostol is gonna make you pass the pregnancy tissue, ok, so this is when you're gonna have some cramps, like real intense period cramps for a lotta people, ok, and you're gonna wanna be wearing a big maxipad to absorb, you know, it's like a period but there's some larger pieces of tissue. A lot of people, what you might wanna do is just sit on the toilet, when you're passing it. So you're gonna wanna take some ibuprofen, relax, use a heating pad, maybe you want someone to sit with you maybe you don't I dunno but you gotta just rest. And then a week or so later you go back to the clinic, they do a blood test, they check you out, clear you.

But that's what it is. It's two medications. It's five pills. You didn't know that, right?

It's five pills.



4

YOU KNOW ME *enters, followed by a chorus behind her. YOU KNOW ME addresses the audience.*

YOU KNOW ME

Momma said I could.

Go.

To the protest.

She told me to be careful.

Because we can't afford bail.

Or a funeral.

She didn't say that part.

The funeral part.

Gullible much?

I'm kidding.

I'm not though.

Believe what you want.

There are people in this audience who know what I'm saying.

I hope.

.

.

.

She said she was proud of me.

I was proud to be her daughter *in that* moment.

I knew she wanted to come with me.

We shared a silence.

She wants to be there.

But.

.

.

.

Maybe that's a secret too personal for me to share.

Not sure who's in this audience.

Before she "had me" she went to protests.

Could you guess "what about"?

Leave it alone!

I'm sharing in CODE.

Because I'm not safe

Not even in the theater community.

Ooops.

.



.
. .

Collective dreaming
And action?
I got dreams I'd like to share with other people.

CHORUS
ALL?

(correcting) Other.

Ooooo.

Did you peep it?

I wish I could

Say some shit.

And I am.

I'm going to.

My BODY

My body

And what I do with it.

I'm talking about *me* in this moment.

And I can only talk in code.

CUZ I don't feel fuckin'

Safe

Here.

Not even in the theater,

The THEATER of all places

Where people do dat innocent shit like

I don't know

What shit they doin' nowadays?

Don't answer that.

.
. .

So I talk the way I do

Cuz

I AM NOT SAFE.

I AM NOT SAFE.

Talkin' in code ain't easy when you angry.

You just learn to do it.

Cuz it's clear

Momma said.

Talking.

From ya mouth.

Your body.



Can get you fuckin' killed
OR dragged into shit
You can't fuckin' hold or handle.

.
.
.

Shit that you
(*overwhelmed*) I feel real bad.

.
.
.
.

How you feel?

Sh.

Wait.

Tell me at the protest...If you want.

And after

I'll tell you about my dreams.

.
.
.

it feels like

People are robbin' me.

And I see it

And I smell it

And I hear it

And I'm being robbed

(*holdin' her body*)

This is my stuff

Momma confirmed it.

She told me this is my stuff.

When I was five she taught me that.

She said.

It's devastating

Cuz you feel like you want to run to the world and tell em'

I HAVE BEEN ROBBED

I'M BEING ROBBED DON'T YOU SEE

ARE YOU CATCHIN' WHAT I'M-

.
.
.

Or maybe you run to someone who can DO somethin' about the wrong committed against you

But

When you run



You realize

The people you runnin' to

(Holds up one finger) Either watched it happen

(Holds up two fingers) DA robbers who did dat shit

(Holds up three fingers) Have no idea what the fuck is going on in ...

(stares at the audience for a while)

(Holds up four fingers) Or they're being robbed too.

.

.

.

Glad I have my momma though.

And maybe I'll make a friend today.

Who's just as scared as I am.



5

Spell to reorient yourself in history

Get a pen and paper.

Write a list of dead people who spent their lives trying to destroy our civil liberties.

(For the tongue-tied - here's a sample:

Antonin Scalia

Phyllis Schlafly

Richard DeVos

Jerry Falwell)

Close your eyes.

Remember that those motherfuckers are dead.

Remind yourself that you don't have to mourn the passing of people who spent their lives trying to kill people like you.

Remind yourself that whatever harm they may have done, they're not around to do it anymore.

You're here, and you're alive.

You're the one making history right now.



6

hypersexuality: a necromancy

ANNIE

I'm unabashed in the ways I've failed the previous generational masses
what's left of the killing that did not make me die yes there was blood yes
there were remnants of me [unto which my mother made unto which hers did]
but look closer I spill and am spilt [on] but all of me stays here
this time I scream and contort but choose what I give my body not
what I give my body to this time

CLAIRE

a man I won't see in a week this time

DEAN

a tongue that told me I looked good under streetlight this time

ANNIE

something that will enter but not cut me this time

ALL THREE

not a blade or scalpel or an edge that will scrape off that
unto which I wasn't allowed to feel

[unto which my mother wasn't allowed to feel unto which hers couldn't either]
this time a thing that will feel sharp but in the best way this time

ANNIE

I'll make use of what was left of what I lost



7

I FEEL SAFE WHEN (.....)

I WOULD LIKE THE WORLD TO HAVE MORE
(.....)

I FEEL THE GROUND SHAKING FROM UNDER ME
WHEN (.....)

I ONLY TELL MY DREAMS TO THOSE WHO
(.....)

I ONLY TELL MY NIGHTMARES TO THOSE WHO
(.....)

THE PLACE THAT BRINGS ME THE MOST JOY IS
(.....)

I LOVE THAT (.....)



I FEEL MY SAFETY IS COMPROMISED WHEN

(.....)

8

CLAIRE *reads from an old journal.*

CLAIRE

My name is Claire and I am eight years old.

When I grow up I want to be a veterinarian and a tap dancer.

I will tap dance while I hold the animals and I will tap dance for the animals.

I want to have beautiful hair on my legs like my mom.

I want to have one really big boob that I can feed all the babies with and one little boob that is just for me and I can just hold it.

I will have seven dogs and seven cats and seven ferrets and they will all be friends.

My mother says this is unrealistic due to prey drive.

I will have a bathtub and lots of candles and I will be allowed to light them myself.

I think I would also like to help people I don't know how yet but maybe I could make them food or be a massage therapist.

Also I would like to go to Thailand and Russia.

I saw this woman at the zoo only it's not a zoo it's a sanctuary there's bears there that people stole so they can't be where they're supposed to because they never learned how so they have to stay at this place where people take care of them and you can visit them but you can't touch them there are two fences.

I was looking at a bear called Mia and there was a woman who was also looking at Mia next to me.

She was smiling at the bear and she was wearing blue shorts and a black shirt tied in the back and she had boobs and you could see her shoulder blades and her hair was all tangled in a big bun and it looked red even though it was actually black I think.

She could look at the bear for as long as she wanted because she was an adult and my mom was saying we needed to keep going but no one told her that. She looked so happy and she had a little backpack and I said to her "You look beautiful."

She looked surprised like no one said that to her before and if I could be like her and look at bears and no one could tell me when to stop I think I would be very happy.



9

Monday, April 18, 2022

CLAIRE

D, how did it go today? 10:34 PM

DEAN

It was okay! The doctors were really nice and it was quick but i felt it sucked out of me. I threw up for a few hours and I couldn't stomach the spaghetti George got me, but I'm good now. 10:37 PM

ANNIE

Phew, I'm glad you're all set. 10:42 PM

DEAN

Oh my god tell me why George just venmoed me for the abortion and named it flat tummy tea 11:00 PM

ANNIE

I'm cryingggggg 11:33 PM

CLAIRE

NOT FLAT TUMMY TEA 11:47 PM

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

ANNIE

But in all seriousness, flat tummy tea can be used for abortions. 12:03 AM

DEAN

What are you talking about? 12:07 AM

CLAIRE

How do you know? 12:13 AM

ANNIE

I used it. 12:15 AM

CLAIRE

When??? 12:16 AM

ANNIE



A few months ago. For the third abortion. I couldn't get my cousin to drive me to New York this time around. 12: 24 AM

DEAN

Why didn't you do it in Georgia? 12:28 AM

ANNIE

I was past the 22 week mark. And it's not like I knew this whole time. I had my period regularly and my stomach never grew or anything so I didn't know what to do. 12:36 AM

DEAN

And how did you find out flat tummy tea worked? 12:39 AM

ANNIE

My friend told me caraway teas can cause miscarriages, and I had a random sample packet in my dorm room. In big white labels it says "not safe for pregnancy" and I thought, well, if it won't be safe for the fetus inside me, it'll leave right? And so it left... and I had a miscarriage. 12: 42 AM

CLAIRE

I don't know whether to say I'm sorry or congratulations. 12:46 AM

ANNIE

Say both. I deserve it. 12:57 AM



10

ANNIE

This is my theory about why people love instagram so much and it's honestly like it's just because of the stories

I just made my account a couple months ago i was so late like really late

And at first i was just like posting pictures of like polymer earrings i make but then i discovered you can watch little moments from your people throughout the day and then i realized you can post little moments for your people throughout the day and thus i discovered stories

And i think the reason people love them is because you can see who watched yours

You can click on the bottom left and know for definite those people thought about you for a second and we don't usually get to know when people are thinking of us

There's no record when someone sees a mug that looks like the mug you gave them and they think of you and there's no record when someone remembers something funny you said and laughs a very late laugh and there's no record when someone sees you when they cum and there's no record when someone tries to remember the exact shape of your fingers

We don't get to know that people think of us which is sad because most of the time when i think about someone it's because i love them and wonder about them and i think it could be nice if they knew that. or they would just be creeped out like you can't text someone every time you think of them that's psychotic So i think what happened was instagram split the difference and was like here humans this is for you this is our gift to satisfy your deepest desire which is to know if anyone thought of you today



11

Chants for a counter protest when you've exhausted your supply and there is ignorance to drown.

