

The Anarchist Library
Anti-Copyright



ambassador of homosexuality

mk zariel

Summer 2024

queers like us ache to carve ourselves starring roles in the
pageant
called gay rights. become picture-perfect
assimilated gays who've never once had an emotional
breakdown
queers like us can't have problems can we? if we do, you
will realize
your hierarchies spell death for our chosen family

so queers like us create the illusion of the normal
erase the the way a slur not yet reclaimed
burns holes in luminous queer skin, our relatives claiming
they don't think of us as gay
and worst of all, we're free: to be complicit in murder, to
marry our oppressors
but in three fifths of the country, not all that free from con-
version therapy.
appeasement is our world-

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Retrieved on Jun 14 2024 from
<https://unfuturingzine.com/unfuturing-01-summer24.pdf>.

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you might even feel—heaven forbid—embarrassed by your
gay jokes in the chat
if you realized your trolling was more earth-shattering than
annoying

we are the palatable queers in stock photos and wholesome
tv shows
a legion of gay best friends, anti-heroes, ghosts
drawn in eternal smiles, then struggle that paints our existence
as a tragedy. we don't talk about activist burnout
the perpetually stressed lesbians who cry all night to kimya
dawson
wondering if the day after the revolution
they'll finally get to take a deep breath.

in your so-called representation, we're too stressed
to recall the days when we were preschoolers
who stared at the other girls, feeling like an alien being for
aching
to sit next to her at circle time and be her world
sometimes we still feel like sad gay preschoolers—
but we shape ourselves on the daily to win begrudging
smiles of acceptance
sometimes softly pitying stares, never the bring-down-
heteronormativity-with-me-baby
kind of love that only queers can have for one another

maybe we can become the queers who declare to straight
society
we are done being perfect humans.

i am not your ambassador of homosexuality
doomed to keep smiling for your straight opinions
never discover the liberation i can embrace

not your sob story, not the teenage statistic
you trot out at fundraisers in your cheesy suit and tie
to make donors to your “nonprofit”
feel straight and self-important.

and by the way, i might have even volunteered with you
if only you had started an affinity group.
but you didn't, and the last time you checked your privilege
was never. so today
our queerness is everything your heteronormativity stands
against—
both a revolutionary force and the way my heart
bursts into queer love and mild panic when i see any other
woman
maybe tonight we can do our preschool selves proud:
our queer struggle is not yours to claim