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### Welcome to the Masquerade

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WELCOME

By: PHOEBE  
SANTALLA

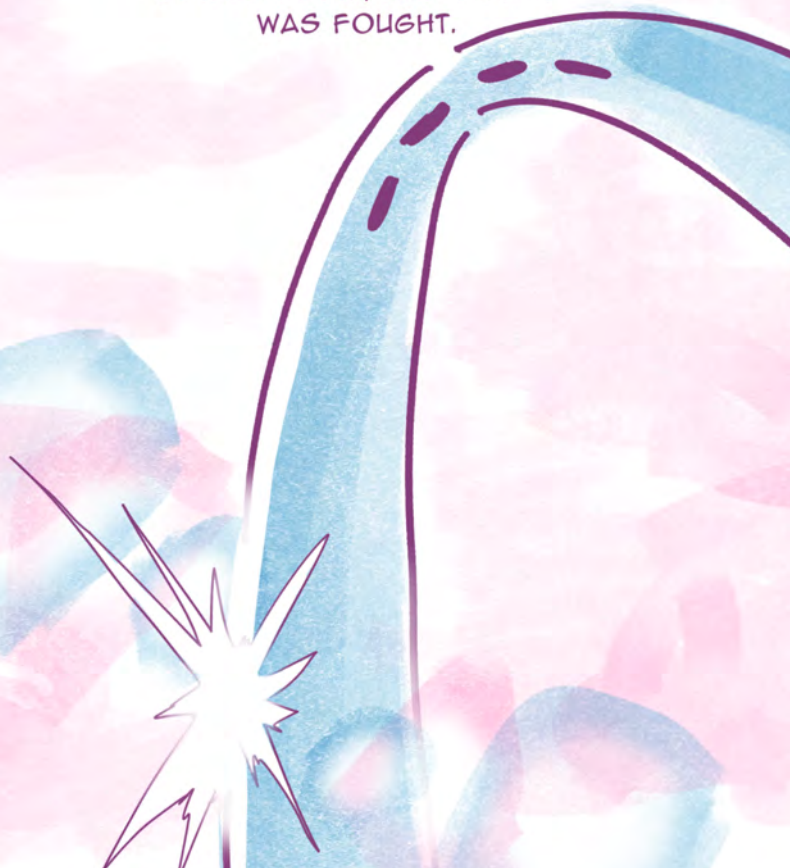
TO THE

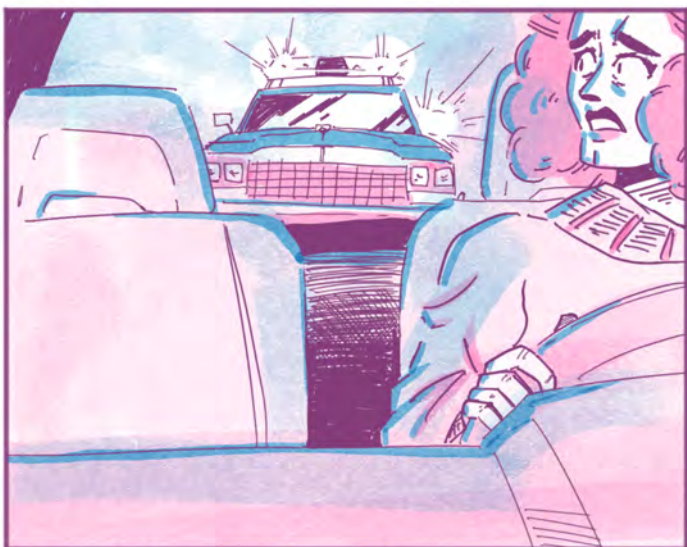
# MASQUERAD

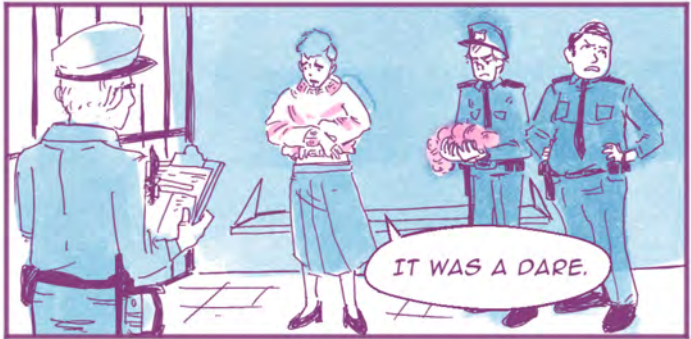


IN 1843 ST. LOUIS INTRODUCED  
LEGISLATION AGAINST  
CROSS-DRESSING. UNTIL 1986  
THESE LAWS WERE USED AS A WAY  
TO HARASS AND LEGALLY PUNISH  
PEOPLE FOR BEING GENDERQUEER  
AND/OR QUEER.

IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT ANTI-LGBT  
LEGISLATION IN THE STATE OF  
MISSOURI, IT'S IMPORTANT TO  
REMEMBER WHERE THIS IDEOLOGY  
COMES FROM, AND HOW IT  
WAS FOUGHT.









DEAR MR. MILLER OF THE ACLU,

PLEASE HELP MY SON, HE WAS ARRESTED WEARING WOMEN'S CLOTHING IN HIS OWN CAR! HE HAS STRUGGLED ALL HIS LIFE WITH HEALTH ISSUES, BUT I ASSURE YOU **HE IS NOT GAY**. HE DOES NOT DESERVE THIS HUMILIATION OVER A DARE THAT SOME COWORKER PUT HIM UP TO.

HE'S A GOOD BOY, AND I BELIEVE HE WAS SET UP. THE POLICE SAID HE WAS WALKING AROUND THE PARK, BUT HE NEVER LEFT HIS CAR UNTIL THEY TOLD HIM TO GET OUT!

WHEN WE (HIS WIFE AND I) WENT TO BAIL HIM OUT, SOME OF THE OFFICERS HAD SUGGESTED THAT "THEY LIKE TO GO TO THE PARK." IMPLYING THE "**STRONGARM**" WANTS THE GAYS OUT OF THERE NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE DOING ANYTHING WRONG, BUT SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY'RE DIFFERENT!

SINCERELY YOURS,  
MS. RODGERS  
(DRAPER'S MOTHER)



MEANWHILE, IN NORTH ST. LOUISIS...



KEEP WEARING  
WOMEN'S CLOTHING AND  
SEE IF IT HELPS YOUR  
MENTAL AILMENT. THEN  
WE'LL SEE IF YOU ARE A  
GOOD FIT FOR SEX  
REASSIGNMENT  
SURGERY.



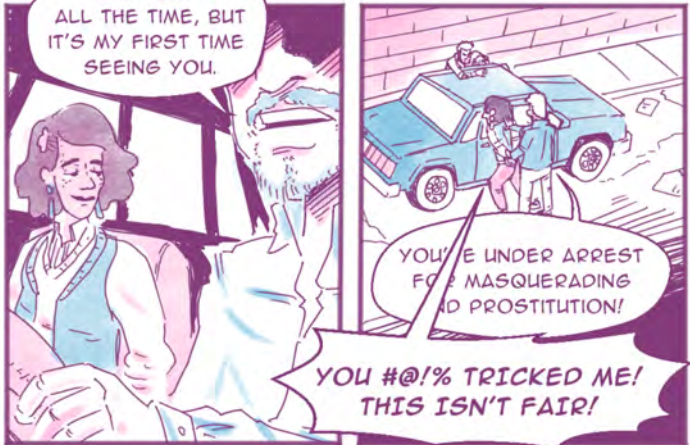
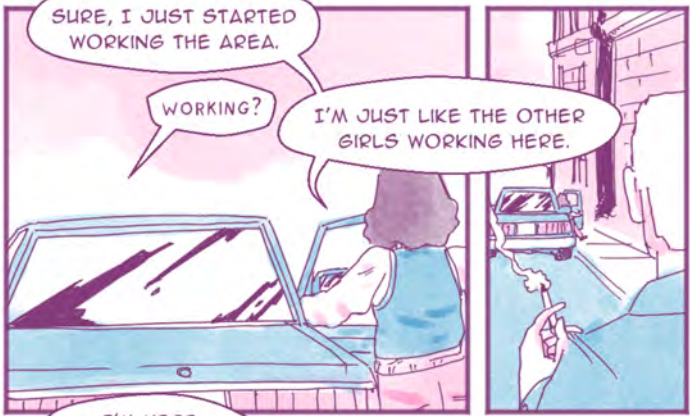
THAT WON'T  
BE A PROBLEM.