BUM BUM BUMBUBUM BUMMMMM (IT'S THE LAW AND ORDER SVU THEME SONG)

A WOMAN ONCE TOLD ME I HAVE DEVIL EYES

DID YOU SEE THE HBO SHOW HUNG FROM THE EARLY 2000S BECAUSE HONESTLY IT'S KIND OF AMAZING AND JANE ADAMS IS IN IT

I WISH I REMEMBERED WHAT BREASTMILK TASTED LIKE

I GOT MY PERIOD WHEN I WAS 12 AT THE DENTIST AND I FELT IT WAS ANTICLIMACTIC

CHAMOMILE TEA IS GOOD FOR DIARRHEA

YOU SHOULD MAKE MICROWAVE SMORES MY SISTER IS A GENIUS AT THEM YOU PUT A MARSHMALLOW ON A GRAHAM CRACKER AND SPRINKLE CHOCOLATE CHIPS OVER THAT AND MICROWAVE IT FOR 20 SECONDS AND PUT ANOTHER GRAHAM CRACKER ON TOP

THE DAY I MOVED INTO MY APARTMENT MY LANDLORD SAID YOU WILL BE LONELY HERE WHEN HE HANDED ME THE KEY

I WAS ONCE ACCIDENTALLY HANDCUFFED TO MY GRANDMOTHER

I HAVE SEVERAL MUGS WITH RACCOONS ON THEM

I LIKED PAM'S FIRST MOM ON THE OFFICE BETTER

I WANT TO LOVE MY BODY HAIR A LOT BUT I DON'T

IS IT TRUE OUR MENSTRUAL CYCLES ARE TIED TO THE PHASES OF THE MOON IS THAT A THING I THINK IT'S A THING BUT ACTUALLY I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S TRUE

OK WAIT NOW I'M LOOKING IT UP

OK APPARENTLY IT'S NOT ACTUALLY TRUE LIKE SOMETIMES IT LINES UP BUT IT'S JUST BASICALLY BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE LUNAR CYCLE AND MENSTRUAL CYCLE ARE LIKE ABOUT THE SAME NUMBER OF DAYS

DO YOU HAVE MOSQUITO BITE SCARS TOO I FEEL LIKE I HAVE SO MANY AND MY BIGGER WOUNDS HEALED BETTER SO I DON'T GET IT

I CAN ONLY VOMIT SUPER LOUDLY

I STILL CANNOT SPELL RESTAURANT CORRECTLY 90% OF THE TIME



I HAD A DREAM ONCE I HAD A DAUGHTER NAMED EVENING
SOMETIMES WHEN I CRY I SEE MYSELF CRYING IN MY HEAD

12

Longtime clinic nurse is drinking a cappuccino.

So my apologies if this is obvious for some of you, uh, one thing they always want me to go over is PERIODS.

She draws on a large piece of paper next to her.

Ok the UTERUS. Where's the uterus?

It's not a rhetorical question show me on your bellies where you think it is, everybody show, whether you have one or not show me where you think it is.

So it's low, in the uterus, I'm seeing some hands up by the stomach, it's lower than that, ok. It's not up here. Think about it, right, it opens into the vagina. Vaginas are all the way down here, ok, they're only like 3 to 6 inches long.

She gestures to her upper abdomen.

They're not long enough to reach all up in here. They're down here. Ok.

You know how big a uterus is most of the time? Like a pear. 3 inches long, 2 inches wide.

She draws ovaries.

Either side, we got two fallopian tubes and two ovaries. So the tubes are like arms they connect the uterus to the ovaries. Each tube is about 4 to 5 inches long, about half an inch wide. And then at the end we've got the ovaries, ovaries are where the eggs are stored. How big is an ovary? Average ovary? Like an ALMOND. Size of an almond, two almonds on the sides of the pear connected with the little arms.

Average menstrual cycle is 28 days, but it can be anywhere between 21 and 35 days.

First part: MENSES. Days 1 to 5. This is your period, ok, this is when your uterine lining sheds, that's technically the beginning of the cycle but we're gonna, we're gonna work our way back to that.

Second part: FOLLICULAR PHASE. Days 6 to 14 or so. Estrogen production in your body goes UP, the lining of your uterus gets thick, what's the lining of the uterus called? Endometrium. Follicle stimulating hormone is another hormone that's active around this time, uh, anyone wanna guess what the follicle stimulating hormone does? IT STIMULATES FOLLICLES. What's a follicle. It's a little sac with some fluid with an immature egg in it. So the egg, the immature egg, is INSIDE the follicle, the follicle swells up. Days 10 to 14 one of those follicles is gonna make a mature egg.

Third part: OVULATION. Around day 14, another hormone shows up, LUTEINIZING HORMONE, tells your ovary to let go of the mature egg, ok? That's ovulation.

Fourth part: LUTEAL PHASE. Last part. Days, this is, this is approximate, ok, 15 to 28. Egg moves through the fallopian tubes, the hormone progesterone goes up, helps get your body ready to be pregnant if this



egg meets a SPERM CELL in the fallopian tube. Your endometrium is nice and thick so if the egg meets a sperm it can implant, ok, in the lining. That would be the beginning of a pregnancy.

And there's no, you know there's no such thing as moment of conception? No such thing. They want you to think like, the egg and sperm meet, BAM, conception, it actually takes about 24 hours for a sperm cell to fertilize an egg. There's no moment. Sort of a theatrical phrase the um, you know the dumbasses use to keep you down, so don't, don't use their made up words, ok? Moment of conception is made up. It's made up.

If the egg does not meet a sperm cell, if it is not fertilized, it passes through the uterus and out through the vagina along with the endometrium, ok, and that brings us back to where we started, a period. Menses. Everything starts back up again.



13

Spell for compassion

Step 1:

Imagine yourself at 14, in all of your chaos and terror.

Then imagine a classmate you disliked at that age.

(did they scare you? were they cruel? did they get on your nerves?)

Picture them as vividly as you can.

Remember their braces, or the smell of the copious amount of hair gel they used, or their ripped Jansport, or the Cheeto dust that clung to their fingers after lunch.

Step 2:

Sit in the seat of your adulthood, and observe them from there.

See them as the snapping bolt of life that they were.

Love them.

Step 3:

Go to the shoreline on a miserable day.

Choose a day with weather that makes you want to turn inside out.

It can be too hot, too grey, too clammy -

any climate that makes you upset as soon as you leave your home.

Step 4:

Take off your shoes, and walk on the beach.

Walk along the water, near the rocks. Allow them to cut your feet.

Step 5:

Look for a small stone. Pluck it out of foam and wipe it with your shirt.

Step 6:

Put it in your mouth.

Step 7:

Sit in a cross-legged position. Watch the waves come in, and imagine that each one that crashes on the shore is carrying a part of that classmate you taught yourself to love.

Taste the salt on the stone as the waves bring you their braces,

their scuffed shoes, their toothbrush caked in a film of saliva,

their carefully collated homework, their secret film canister of skunk weed,

their knowledge of how to change the oil in their car,



their dreams of falling in love, their promises to their future selves,
their various shames, their capacity for growth.
Watch those qualities crash on the sand as the waves break.

Step 8:

As the stone scrapes the insides of your mouth, imagine a child you've never met.
Don't give them a face, or a name,
or habits, or hobbies.
Do not imagine yourself, or someone you know.
Do not allow yourself to be trapped within the limits of who and what you can relate to.
Imagine, instead, hope,
and the sharp sparkle of a future.
Conjure it as strongly as you can.

Step 9:

Wish that hope into that child's chest.
Wish them a life, and a world that will hold them softly.
Wrap them inside it.
Wish for them until the sun sets.

Step 10:

Remove the stone from your mouth. Place it in your pocket.

Step 11:

Repeat for 7 days and 7 nights.

Step 12:

On the 7th night, return to the shoreline. Dig a hole and place the stone inside of it. Bury it as deeply as you can. Pray that it has absorbed something. *(Remember, of course, that it hasn't, but maybe you have.)*



i see the word kitchen

DENA

and flash to the rapist the backseat the pregnancy the mornings after another moment where
my back presses against cool metal the blood the blood the blood he said blood
didn't scare him and went at me anyway when i think of poems now i just think of blood
the one that left me the one that pooled on the fabric the one that wasn't enough to count
as a period but enough to count as another thing bellowing and about to live inside of me how
evil are we all when i think of poems i think of a statement i don't want to write but is the only
thing to prove what has been done to me never mind the blood if it doesn't have a date on it
what good is it to talk about the blood if i'm drained into a ghost of myself what
good is it to talk about the blood if it wasn't enough to say i was hurt the first time what
good is it to talk about the blood if the stench stays no matter how much i wring it out i don't
talk about the blood because it wasn't enough at first i don't talk about the blood cause
everyone assumes i mean the time my pussy was cut not the other ways i bled not the
other faces that loomed over it with glee and denial that the blood meant i was hurt i don't
talk about the blood cause the last time a white woman cried on my shoulder unprovoked
i had to wipe her tears from my own undoing



15

ONE, TWO, and YOU KNOW ME sit on a sidewalk with water bottles, granola bars, wearing shirts that feel like NOW. THE NEEDS OF NOW.

ONE
So smart.

YOU KNOW ME
Thank you.

TWO
HOW OLD ARE YOU?

YOU KNOW ME
Not telling.

ONE
STAWP. We won't judge.

TWO
I'm 30.

ONE
27.

YOU KNOW ME
(Lying) I'm like the same.

ONE
We know you're a child.
We just like
Think
Like you're smart.
Like fuck I wish I was that smart when I was like
How old are you?
16?
Like there are two questions I have
Like
How old are you
AND
Where's your parent?

YOU KNOW ME
Aw. Thanks.



ONE

I mean **to use** those lyrics as the *call and response* got everyone going BITCH.

TWO

Fucking legendary.

ONE

YOU are the reason we went from like crying to like fucking DOMINATING.

YOU KNOW ME

I love Meg.

ONE

I mean if you don't
And you're from Texas
You're like a fuckin' tree.
Oh. My god. I keep cursing.

TWO

Yeah stop. What if she's like super young?

YOU KNOW ME

(*Whispers*) I like trees.

ONE

You're like.

HOW OLD ARE YOU?

YOU KNOW ME

No because if I tell you
You'll treat me different.

ONE

Oh my god. She's two.

TWO

Oh. My god.

ONE

Two-year-old genius!

TWO

DO IT AGAIN.

DO IT AGAIN.

YOU KNOW ME

WHAT?



ONE
THE CHANT.

YOU KNOW ME
(*RAPPING TO THOT SHIT BY MEGAN THEE STALLION*)
And imma keep talkin' all the shit that I want and I dare one these hoes come tell me I CAN'T.

ONE AND TWO
(*Repeating*) **AND IMMA KEEP TALKIN' ALL THE SHIT THAT I WANT AND I DARE ONE THESE HOES COME TELL ME I CAN'T.**

ONE
You're one LEGENDARY BITCH. (*Checks time*) Oh shit. We have to go NOW.

ONE and TWO begin walking.

YOU KNOW ME
Where are you going?

TWO
My house. Part 1 of the *Are You the One Reunion's* on tonight. Don't ask. I hate the show.

ONE
YOU PROMISED.

ONE and TWO begin to walk off.

What's your name/

YOU KNOW ME
/You know me! (or UNOMI).

YOU KNOW ME runs off.

ONE
/On IG! WHAT'S YOUR NAME ON IG?

YOU KNOW ME
I'M NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE ONE YET.

TWO
A BABY!

ONE
The young ones will just pop out and surprise you.

YOU KNOW ME sits. She plays Thot Shit by MEGAN THEE STALLION. She raps.



16

Rip this page out. Put it in a safe place. This is a resource sheet.

To open an incognito tab:

On Mac: Shift + ⌘ + N

On Windows/Chrome: Shift + CTRL + N

To clear browser history:

Press Ctrl+Shift+Delete; click on the boxes you want to clear; click “clear browsing data”

To find your nearest Planned Parenthood: <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/health-center>

Or call: 1-800-230-PLAN

To schedule a telehealth appointment with Planned Parenthood:

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/get-care/get-care-online>

To find your nearest Planned Parenthood or other trusted clinic that provides abortions:

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/abortion-access?>

To learn about how much abortion costs:

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/ask-experts/how-much-does-an-abortion-cost>

To find a trusted abortion provider, have a confidential consultation, or access accurate information about abortion (multi-lingual hotline): <https://prochoice.org/patients/naf-hotline/>

What to expect when getting an abortion: <https://prochoice.org/patients/abortion-what-to-expect/>

To find abortion funds (funds that help cover the cost of your abortion) available in your state, region, etc.:

<https://abortionfunds.org/need-abortion/>

Other related resources:

RAINN National Sexual Assault Hotline (24/7, Confidential): 800-656-4673

To chat online: <https://hotline.rainn.org/online>

National Suicide Prevention Hotline (24/7, help available in English and Spanish with services for Deaf/Hard of Hearing folx): 1-800-273-8255



The Trevor Project Lifeline (for LGBT+ folk, 24/7, call, text, and chat available):
<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help/>

17

Longtime clinic nurse eats a large piece of cheesecake.

So the most common kind of abortion, most common, ok, vacuum aspiration abortion. Suction abortion. So most, most of the time when you're having an in-clinic abortion, when someone "goes in for an abortion", ok, most of the time this is what they're talking about.

You're gonna, they're always gonna make you talk to someone first, they're always gonna do an exam first, they might do an ultrasound to check where you are, pregnancy wise.

And then what they do, you're gonna get some kind of sedation usually. So you might be out, you might just take some ibuprofen and get local anesthesia to numb your cervix.

They're gonna put a speculum in, just like, you know, a pap smear, and they're gonna inject your cervix with some numbing medication, ok, you know what the cervix is? It's the lowest part of the uterus, where it opens into the vagina. It's what they swab during a pap smear.

So then what they need to do is dilate the cervix, they need to open it because they need access to your uterus. They use dilation rods, and they're pretty small, like the width of a straw, or less. And once your cervix is open enough, they're gonna put a thin tube through your cervix into your uterus, ok, the tube's connected to a little hand-held suction machine, and they're gonna gently suck the pregnancy tissue out. And they'll give you, they're gonna recommend pain meds for you, ibuprofen, antibiotics, they'll prescribe you antibiotics. The risk of an infection without antibiotics is less than 1%- with antibiotics they make it zero. The abortion itself, everything I just, the suction, start to finish, you know how long that takes?

Five to ten minutes.

The whole, you'll be there longer than that you have to stay for about an hour afterwards in a recovery area, I just, sometimes I ask "how long do ya think that takes" and some people say hours. One woman said "days" a couple years ago I swear to god she said "days." Like labor I guess I dunno.

There's a lot of people walking around out there thinking they stick a vacuum up your vagina and they suck it out for a couple hours. Or DAYS. I mean people who might actually need this procedure, people who would still get this procedure, thinking that.

There's a lot of things, there's a lot of things we can't explain in the universe, I believe that I was once, I believe I was in communication with my grandmother's spirit in my childhood bathroom.

But a nice thing about abortion is that we can explain it easily. It's not very complicated.



18

A person reads these stage directions aloud to start.

Somewhere a girl is scared.

She's not so much of a girl anymore. She's learned that when no one's looking- Men. Men who so delicately hold the door for you. Give you their umbrella in the rain. Tilt their head and see you when you're crying. Kind men. Men who insist on carrying your suitcase-climb on top of scared girls - tearing into them like a bag of potato chips.

Not so much of a girl she lays with a swelled up belly. On top of a table in someone's garage. Let's call her Aurora because the father of the baby liked her best sleeping. There's a woman who would be a witch in a fairytale. But we're in 2022 so she's just a criminal. Grimmmmmmm fairytale. Yes. This woman holds Aurora's hand. Almost cutlery clacks on the table. Aurora is still scared and decides speech can distract her.

AURORA

Everything is better while dreaming.

WITCH

I wish I could BUT I'm all out. So many appointments this week.

AURORA

I am strong but I don't want to be awake.

WITCH

I know baby, just relax okay? I'm going to take care of you. A mind numbing potion if you will. They'll never take liquor away from us.

AURORA takes a sip. She calms a little for a moment. But her thoughts catch up to her.

WITCH

Your mind is moving. I can sense it. There's always a risk with spells like these.

AURORA

I don't want to die. I'd make myself ready to survive. Instead of this. The risk.

WITCH



Spell or no spell the risk of death is yours. Split your body in half now or a few months down the road. Own your reasons for the choice, that's all.

The witch stops and looks up at her.

There's still time. I don't want you to do something you're not certain of. It doesn't help.

AURORA

Baby's have to look like their fathers. It's biological. If not, cavemen would smash their baby's head open. Nature's own paternity test.

AURORA *laughs.*

AURORA

They haven't evolved much.

WITCH

No.

AURORA

We haven't either. We make magic. I made magic out of what he did to me.

Baby out of pain.

And you-you can make it all go away.

WITCH

Yes but you must be sure.

AURORA

I could give that magic to someone else. They don't come easy. So many women are barren.

WITCH

Yes.

AURORA

I read the numbers. Only 3% of women who do this have been pregnant by force.

WITCH

Numbers lie.

Magic tells the truth.

My fingers would scare you if I counted. Sleeping beauties everywhere.

AURORA

Still...

I told my mother. She wants me to keep the magic. Because it is magic and there's no



point in pretending that. But I can know it's magic and not want to look at its face. Because I've read what women say. You'll wake up to see his face everyday. It's a bad spell. For life.

WITCH

Yes.

WITCH

Magic can only take you so far.

Is it a curse? That you and I are here today. Yes...we've been cursed from the start.

Close your eyes.

We're almost done.

A beat. The witch continues.

WITCH

End of Play - I say. Guilt hangs in the air and time is useless. Because it won't move us forward-the fairytale is never ending there is always another Aurora. How can I cast spells but I can't stop girls like her from coming in?

Being a witch. Talking spells instead of specifics feels like it should be a relic. Somewhere there's a witch writing this, with the hopes that she won't be hunted for trying to justify. But it makes her sick because no amount of rape, incest or poverty stories will change the fact that people are going to fight against abortion rights. As I make my potions my mind remembers the 16 year old girl I met in highschool who pulled me aside in tears. I was the first person she confessed her abortion to. How she traveled over an hour from our farm town to the well paved funded parts of Miami. Still as strong, she's graduating from law school this year. And considering our democracy is collapsing-we need her and so many other people to step up. She may have not been able to graduate with a baby. And she is not alone. But here I go again trying to justify our rights. The fucking need to justify. Justify Justify. It's enough to make you want to do some voodoo shit. Make the tongues fall out these- **Was I wrong for believing in love?** I used to dream of love with the force to split the world in half. Love could will me to split my body - my heart in half. Men too, Men have waged wars and split the church in half for love. But is it love or possession? Have I been loved or possessed? If anyone loved me wouldn't they fight for me? For my safety. Backdoor abortions. Fatalities will go up 42%. And not Incest, rape or poor people struggling to carry is enough to justify. People who simply don't want to be a mother isn't enough to justify. This isn't love. It's possession. They want to have us. I want them to love us.



19

ANNIE *and* CLAIRE *are a little stoned.*

ANNIE
I have a question.

CLAIRE
Yah.

ANNIE
How many, like if the way, if the way we could make cis men care about abortion, I mean I guess straight cis guys, was blow jobs, like how many would you do.

Half-beat.

CLAIRE
That's the worst, that's like the most depressing question I've ever heard.

ANNIE *shrugs like, "yeah."* *Beat.*

CLAIRE
And then they'd be like loyal abortion warriors/ forever.

ANNIE
/Yeah it would be like a contract that they'd have to really care about that after.

Half-beat.

ANNIE
Maybe... I don't know how many like/

CLAIRE
/what if, what if we all chip in and we have to do like three each.

ANNIE
Yeah. I'd do, I could do three. Or like I guess I could do more if it meant like, I think we should probably like spare really old women from that, though. Just like. I mean unless they want to but like, I just think if you were like alive and fighting for Roe originally, like, you shouldn't have to suck some apathetic dicks for abortion rights.

Beat.



CLAIRE

Or like maybe bitcoin would work.

ANNIE

Yeah they'd probably do it for bitcoin. Like they'd go to a protest for bitcoin/ I feel like

CLAIRE

/No totally absolutely.

ANNIE

Like if we could get someone to donate like a lot of bitcoin and like mobilize cis men.

CLAIRE

Maybe like Oprah.

ANNIE

Yeah.

Beat.

ANNIE

Or like. *She thinks.* There aren't like a lot of good people with money.