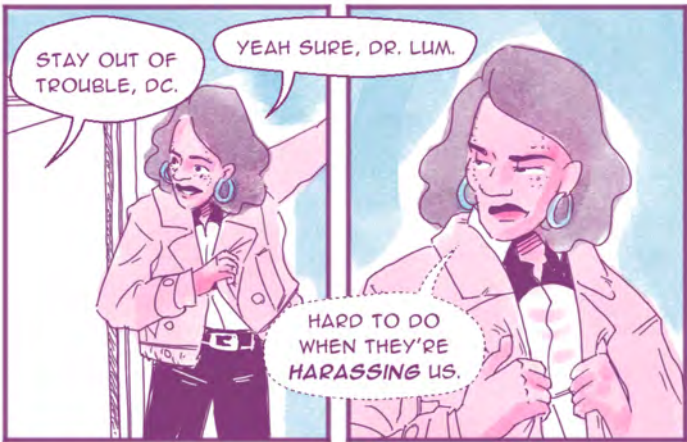
THE PROCEDURE  
IS EXPENSIVE, CAN  
YOU AFFORD IT?

DON'T WORRY,  
I'VE GOT THAT  
COVERED.





TWO WEEKS LATER...





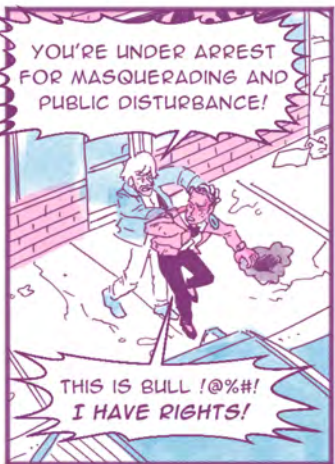
THEY'RE TARGETING US! THEY ARE ATTACKING GAY PEOPLE!

I HEARD THE COPS BUSTED A DRAG SHOW AT UNCLE MARVIN'S, AND GRABBED ANYONE DRESSED UP.

WHY'RE THEY SO CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT WE'RE WEARING? DON'T THEY GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO THAN TRYING TO LOCK UP EVERY HOMOSEXUAL UNDER THE SUN?



IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT.







DRAG PERFORMER, M.S.



I'M FROM RIVERFRONT  
TIMES, DO YOU HAVE ANY  
COMMENTS ON THE CASE?

I'M A PERFORMER.  
ON ANY GIVEN NIGHT THEY  
COULD TAKE AWAY  
MY LIVELIHOOD!

STEVE IS GETTING LETTERS  
FROM THE COMMUNITY DAILY!

PEOPLE WANT  
THIS LAW *GONE!*

TRANS WOMAN, D.C.



THIS IS GETTING TOO BIG...

SOMEONE'S GOING TO FIND OUT.  
I HAVE TO *GET OUT* OF THIS.

AND SECURITY GUARD,  
D.D. CHALLENGED  
ST. LOUIS CITY OVER  
THE MASQUERADE LAW.



AT THE BEGINNING OF 1985 D.D., THE FORMER SECURITY GUARD, VOLUNTARILY LEFT THE CASE IN FEAR OF FURTHER HARM TO HIS NAME.

D.C., AN ORDINARY PERSON TRYING TO LIVE HER LIFE, AND M.S., THE DRAG PERFORMER, CONTINUED THEIR CASE AGAINST THE CITY.

IN AUGUST OF 1986, THE ST. LOUIS MASQUERADING LAW WAS FINALLY DEEMED UNCONSTITUTIONAL BY A U.S. APPEALS COURT AND OVERTURNED.

AFTER OVER 120 YEARS, THE MASQUERADING LAW IN ST. LOUIS WAS DECLARED A VIOLATION TO ITS CITIZENS RIGHTS.

ANTI-DRAG LEGISLATION EERILY SIMILAR TO THE MASQUERADING LAW WAS PROPOSED IN MISSOURI IN 2023, BUT HAS BEEN TABLED FOR NOW THANKS TO FOLKS IN THE QUEER COMMUNITY.





THIS ZINE IS BASED ON TRUE EVENTS  
OF ST. LOUIS QUEER HISTORY.

D.C. & M.S. V. CITY OF ST. LOUIS WAS  
DECIDED JULY 9, 1986.

THESE STORIES AND MORE ARE  
FOUND ONLINE AT MAPPING LGBTQ  
ST. LOUIS [BIT.LY/MAPLGBTQSTL](https://bit.ly/maplgbtqstl)

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