CLAIRE

Yeah.

Beat.

ANNIE

George Takei.

CLAIRE

Mm.

Half-beat.

CLAIRE

Oh my god ok Beyonce.

ANNIE

Oh duh.

CLARE

Also isn't Ben and Jerry's like really/ progressive?

ANNIE



/Yeah.

CLAIRE

And like the Tom's of Maine people and like, Bernie Sanders.

Half-beat.

ANNIE

So we've got. Oprah, um. George Takei. Beyonce and Ben and Jerry's/

CLAIRE

/And Tom, um, and Bernie Sanders.

ANNIE

Yeah they're gonna pay the cis men of America to care about abortion.

CLAIRE

To protest, yeah, like, engage.

Long pause. Another hit.

CLAIRE

Don't you love like when you first get your period like the first day and you wipe and it's pink.

ANNIE

You get pink?

CLAIRE

Yeah.

ANNIE

I don't get pink.

CLAIRE

Even at the beginning?

ANNIE

No.

CLAIRE

It's like an amazing color. I want like a tank top that color pink.

ANNIE laughs.



CLAIRE
What?

ANNIE
You're so fucking weird.

CLAIRE
You never see like an impossible color and want to wear it?

ANNIE
What's an impossible color.

CLAIRE
A color like. You know you're not gonna find if you try it's just a gift color like you're seeing it, you're seeing it somewhere but you know you can't find it like you won't ever really find it somewhere else.

ANNIE
Yeah. I had turquoise shorts, when I was little. I never, like I've never found that type of turquoise again.

CLAIRE
But what about from nature. Or your body.

ANNIE
Like the color of, um. You know cats have a third eyelid?

CLAIRE *nods.*

ANNIE
That color. I want a gown that color.

Long pause.

CLAIRE
I didn't know you had three.

ANNIE
I didn't know you for the first one. That was like. Early high school.

Long pause.

ANNIE
Have you had any?

CLAIRE



No.

Beat.

CLAIRE

Can I tell you something.

ANNIE

No.

CLAIRE *smiles. Beat.*

CLAIRE

It still scares me a little.

Abortion still scares me a little.

Half-beat.

CLAIRE

Like the thought of getting one is like.

I'd do it. I'd do it but I'd be like a little scared I think.

And like. I'll fight anybody any day for it, like.

It just still scares me a little and I'm worried that makes me bad.

Because I know better.

I know it's safe I know/ it's like fine.

ANNIE

/Yeah but you've only known that for like a couple years.

CLAIRE

Yeah.

ANNIE

And people taught you to be scared for like way more years than that. So now you like know better but your body hasn't caught up yet because there's still like. Fear to metabolize. Like it's still in your fat cells there's like years of fear in there.

Half-beat.

CLAIRE

But it's gonna get out of them though right.

ANNIE

Probably. I dunno. I dunno how much it like. Matters.



CLAIRE
Well/

ANNIE
/No I mean it matters it's fucked I'm not saying it's your fault like obviously yeah it's bad you've been made to like. Feel unsafe doing something safe.

CLAIRE
Yeah.

ANNIE
But we do a lot of things scared.

CLAIRE *nods. A beat.*

CLAIRE
It just kind of feels like. There's no room to be scared because.
Like politically?
I don't know. Like now Roe's gone and I was. I was like, kinda scared and confused and I should have been, like. Sharper. So I feel like maybe that's my fault a little.

ANNIE
Yeah it's all your fault.

CLAIRE *smiles, despite herself.*

ANNIE
That's, yeah, I heard Clarence Thomas was like gonna save Roe but then he heard like this girl named Claire was like processing her feelings about abortion and that's why we're fucked.

CLAIRE
Uh-huh.

Beat.

ANNIE
They didn't overturn Roe because of people like you who are like honest with processing like where they are and believe in abortion and are like working on it. It happened because people are scared of us.

CLAIRE
Nobody's scared of us.

ANNIE



Yeah they are. They totally are.

I've been pregnant and unpregnant three times.

And I'm like not sorry about it and I'm like. Hot.

And I got into all the fucking schools I wanted because I'm like really smart and my parents love me and I made cinnamon rolls this morning and I'm happy. So. I think that's what they're scared of probably.

20

WITCH

Herbs.

Witchcraft.

Pressure.

Witchcraft.

It was never a choice and it will never be a choice.

We will always find a way.

8th century we would sit over steamed onions. Sanskrit.

Before theatre ; we found a way.

Greeks used Silphium. Botanicals.

You'd have to take away everything about this earth to stop abortions.

In the Bible; Numbers 5:11-31 states "If a man is suspicious of his wife's fidelity, and she's pregnant, he would take her to the high priest. The priest would make a substance for the woman to drink, "her abdomen will swell and her womb will miscarry."

Wait, does this mean abortion doesn't count if it's in the Bible?

Abortion may be in the Bible, but its not in the Constitution. So I think the best way to fix this, Is if I, a witch, go back in time and convince the convention members. Time machine spell GO.

"Wicked wonders! (this is a constitutional convention member, I'm sorry I don't have a wig).

A woman in WHAT ARE THESE GOD FORSAKEN SLACKS?!"

"Jeans-not important. Sir, I am a woman of a different time. I'm from an America you could only dream of. We sent the first man to the moon, US! He landed and everything. We do it all the time now. We made so many great strides including ending slavery and giving people the right to love freely- He looks horrified. That's not the America he wanted to create. Moon hating slave owner. And he got what he wanted. They overturned Roe - everything is moving backwards. But if the goal is to end abortion, are they going to take away cinnamon, pineapples, lemon juice, papayas, yoga, parsley, sesame seeds, hot showers, aspirin, pomegranate and more? Because people are going to go on the internet and they're going to try to do it at home with yoga and aspirin. Without proper medical treatment they could experience toxicity, hemorrhage, scarring, infection, and an incomplete abortion. There is no choice, we will always find a way.

If you try to do it at home. Here are the warning signs for a bad abortion. Because it can happen and you need to be prepared: bleeding that soaks through a pad in under one hour, bloody vomit,



stool, or urine, fever or chills, yellowing of your skin or eyes, severe pain in your abdomen or pelvis, vomiting and loss of appetite, loss of consciousness, an inability to wake up or stay awake, sweaty, cold, bluish, or pale skin and confusion.

**I wish you didn't have to. I wish you could have a space of dignity and safety.
Alone in your room is dignified but it certainly isn't safe.**

21

ONE

I'm in love.

TWO

Oh my god.

ONE

I know.

TWO

Oh my god.

ONE

Oh my god, what?

TWO

Like, wow.

ONE

I know.

TWO

WOW.

ONE

Wait what?

TWO

Like, how? How do you know?

ONE

That I'm in love?

TWO

Uh, yeah! Did it hit you?



ONE
No.

TWO
Oh.

ONE
IT STRUCK ME.

TWO
OH -MY -GOD!

ONE
Struck me right across my heart! BOOM BOOM BITCH.

TWO
(so sweet) Oh my god.

ONE
I know.

TWO
AWWW.

ONE
I'm joking Lily.

TWO
Oh.

ONE
I just like. I don't know. I just figured they've been in my life for such a long time. Stuck by me. And I just said it to them.

TWO
Oh.

ONE
What?

TWO
I've never been in love.

ONE



But.

TWO

No. I think I thought I loved him. But, no. I don't think so.

ONE

Oh.

TWO

I know.

ONE

Sad.

TWO

No. It's so nice to hear *you're* in LOVE!!!!

ONE

It's nice.

But...

TWO

Oh my god what...

ONE

I can't like bring myself to/

TWO

What...

ONE

I don't want to have penetrative sex with them.

TWO

Oh.

ONE

And they want to.

TWO

Oh.

ONE

I just.



Don't have
Insurance.
And it's too expensive. All of it.

TWO
So, you're gonna keep...
.
(Does an oral sex gesture)

ONE
Oh my god! So nosey!

TWO
No I was just/

ONE
I'm like afraid.

TWO
(Understanding) Oh.

ONE
Thank you. OH.

TWO
Yeah I get that.
But/

ONE
I KNOW. UH DUH. I KNOW. I KNOW. MAX SAID THAT TOO.
BUT..... I can't stop thinking.... like**what if**...and then what the fuck would I do?



22

very request for an interview* in which “experience” is replaced with “pussy”

dear dena igusti (or insert name here),
i came across you
being a survivor of your pussy
through several university newspapers
and would love to talk to you
about your pussy

how that intersects
with being muslim
and non binary
and lgbt+.

what are your pronouns? they/them?

your pussy
makes you
a powerful woman!
your pussy
brought me to tears.

i cried when you
talked about your pussy
gave me chills.
see my arm?
goosebumps
i wanted to know if you
can talk about your pussy
in this livestream
Interview project profile podcast

i know you requested anonymity
so your family wouldn't find out
so i titled the piece



DENA IGUSTI,
TALKS ABOUT HER ABORTION PUSSY
HOW SHE BETRAYED
HER FAMILY DUE TO HER PUSSY.

what are your pronouns?

we wanted to have you
as our
un ambassador! university ambassador! company ambassador!

because of how you
survived your pussy
we're trying to be more lgbtq inclusive
we thought your pussy
and gender could demonstrate that.
how can we talk about your pussy
and be more lgbtq friendly
i don't want to assume your gender
but because of your pussy
i wanted to know if you

ever considered being a mother.

are you still a daughter.

do you hate your family
because of your pussy.
do your parents know you
talk about your pussy in public
does your family know you
write poems about your pussy
and i found them online
that's how i met you

had to survive your pussy
since you
were 9 years old
that must have been so hard for you
i can never go through
what you pussy'd
your pussy



is so integral to your activism

what does your pussy
mean for islam lgbtq rights southeast asian identity

because of your pussy
what do people not
understand about indonesia

does most of indonesia
have the same pussy as you
i didn't know you
could make money from your pussy.

*can you thank me and my org
for introducing you
to this interviewer so you
can raise more awareness
about your pussy?



23

WITCH is in a position of repose. She takes her time, perhaps massages her hands.

WITCH

“May those who love us, love us;
And for those who don’t love us,
May God turn their hearts;
And if He doesn’t turn their hearts,
May He turn their ankles,
So we will know them by their limping.”

Beat.

It’s a good one, right? Irish. Old old old.

Beat.

Have you ever heard of Macha? Irish goddess.

So there was this farmer who lost his wife. He had to leave his children alone while he worked in the fields, he couldn’t take care of them very well, couldn’t run a house very well. And one day he comes home and there’s this beautiful woman, obviously a goddess, obviously a little magic, and she’s cleaned the house and taken care of the children and cooked a meal. She adopts the family. Becomes his wife, becomes the mother of those children, gets pregnant. Her only condition to, to being there, to living as a human woman, essentially, was the farmer could tell no one of her magic. She was fast, that was one of her powers. Faster than anyone or anything else when she ran.

So one day, her husband goes to a feast to celebrate the king’s new horses he’s bought, all the men in the village go. And Macha reminds him not to tell anyone about her, about her powers, not to boast. And he doesn’t, for most of the night. But he’s drinking, and when the King says his horses are the fastest creatures on the face of the earth he says no, my wife is faster. And the King doesn’t believe it, he’s embarrassed, so he sends his men to go get Macha, and says if she doesn’t race his horses her husband will die. Macha is just about full-term, pregnant with twins. And she doesn’t want to run, but she goes with the king’s men because she wants to save her husband.

So she pleads with the king and the men. She pleads and pleads. She says don’t make me do this. Help me. Protect me. But the men don’t listen. They’re drunk, they wanna see a race, they don’t help her. So Macha and the horses race, and she goes into labor as she runs, but she keeps running, and she wins, and as she crosses the finish line, she gives birth. Two dead twins, stillborn. And she holds her two dead



babies and she turns to men and she curses them for not using their strength to protect her when she needed it. When she begged them to help her. She says from now on, whenever they need their strength most, it will desert them. Instead they'll endure nine days and nights of labor pains. Every man in Ulster, every time they need their strength, nine days and nine nights for nine generations, will feel the ravages of childbirth inside them.

Beat.

May those who love us, love us.
And for those who don't love us.
May God turn their hearts.
And if He doesn't turn their hearts.
May He turn their ankles.
So we will know them by their limping.

Beat.

You want to say it together? It's good to say things together sometimes. I like it.

She says each line, pausing after, allowing the audience to repeat it.

May those who love us, love us.
And for those who don't love us.
May God turn their hearts.
And if He doesn't turn their hearts.
May He turn their ankles.
So we will know them by their limping.



Thursday, July 7th, 2022

DEAN

3:00 AM Hey is anyone awake?

3:01 AM I just feel like I'm not real?

3:01 AM Like sure these infographics are getting better at being gender inclusive and adding "women and non binary and trans men" when they talk about abortions. Even the latest statistics say there are this many abortions instead of women with abortions now, but idk.

3:02 AM It just feels like it's out of courtesy, ya know?

3:05 AM Like I'm not actually advocated for

3:08 AM This is all to say that at the post roe grief circle thingy after I talked about my abortion, a woman cried and called me "she" and no one corrected her but there were like 10 of us there and we all introduced ourselves and our pronouns.

3:09 AM I just don't get why if you're a non binary person of color and you go through some form of gender based anything, you're suddenly a woman.

3:20 AM For that brief moment, I almost convinced myself that she/her was a reclamation of the girl who was on the metal table, an assurance that she survived along with me

3:25 AM But the truth is, sometimes she can be a white flag

3:26 AM An exasperated sigh after a person calls me a "powerful lady."

3:27 AM An uncomfortable silence when even y'all sometimes call me a girl when naming what happened to me.

Friday, July 8th, 2022

CLAIRE





7:00 AM

25

JULIA

For this next part I need you to imagine that I am sixteen feet tall.

Look at me and see that I am sixteen feet tall and also that I have tentacles, and also that my hair is pulled back in a tight ponytail and also that I have a binder carefully organized with color coded tabs.

Imagine that my teeth are the size of your middle finger and they overlap like an angler-fish's teeth,

and also I have a pocket protector and a maroon wool cardigan.

My name is Tracy,

and I am both a horrifying eldritch creature from the sea and the captain of the debate team.

I'm going to deliver a straight-forward, perfectly reasoned series of arguments in a stream of words that will feel like a firehose

and you are going to listen the entire time, to every single word,

because you are startled and awed by how terrifying and organized I am.

The first section of the 14th amendment states that

"No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States

nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law".

Life, liberty, and property are broad words. "Liberty", especially, is a big wide concept.

The decision in Roe was written by Harry Blackmun, who was a newer justice at the time, because no one else wanted to write it, because, you know, gross.

Harry Blackmun talked to a doctor and learned what pregnancy was,

and he decided that pregnancy could be split into three trimesters.

(yes he invented the trimester framework, fucking weird right?)

He decided that, because a fetus is not viable during the first two trimesters,

the state has no place regulating abortion in that time frame, because it would be an impingement of the freedom granted by the 14th amendment.



Specifically, the liberty to privacy, because the decision is one that should be made by a woman and her doctor.

(Sorry for the gender essentialist language, I'm paraphrasing Harry.)

A lot of these conservative justices are textualists, which supposedly means they hew strictly to the text of the constitution. They argue that there's no room for any real interpretation. This initially sounds kind of, sort of, a little bit reasonable, yeah? Like, yes, you should follow the language of a law carefully. But if you think about it, you start to see that it's complete and utter nonsense. Like, here is an example of a textualist argument: Imagine there's a park and there's a sign in the park that says no vehicles are allowed to enter. Imagine that a man has a heart attack in the park, and an ambulance is called. Imagine that the ambulance drives into the park so they can remove the man and save his life. The question is - should the EMTs get in trouble for driving a vehicle into the park? Now, if you're a normal fucking human being, you probably think it's reasonable to break the rule to save a man's life. But if you're a textualist, you'd say nope, the sign says no vehicles, someone should be punished. It's some next level smooth brain shit.

This is an extremely useful lens for reactionary conservative radicals because they can look at the constitution and say "oh yes well the word abortion isn't in here" or "well, I see nothing about gay marriage" or "hm seems like they didn't mention birth control" or "sodomy's not here, so, it's not constitutionally protected" or "nothing in here about racial integration".

In addition to being a deeply insidious and subjective way to view the law, it's also, on its face, absolutely insipid.

If the entire JOB of a judge is to interpret the law, and to figure out how to apply it to a modern context, it seems as though textualism is like, an explicit refusal to do that job.

Like the depth of your interpretation is doing a control+F search on a PDF of the constitution and then shrugging like "eh I tried!"

that's insulting.

I am insulted that you'd make decisions about what rights I do and do not have based on something so fucking lazy.

To be clear and honest, here,

I do want to say that textualism as a concept isn't completely without merit.



One might argue that it's a valuable lens because it keeps us from projecting too much of our own baggage onto laws.

For example, in a case called *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*, the court ruled to suspend an American citizen's right to a fair and timely trial because that citizen had joined Al Qaeda, which was a really bad call, the right to a trial is one of the most fundamental parts of the constitution. This decision was motivated in large part by the fact that it was 2002 and everyone was shitting themselves over 9/11, and it's easy to see how it was highly reactionary. Antonin Scalia, in arguably his only good dissent ever, said "guys you can't just hold an American citizen in Guantanamo indefinitely, habeas corpus is a thing, look at the rule book". That was a textualist argument, and let's be real, it was a good one.

But like, come on.

We can recognize the difference, right?

We can tell the difference between defending something crucial like habeas corpus and looking at the constitution and yelling

"WELL I DON'T SEE THE WORD ABORTION, SO WE CAN'T POSSIBLY."

Like we can all tell those aren't the same thing.

**If someone tries to tell you they're the same thing,
you can tell them they are wrong.**

**I'm going into all this detail because I want you to know
that these dorks in their robes aren't better than you.**

Their arguments are not intricate, or beautifully constructed.

I'm sharing all of this so no one can convince you that you just don't understand.

You do understand. You are capable. This is not beyond you.

The textualist argument against *Roe* is that, well, the 14th amendment doesn't have the word privacy in it, so it doesn't guarantee privacy and therefore the case is unconstitutional.

This is the kind of brilliant reasoning that the legal minds in the highest court in the country have to offer.

But law people, even liberal law people, will go along with that reasoning!

They'll agree that *Roe v. Wade* is shaky because it's based on the 14th amendment.

Granted, I'm not a lawyer, I just listen to a lot of podcasts,

but I think that's really dumb!

Other amendments don't explicitly mention privacy but require it to make sense.

If you have the freedom to practice any religion, per the 1st amendment,

that freedom implies privacy, that no one is going to pry into how you worship.

If you have the freedom to refuse quarter to the state, per the 3rd amendment,

that freedom implies that you have a right to privacy in your home.

The 5th amendment is all about privacy!

The 14th amendment says that the state can't deprive a person of freedom.



I would argue that based on the previous amendments, freedom only works with a degree of privacy, even if the literal word isn't in there.

It sounds to me like we've been gaslit by these goobraind fossils into questioning a decision that's actually very reasonable.

It sounds to me like there's nothing wrong with it.

It's fucking fine.

These reactionary conservative pissbabies have pushed the rhetoric so far that we've ceded an unbelievable amount of ground without even realizing it.

We need to stop acting like they have a legal point because they don't.

I'm not talking about moral or religious misgivings, people feel all kinds of complicated ways and I get that, but in terms of the law?

There's no meaningful argument. There just isn't.

Of course, none of this actually matters,

because whatever "discourse" is happening around my right, your right, to take care of our bodies and our futures and our lives ceased being logical a long time ago.

There is no logic, only utter nonsense.

There's no reasoning with it.

When I look up from my binder I remember that many of the politicians fighting to force people to be pregnant against their will are doing so not because they believe in anything but because they're hungry for power,

and power cares about nothing but perpetuating itself.

I remember that many people truly do believe in hell and thus believe they are saving their fellow human beings from the worst possible fate.

I remember that many single issue voters are not bad people, just people who are incapable of considering anything outside their lived experience.

I remember that [a significant number of people who get abortions identify as pro-life](#) and feel that while their abortion is fine, no one else should be allowed to have one.

There's a girl I know from high school who is now a hair stylist,

and I used to go to her and sit for 4 or 5 hours at a time, and we'd talk about her sons and her shitty husband and her plans for her business.

In our time together, she told me that her husband had fucked with their contraception and she was pregnant with her third child, even though she didn't want to be.

She voted for Trump because she cares about preventing abortion more than anything else,

and when I asked her why she told me that it was because being a mother was such an important thing in her life,

and I said "well what about other people's lives" and she said "babies are important".

All of her children are beautiful.

I don't speak to her anymore. She's reached out to me and I don't respond.

Perhaps if I was a better person I would have the patience to talk this through.



Perhaps I would have the broadness of spirit to receive her as she is, and to see her in her complexity, and handle having her in my life.

But I am Tracy and I am full of teeth and tentacles,
and I am strong in my convictions and the world is black and white.

And when I am not Tracy, I am heartbroken by the fact that she is both compassionate and myopic.
The clash between those things is too much for me to handle.

I don't know how to hold someone who is simultaneously smart and kind and can't understand that the thing they care about most in the world is horrifyingly brutal and cruel.

An exercise

If you can, if it's helpful, write a letter to someone you never want to speak to again. You will absolutely not send this letter under any conditions. If you think you might want to send it, you are to tear it up immediately, this is a key part of the process. If writing it is not helpful or you just don't want to, skip this. Here are some prompts.

- This is the last time I remember loving you.
- This is the last time I remember respecting you.
- This is the idiosyncratic thing about you that I once appreciated (and perhaps still appreciate)
- This is the thing I wish I could make you understand.
- This is the thing I can't comprehend about you.
- This is the thing I wish I could help you with.
- This is the thing I will never forgive you for.
- This is the part of me I wish you could see.
- This is the amount of space you take up in my mind, and this is how I feel about it.
- This is why I can't keep you in my life.
- This is what I want for you.



27

Is dis da protest you ask? How dare you...

Chorus members roll out a HUGE blank sheet of white paper, and a large inflatable pool filled with red paint.

Chorus member 1 steps in the pool gathers as much of it as she can, and slams the white sheet with RED.

The other chorus members step into the pool. They all nod to one another and do the same. They breathe, they scream. They scream at their own paces. They cry. They do staccato movements led by each chorus member (by group agreement). They cry. They play.

They write words or create shapes with their feet, hands, butts, chests, noses, coochies, whatever feels natural. And all contribute what they want to the large sheet of paper. It can be whatever. Let it be what it is for a while. And then.

We all should be covered with red. But in strange places.

And then. The sheet of paper gets rolled up and offered to an audience member followed by a line that is whispered to that audience member.

That line is determined by the chorus in rehearsal.

If the paper is taken.

What will you do next?



28

CLAIRE

It's, I'm Claire but I'm 32 now.

I like I have to tell you I'm like Very Into the whole early-30s thing.

I'm getting my Phd in civil engineering which is amazing because no one actually knows what that is? So like I'll say I'm a grad student they'll be like oh cool what do you study, I say civil engineering and then it's like, Oh Great. Because no one wants to be like "I don't know what civil engineering is." And I don't ever really feel like explaining it.

I'm single right now. I got an abortion last year. First, um, only one.

Half-beat.

I'm always like, fascinated. Um. Not Fascinated, like just.

All the women like, my age who are thrilled about Roe. Like grown ass women.

I just wanna know like. I'm curious.

Half-beat.

Like. You've never made a mistake?

You've never had an accident?

You've never like. Had someone kind of not, not listen to you. Or like.

Started without a condom because it felt good but then it felt too good and like.

Like you've never just like really wanted raw dick?

Beat.

Everybody always wants a story, I feel like. Like why do you deserve this healthcare.



What like horrible thing happened to you that makes you deserve this healthcare. Even like kinda liberal people sometimes, I feel like? Like tell me why it's not your fault you need this abortion. Tell me you need an abortion but don't talk about sex.

And I'm just like. What if it's just because I made a mistake.

Just because I was like. I was really into him and um.

I asked him to start without the condom because I liked how it felt better.

Beat.

I dunno I feel like yeah I had an accident and like.

I fixed it.

Beat.

But yeah like last year I started jogging? And it was so dumb I broke this random bone in my foot, um, I was checking the time and I didn't see this like little hole in the sidewalk and my foot twisted weird. But it was bad like I couldn't put weight on it and I went to the ER. I like knew something broke, I knew it.

Beat.

And um. No one cares how you hurt your foot. I dunno I was sitting next to like, someone who cut their hand and there was a guy with I think it had to be a dislocated shoulder it was hanging like all weird.

Beat.

Like, you wanna talk about dumb mistakes, like. My brother has actually been to the emergency room two separate times for falling down our mom's basement stairs. The first time he was 12 and he tried walking down them in rollerblades and then the second time was when he was 19 and he had huffed like, whipped cream? He huffed something.

All we did was have sex the way we normally did and he like came early. Like we would usually finish with a condom.

I didn't like. Skydive or like, jump off something or like, eat an expired yogurt. I dunno but no one's like "oh you ate an expired yogurt I hope you shit yourself forever." Any, any other healthcare it doesn't matter what happened to you or like what you did to yourself they just try to help you. And to be clear like I loved, everyone at the clinic where I got my abortion was amazing it's not like they were judgy At All or not gonna help me they were like magical I just mean like, in terms of general perception. About what mistakes we deserve like compassion about. Um. Like what mistakes we get to heal from. And what mistakes we get to tell our friends about over coffee and, like, what mistakes we get to tell our moms about.

Half-beat.

When the thing happened with my ankle I had this like, kind of bro-y doctor who was, he was actually really good I like kind of hated him when I saw him but he was like nice. Um. And he asked what happened and I'm like I checked my phone and like I didn't see this hole and he was like "oh yeah we get that all the time



like so many people do that.” He was like holding my foot at that point and pressing it with two fingers all over the place and like. I dunno. He asked how I did it but he was never not gonna help me.

29

JULIA

Let’s start some rumors about the Supreme Court.

JUSTICE

It’s the least we can do.

JULIA

It’s, it really is though. It is the LEAST we can do. Ok. You ready?

JUSTICE

Yeah/ like

JULIA

/I was oh sorry I like cut you/ off

JUSTICE

/No no I was just saying I was ready.

JULIA

Ok. Samuel Alito likes to pee himself for fun. He likes how warm his urine feels on his legs, it makes him feel cozy, but when it starts to cool down and he feels the fabric of his pants sticking to his skin he bursts into tears. “I HAVE PEE ON MY LEG” he yells and one of his clerks has to run in and change his pants. Samuel Alito refuses to help change the pants, he just stands there and cries. Anyone who clerks for Samuel Alito knows about the pee pants. It’s an open secret and it is 100% true.

JUSTICE

Neil Gorsuch believes in something called “the poodle mafia.” It is unclear exactly what this is.



JULIA

Clarence Thomas is not a human person, he's actually a giant skin balloon full of hornets. The hornets who live inside of the big balloon skin used to live in the Lincoln Memorial, but their nest was destroyed by an exterminator and so to get revenge they made a big balloon that looks like a man and they went to law school and ingratiated themselves to the political establishment and now they're destroying our civil liberties. Honestly I kind of get it because America did try to genocide them but I still wish they would stop. If you're in a room alone with him, and you listen closely, you can hear the buzzing. Ginni Thomas is also a Big Hornet Balloon.

JUSTICE

Amy Coney Barrett is afraid of the vacuum cleaner.

JULIA

Chief Justice John Roberts ends every day by climbing into a giant bathtub full of melted Velveeta. He calls this "Human Queso" and he makes all his clerks watch him do it. He's fully clothed every time so it's not like, sexual harassment, but honestly it's maybe worse. Every time he yells "I'M A BIG NACHO CHIP" and lowers himself into the Velveeta and it's really hot and it burns his skin. "OW", yells Chief Justice John Roberts, "THIS CHEESE IS SO HOT. THIS CHEESE IS SO HOT BUT I AM A BIG NACHO CHIP AND I CAN HANDLE IT." Afterwards one of his clerks has to scrub all the Velveeta out of the bathtub. All the clerks take turns but usually one person ends up doing it more often and usually that person becomes a leftist.

JUSTICE

Brett Kavanaugh likes to suck on pregnancy tests. He'll suck on them until they're saturated with his spit, and then he waits 15 minutes to see if they turn positive. He knows they won't, but he sucks on one every day at lunchtime just in case. He stares wistfully at them as his spit makes its way to the center of the test, always chasing that elusive second line.

JULIA

We're like really good at that.

JUSTICE

Yeah.



30

PHANESIA

Since 2016 I have felt very few moments of calm.
I've been on edge waiting for everything to end.
I knew we could lose Roe. And I feared it.
But above all else I feared being complacent. Growing up, I loved to read
The Diary of Anne Frank. As her spirit was beautiful and her resilience inspired me.
I would thank God that I did not have Anne's unfathomable struggles or the struggles
my mother endured as a Haitian immigrant.

And growing up a black girl in a farm town of Miami was not easy. But there was so
much hope in the air. Even after the Great recession. Even after 9/11.

And I know there will be hope again. But the hope will be different. It'll be like this Wish.
It'll come from knowing we can't get tired. Hope is now action-not a feeling.
This play saved me from drowning in the sadness of losing Roe. The sadness of knowing
some people, people like me and in places like where I'm from never really had Roe.
They had suppression. ICE.

So this play has holes. It would be 1,000 pages if we included every perspective, nuance and crevice on
abortion rights.

**So I thank God we aren't men. Because if our writing came from a man it would immediately
be upheld without regard for the experiences of others. Like how towns will go out of their
way to do socially irrelevant productions of Shakespeare (who I love) before they make useful
theatre to resonate with the living people. Because "Shakespeare is important" and "Dead guys
matter." That's our constitution. That's our government. Textualists not humanists.**

My hope is that you critique, add and challenge The Wish. As every great living document to serve living
people should evolve as a reflection of mankind's constant evolution.



31

YOU KNOW ME *enters. There is no time this takes place. But, one of her moments in passing. This could be a voiceover.*

YOU KNOW ME

Why people be using big words in legislature?

I wanna understand it too

Easy-like

I don't want to have look up shit

Because I can't reach the words without pullin' out my google dictionary

I do know people tellin' me what I can and can't do with my body.

In a law?

How can anybody do that?

Maybe" dez people" feel guilty because **if a twelve-year-old can understand the fucked up shit goin' on**

.

.

Cuz you wrote them words

Easy-like

They'd know

That your body

And what you can do with it

Is compromised through lawz.

If you left "da youth" alone with factz.

Would they learn to fear their bodies?

Or do it happen some other ways?

Easy-like.



32

JULIA

It's time to talk about the Dobbs decision, I guess
But before I like, get into the actual details,
can I just say
how offensive it is
that we have to spend
a portion of the precious time
that we have on this earth
taking Samuel Alito seriously?
I am too hot to be carefully reading what this tight-sphinctered cunt has to say.
I have actual shit to do in my life,
YOU have actual shit to do,
and now we have carefully read through a barely coherent argument that this rageful, bitter, partisan hack
dictated to his secretary.

It's one thing when your rights are taken away,
but when the justification for removing them is so intellectually flimsy it's a whole extra slap to the face.
You couldn't even pretend that you had a real reason?
You've had 50 years to come up with something that made sense!

Here okay let's unpack what this little bitch is saying:
We're getting the textualist argument we expected.
The word abortion isn't in the constitution, okay, fine,
the word privacy isn't in the 14th amendment, what a scintillating legal mind, okay.
Now we get to dive into English common law,
which is honestly not a sentence that I should be saying right now but here we fucking go.

Alito's next argument is that throughout history,
society has condemned abortions and the people who have them,



which, wow, very subjective angle from King Baby Textualist.

To back up that assertion, Alito uses
ENGLISH LEGAL PRECEDENT.

I don't know if you all remember but America stopped being part of England 250 years ago!

Why the fuck are we talking about English common law?

Alito heavily references the work of Matthew Hale,
an English jurist who died in 1676.

Matthew Hale believed in the four humors and also thought leeches were real medicine.

Matthew Hale allowed a ghost sighting to be taken as evidence in the witch trials at Bury St. Edmund's,
which set a precedent for the Salem witch trials.

Oh, right, yeah, Matthew Hale presided over literal witch trials.

Matthew Hale wrote a long defense of marital rape.

And Matthew Hale also thought abortion was bad.

Honestly given that I'm not a scholar of 17th century English history I don't want to get too in the weeds
about Matthew Hale,
but what I do know is
the idea that somehow,
we need to maintain continuity of law with a guy who died a hundred years before the United States was
actually a country,
is offensive.

It's nonsensical, and it's an affront to reason.

They care so deeply about the founding fathers? Matthew Hale died before any of the founding fathers
were fucking born.

Alito's goal in referencing Hale is to establish that for as long as there's been an America, we've been
condemning abortion.

Roe hinges on the due process clause of the 14th amendment, and Alito claims that for something to be a
fundamental right under the due process clause, it needs to be deeply rooted in this nation's history.

So what he's trying to do is establish that historically, abortion has been condemned.

But by zeroing in on this one guy, he's really cherry picking here,
because even according to the English common law that Matthew Hale practiced,
abortion was legal until 15 to 20 weeks of pregnancy.

Most states didn't outlaw abortion until after the civil war.

Historians suggest that by the 1950s, [more than 800,000 abortions were taking place each year](#) -
not safely, not legally, but they were happening.

I'm having trouble seeing the historical precedent in his argument.

It sounds like one old British loser said abortion was bad and that's what we're working with.

Alito argues that leaving Roe in tact

will force us to define boundaries around bodily autonomy in a way that could lead to a slippery slope.

He says the criteria around bodily autonomy established by Roe, "at a high level of generality, could license
fundamental rights to illicit drug use, prostitution and the like."



God forbid sex work shouldn't be a crime.

Alito says that Roe has "sparked a national controversy that has embittered our nation for half a century", ignoring the fact that abortion became a culture war because of little freaks like Newt Gingrich who wanted to increase factional support for conservatives, and abortion was used as a way to attract people to the religious right, which was more focused on fighting desegregation than anything else.

But most insanelly, Alito says that one of the reasons it's okay to get rid of Roe is because the Affordable Care Act provides more protections for pregnant people than ever before.

Samuel Alito, who has REPEATEDLY argued in favor of dismantling the ACA, says that people who need abortions will be fine to give birth and have babies because the ACA ensures they'll get the medical care and support they need.

Anyone with health insurance (and also anyone without it) can tell you that, uh. What?

In a country with rapidly rising maternal mortality rates, where giving birth will run you \$5K on the low end, \$11K on the high end, and \$30K if you have a complicated pregnancy, where insurance barely covers anything, where there's no guaranteed parental leave, the ACA is evidence that pregnant people will be fine, no worries. Again, this man has said the ACA is unconstitutional, everybody, I'm exhausted.

Do you feel exhausted? I feel like every minute I spent reading analysis of this decision was a minute that this man just popped in his mouth and ate like a french fry.

It's exhausting to engage with this level of intellectual dishonesty.

Here's what it is.

Samuel Alito has political objections to abortion.

His reactionary conservative compatriots have the same objections.

They want abortion to be illegal and they want a reason to review other 14th amendment cases.

They wrote this bullshit to justify doing what they want, and to justify removing more civil liberties in the future.

That's it.

Don't let anyone tell you it's more than that.



33

JUSTICE

The way it works in texas and oklahoma now
(the way it works in 2022)

Is abortion bans are implented by private citizens
you can sue anyone who helps someone

Get an abortion after 6 weeks

And sue them for damages (money) (for \$10,000)

So I was wondering if they'll sue me

i was wondering if they'll sue this play

Because like watch this

You can get abortion pills prescribed and mailed to you for use up to 10 weeks in pregnancy wherever you live in the united states here:

<https://aidaccess.org/>

So did i do it did i help does that count

If someone reads that and types it into their computer in texas or oklahoma and they get those pills and they're seven weeks pregnant does that count

So do you wanna sue me

do you wanna sue the person saying these words

Do you wanna sue google docs for giving me a place to write these words

Do you wanna sue the designer who made this font that i'm using to write these words

Do you wanna sue my mom she taught me abortion was my right so technically i guess she's why i'm writing this she was a social worker for thirty five years she just retired

Or maybe you wanna sue my grandma because she raised my mother and taught her to be her own person and then my mom taught me that. she has alzheimer's she can't talk or leave her hospital bed or eat solid foods but maybe you wanna sue her for raising my mom who raised me

Or do you wanna sue her mom? she's dead but maybe you can sue her and i don't even know what she thought about abortion actually but she worked at a meat processing plant and her second husband died in a mysterious fire (she had three)



and women like that make
women like me and
women like me write
plays like this and
plays like this tell you that
if you go to <https://aidaccess.org/> you can get a medication abortion after six weeks in texas and oklahoma

34

Longtime clinic nurse sips from a bottle of water.

You know what it is? Here's what it is.
Roe is gone. It's gone, they got rid of it.
And no one, no one seems worried about what we're gonna do.
They assume, they say what are you gonna do, you're gonna suffer quietly and you're gonna shove sharp things up your vagina and bleed to death.

Beat. A sip.

And I always think. I think:
If you lock us out of our own bodies, where do you think we'll go?
Maybe to your doorsteps. Maybe we'll sleep in your house somewhere you don't realize. We'll be gone before you wake up but you'll swear something is different, you'll swear something feels different, something was moved, your microwave is on the wrong setting.
It's unsettling having the wrong person in your house.
This decision was an act of violence. It was absolutely an act of violence.
What makes you think we will not return that violence? What makes you so certain?
I'm not saying we should. I um.
They just, they take it for granted: we can hurt you and you won't hurt us.

Beat.

And it's true. It's true.
Because we don't hurt people.
You do, we don't.
We don't hurt people.
We don't let people die.



35

Grief

As any creative writing teacher will tell you, it's easier to be angry than sad, and I think any person who has felt those feelings would agree.

Anger has a motor, and it propels us,
or at least we feel like it does.

Anger doesn't necessarily offer solutions but it tells us a special little secret, and that secret is that we can, if we rage enough, make a difference.

I think that's true, on some level.

I genuinely believe in the power of rage, because grounded rage, rage that's rooted in the desire to make the world better, is love with teeth.

But I also think that we fall back on rage when the sadness is too much.

Sadness tells us that something is over, and it slows us down,
and holy shit it's so hard to slow down.

I know, in myself, that sadness is very close to hopelessness,
and there's a fear that if I let myself grieve, I'll stop moving.

But here's something true - that grief isn't going anywhere.

Refusing to look at it, or pretending it's something else,
that's not going to make it go away because that's just not how this works.

We've got to figure out a way to hold it, because otherwise it'll just get heavier and heavier.

I think it's scary to dig into it because it feels like taking the lid off one of those prank cans like a prank clown can that looks like it's got Pringles in it but then a bunch of fabric snakes spring out.

If we take the lid off then yikes everything else will just come, boing,
and gross, we have to deal with it.

But you already know this, on some level.

If you're here, I'm guessing you understand.

I have no good grief ideas.



We only have a few moments, and that's not a long time,
but maybe something we can do, right now together, is sit and be quiet.
Maybe for a minute, maybe for five minutes.
Maybe we can listen to our breath and to each other's breathing,
and maybe, for a little bit, we can feel our feelings.
It might not work, we might just sit here and feel terrified,
or awkward, or overly aware, or fidgety, or bored,
but maybe we'll touch something honest.
However much time we spend here together won't be enough -
it'll never be enough, it can't be -
but it's a start.

So someone set a timer,
and someone else say "let's begin",
and then let's sit,
and see what happens.

(and then you do it)



IF I WENT TO _____ IT
WOULD MAKE ME
_____. THIS FEELING
CONSUMES MY
_____. WHEN I LET
MYSELF _____ IT
NEVER MAKES ME
_____. BUT I
WANT MORE _____ FOR



_____, I NEED MORE

_____. IT IS WHAT
GIVES ME _____.

37

ANNIE

It's Annie but I'm 67 now.

I had four abortions. I had two babies.

I gave up coffee 10 years ago and it's GREAT.

I had a bunch of jobs so I don't know what to say about what I did except "a lot"

I did "a lot"

I got a degree in sociology I have a lot of feelings about that.

It was Interesting, um.

I worked for a woman who made sculptures of trees I prepared them to ship she sold a lot of trees

I taught music

I was pretty sure I hated teaching music so I stopped but I tried it two more times to make sure

I ran the office of a woman named Bethany who was an engineer till she got pancreatic cancer

I fell in love six times but two of those were with the same person

I modeled scarves for my friend's etsy page

I worked at a non-profit where we collected pads and tampons and distributed them that was probably my favorite thing I did

And also I like my kids

I worried they'd diminish me but they didn't

Maybe I can't be diminished

I don't think I ever have been actually

I was pregnant and unpregnant 4 times and

Well actually I was pregnant and unpregnant 6 times

Because nobody is pregnant forever

that's not how it works

and

I am just

So



Fucking
Happy

38

WITCH

(this is where we make a wish)
(you can close your eyes)
(don't worry, i'll keep watch)
(so breathe)
(just keep breathing)
(in and out in and out)
(and conjure some joy)
(do you have it?)
(hold it lightly)
(drop it on your heart and let it drip)
(and as you do)
(make a wish)
(what is yours made of)
(we make wishes)
(by foraging for them inside us)
(we build them out of us)
(is yours' blood or magic or marrow)
(is it urine or tears or spit)
(and when it feels real)
(like really real)
(breathe it out into the world)
(and know)
(it's yours)
(this world is yours)
(even when it feels like it isn't)
(so say we all)





A BRIEF HISTORY OF

ABORTION LAW

SOURCED FROM PLANNED
PARENTHOOD

1930: DEATHS FROM ILLEGAL,
UNSAFE ABORTIONS

Criminalizing abortion sent the practice underground, which resulted in a high death toll.

Unsafe, illegal abortion was the cause of death for nearly 2,700 women in 1930 — almost one out of every five (18%) of recorded maternal deaths that year, according to the Guttmacher Institute.

1955: CONFERENCE ON
ABORTION LEGALIZATION

In response to increasingly alarming media coverage of unsafe, illegal abortions, Planned Parenthood held a first-of-its-kind conference on the issue of abortion.

The doctors who attended the national conference on abortion made the bold move to publicly call for abortion law reform.

1962: THALIDOMIDE

In the late 1950s and early '60s, thousands of pregnant women took a drug called thalidomide to ease pregnancy symptoms. The problem: It was found to cause severe birth defects.

In 1962, a pregnant TV host who ingested thalidomide could not obtain a legal abortion in the United States. The media tracked her journey to get an abortion in Sweden, and 52% of Americans supported her.

1964: ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY
OF ABORTION (ASA)

In 1964, abortion law reform activists registered their first national group: the Association for the Study of Abortion (ASA).



A BRIEF HISTORY OF

ABORTION LAW

SOURCED FROM PLANNED
PARENTHOOD

1969: NARAL ESTABLISHED

The National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws (NARAL) was established in Chicago at the First National Conference on Abortion Laws. It was the first national group created solely to campaign for the legalization of abortion, marking the start of direct action to repeal abortion bans.

1966: TRIAL OF THE SAN FRANCISCO 9

Nine well-respected doctors were sued in California for performing abortions on women who had been exposed to rubella, a disease known to cause birth defects. Doctors across the country came to the defense of the San Francisco Nine, including the deans of 128 medical schools. This resulted in one of the first abortion reform measures in the United States. California amended its prohibition on abortion to allow hospital committees to approve requests for abortion.

**LATE 1960S AND EARLY 1970S:
ABORTION REFORM**

Health care providers, advocates, clergy members, and the legal community lobbied state legislatures and went to court to overturn statutes that had been in place since before the turn of the century.

Between 1967 and 1973, four states — Alaska, Hawaii, New York, and Washington — repealed their abortion bans entirely, while 13 others enacted reforms that expanded exceptions. Instead of just allowing for abortion to save the patient's life, they now allowed it in instances where a pregnancy was dangerous for the physical or mental health of a patient, fetal abnormalities, and when the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF

ABORTION LAW

SOURCED FROM PLANNED
PARENTHOOD

1970: LEGAL ABORTION IN NEW YORK

In 1970, New York state legalized abortion. One day after that law took effect, a Planned Parenthood health center in Syracuse became the the first Planned Parenthood health center to provide abortion services, and the first free-standing abortion center nationwide.

In the first two years after abortion was legalized in New York, two-thirds of the abortions performed in the state were on patients who had traveled from other states — most of which still outlawed abortion. At the time, other states that had legalized abortion required patients to be state residents.

1973: ROE V. WADE

In a landmark decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the due process clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution protects the right to abortion.

In particular, the Supreme Court recognized for the first time that the constitutional right to privacy “is broad enough to encompass a woman’s decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy.”

Roe v. Wade protected the right to abortion in all 50 states, making abortion services safer and more accessible throughout the country.

The decision also set a legal precedent that affected dozens of subsequent Supreme Court cases.

1976: HYDE AMENDMENT PUT INTO PLACE

The Hyde Amendment is a discriminatory and racist policy that prevents federal dollars from being used in government insurance programs like Medicaid for abortion services (except in instances of incest, rape, or life-threatening risk to the pregnant person).



A BRIEF HISTORY OF

ABORTION LAW

SOURCED FROM PLANNED PARENTHOOD

1984: GLOBAL GAG RULE

Former President Ronald Reagan introduced the Mexico City policy, otherwise known as the global gag rule, in 1984.

The global gag rule prevents foreign organizations that receive U.S. health aid from providing information on and referrals for abortions or advocating for abortion access.

Every president since Reagan who supports abortion access has rescinded the global gag rule, while every president since Reagan who opposes abortion access has reinstated it. That includes President Donald Trump, who not only reinstated it, but expanded the global gag rule to make it even more harmful.

1992: PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA V. CASEY

This landmark case reaffirmed that the Constitution protects the right to abortion.

However, Casey created an “undue burden” framework, under which laws restricting access to abortion would be judged. This framework made it more difficult to challenge laws that were less than absolute prohibitions on abortion — requiring challenges to show that a law has the purpose or effect of placing a substantial obstacle in the path of a patient seeking an abortion.

Following Casey, state politicians passed numerous medically unnecessary abortion restrictions across the country which courts have found do not impose an undue burden.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF

ABORTION LAW

SOURCED FROM PLANNED
PARENTHOOD

1847: FORMATION OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (AMA)

In 1847, doctors banded together to form the male-dominated AMA, which scrutinized reproductive health care workers, like midwives and nurses, and the obstetric services they provided were phased out. Members believed they should have the power to decide when an abortion could be legally performed. At the same time, the AMA was composed of physicians who lacked expertise in pregnancy and reproductive health.

AMA members launched a full-fledged criminalization campaign against abortion and female abortion providers. State legislatures moved to ban abortion.

1880S: CRIMINALIZATION AND VILIFICATION

By 1880, all states had laws to restrict abortion — with exceptions in some states if a doctor said the abortion was needed to save the life or health of the patient, or for therapeutic reasons.

As abortion became criminalized, the stigma surrounding it grew.

1910: NATION-WIDE ABORTION BAN

- Abortion was not only restricted but outright illegal at every stage in pregnancy in every state in the country. These abortion bans had some exceptions in instances to save the patient's life — a decision that only doctors, 95% of whom were men, had the power to make.
- By this time, America had experienced several decades of increased immigration. Worried about losing their hold on the country, white men in power supported abortion bans as a way to get upper-class white women to have more children.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF

ABORTION LAW

SOURCED FROM PLANNED
PARENTHOOD

● **2007: GONZALES V. CARHART AND
GONZALES V. PLANNED PARENTHOOD
FEDERATION OF AMERICA**

The Supreme Court upheld the first federal legislation to criminalize abortion, allowing Congress to ban certain second-trimester abortion procedures — which are sometimes the safest and best way to protect a patient’s health.

Because the legislation does not contain an exception for the patient’s health, the Supreme Court effectively overruled a key component of *Roe v. Wade*: that the patient’s health must be of paramount concern in laws that restrict abortion access.

● **2016: WHOLE WOMAN’S HEALTH V.
HELLERSTEDT**

The Supreme Court ruled that two Texas abortion restrictions were unconstitutional because they would shut down most abortion providers in the state and impose an “undue burden” on access to safe, legal abortion in Texas.

● **2020: JUNE MEDICAL SERVICES V.
RUSSO**

On June 29, 2020 — in *June Medical Services v. Russo* — the Supreme Court struck down a medically unnecessary law that was nearly identical to the one it had struck down in *Whole Woman’s Health*. This law would have made abortion virtually inaccessible in Louisiana.

● Four justices dissented, and it was the last time Ruth Bader Ginsburg had a chance to rule on abortion access before she died later that year. Ginsburg was replaced by Amy Coney Barrett — who is one of three Supreme Court justices nominated by Donald Trump.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF

ABORTION LAW

SOURCED FROM PLANNED
PARENTHOOD & CBS NEWS

2021: TEXAS SIX-WEEK BAN

On Sept. 1, 2021, Texas implemented a dangerous law called S.B. 8, which bans abortion at approximately six weeks of pregnancy — before many people even know they're pregnant.

The AMA denounced the Texas abortion ban, but the Supreme Court allowed it to take effect.

2022: ALITO'S DRAFT OPINION AGAINST ROE V. WADE

In May, Politico publishes a 98-page draft opinion written by Alito in the Mississippi case that would strike down Roe and Casey if finalized by a majority of justices. Alito writes that Roe was "egregiously wrong from the start" and "must be overruled."

"The Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision, including the one on which the defenders of Roe and Casey now chiefly rely — the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment," Alito writes. "That provision has been held to guarantee some rights that are not mentioned in the Constitution, but any such right must be 'deeply rooted in this Nation's history and tradition' and 'implicit in the concept of ordered liberty' ... The right to abortion does not fall within this category."

JUNE/JULY 2022: FINAL RULING

The Supreme Court's final ruling is expected by the end of the court's term, in late June or July.

