

Many thanks to the wonderful @helenstoybox for the transcription.

Transcription of the call from Savage Love Episode No. 577 Get Thee to a Therapist
Roughly from 15 to 25 minutes in

Caller:

"Hi Dan, um, long time listener, first time caller. um, I've a private conundrum and it's causing me a great deal of distress and I was wondering if you had any insight on it.

So, um, as you can hear, probably, I ... a lot of people think I'm a female but I'm ... actually identify as a trans man but I haven't had any surgery or hormones and I don't currently plan on getting surgery or starting hormones ... it's not where I am currently so currently I present as a female, um, sometimes I wear more feminine clothes, sometimes I wear more masculine clothes, and ... um ... basically I can't get anyone in the gay community to like date me or take me seriously as a gay man and sure, I can go have sex with like a heterosexual, you know, cisgendered man or something like that but they just don't ... they refuse to relate to me as the gay man that I am. And I just don't wanna feel like just because I am a trans man that I have to get surgery or start hormones. Like if I make that decision, I want it to be my decision and not because I'm being pressured to make that decision by any community. And so it's just like how do I find people who are gonna date me for who I am when I present as a female and I don't identify as a female but I don't necessarily currently wanna take steps medically to look like a man, like I wanna date men, because I'm a gay man, who are attracted to me as who I am and I see with, you know, trans women there's a lot of push for acceptance of um, not identifying penises as necessarily being male genitalia and things like that but I don't see a lot of that for trans men and I'm just feeling kind of angry and isolated and I was wondering if you have any advice."

Dan Savage:

"Joining me by phone from London to help tackle this call is Buck Angel, speaker, author, porn star, frequent Savage Lovecast guest and also a trans man who has had sex with more gay men than I have. Hey Buck."

Buck Angel:

(laughing)

"Hello my friend but I don't think I've had more than you so you'd better stop saying that."

Dan Savage: (laughing) "hahaha, well some day we'll have to get together and compare our sex diaries and ..." (both laugh together) "... get out the assgrabacus and figure out who's had more. Alright, so speaking from personal experience, let's not even talk about the call for a second. There are gay men out there who will sleep with trans men. is that not so?"

Buck Angel:

"Well, you just said it, right? So, um, yeah I've slept with many, many, many gay men who identify completely as gay men, one hundred percent, yes."

Dan Savage:

"And your having a vagina, you're the, the man with the pussy, that's how you style yourself, isn't a problem for these guys. There are definitely lots of gay men out there who, that's not an issue. They accept you as a man and they appreciate you as a man and they regard your genitalia as male genitalia. That's Buck's pussy. It's a guy's pussy."

Buck Angel:

"Yep, a hundred percent. I have no problems at all, men are so incredibly awesome with me and yeah, nope, I have no problems at all."

Dan Savage:

"Not all gay men. There are certainly gay men who would have to be described as "fallopheles" according to some, uh, authors on the internet. Uh, Evan Erccron at Slate says that people who have a really strong preference for puss or penis should describe themselves as "vagiphiles" or uh "fallopheles", um, so there's some gay guys out there who, you know, they want a dick on a dude and that's not necessarily transphobic, so long as they're respectful and kind about framing their desires in a non-negative way."

Buck Angel:

"Yes..."

Dan Savage:

"But there are plenty of guys who'll sleep with trans men."

Buck Angel:

"I mean, come on, of course there's gonna be gay men who have problems with me and those are the gay men I don't hang out with. The gay men I hang out with completely respect me as a man, we have amazing sex, everything is fine. So yes, there's men who are not going to be into it just like everybody else right, we're just like everybody else. So ..."

Dan Savage:

"Right, so now let's pivot to the caller."

Buck Angel:

"So ugh, it's difficult for me because I feel for this person. I feel for this person. I feel it in her voice."

(Can't hear if it's "her" or "their" and I think there's an audio edit which is muddying it a bit.)

I feel how much they really want to be taken seriously as a person who identifies as a trans man. But let's talk about realistic behavior here and some people are gonna get very upset at me for saying this and that's OK because I'm the guy who really wants to make it better for this person. And the reality of it is this person is saying that they do not take hormones, they do not have any surgery, they presently present as female. That right there alone says to me "of course gay men are not going to be attracted to you. You're presenting as female." Even though inside of your body you feel masculine, you present yourself as masculine in your head and in your mind and that's who you wanna be and all of that is great and everybody respects that but the reality of the situation is gay men or whoever are visually

attracted to people and visually right, so there's a visual part of you that people are going to be attracted to whether that's that hypermasculinity or just basic masculinity. This person presents as female. Of course a gay man is not going to necessarily be attracted to you. So, so that said, I understand how come gay men are not attracted to her. does that make sense to you?"

Dan Savage:

"Yeah that totally makes sense. This is the kind of call we get once in a while where I think "OK, I think this person would rather complain than get laid". 'Cause I know a kinda guy out there who might be into him, which is the bi guy who appreciates his male essence but also the female that he presents as. Appreciates the boobs, appreciates everything else, the secondary female sex characteristics that currently this guy manifests."

Buck Angel:

"Yes."

Dan Savage:

"And that guy, that bi guy who can be into the dude that you are but into the body that you've got, go find that guy. But I think the caller would rather complain about how terrible and awful gay men are because gay men won't sleep with trans men which is a lie."

Buck Angel:

"It's a total lie and that's why I get so upset at this community sometimes because it is a lie. I've proven it to be a lie. Of course, seventeen or eighteen years ago when I started, yes, gay men had a huge problem with me. You know that. That's how we became friends. That's how me and you became friends."

Dan Savage:

"Right, exactly."

Buck Angel:

"you had a problem with it but you were fucking gracious enough to have a conversation with me and from that minute on, you totally got it and we moved forward."

Dan Savage:

"I wouldn't say I had a problem with it. It kinda blew my mind. I was like what? Brave new world that has such dudes in it."

Buck Angel:

"That is awesome. You were great and I laughed about it and we had a great time and we cleared that up. Fast forward to today, look. there are still guys who have a problem with me and look how masculine I am right? So there are going to be problems and here's the deal with the transgender, specifically the trans male community when this stuff starts to happen.

I personally don't understand this because I come from a whole other space. I'm a transsexual, not even a trans man. To me a trans man now doesn't have anything to do with what it means to transition or any of that. It's become something totally blurring the lines and the reality of it is that when you start to play with all these gender roles and all these sexual roles and you start taking them out of where they've already been, you better be prepared for people to push back on you. And that's the reality that this person needs to understand is you're pushing against what people in society have already been set to think the way it is and we are changing that which is great but it takes a long time for people to understand and this person thinks they're immediately gonna say they're a trans man and they identify as a gay man and then the whole gay community is gonna be like yeah? No, they're far from it. They're not gonna do that. So we need to have that real talk."

Dan Savage:

"And I don't think that makes the gay community evil or monolithic or bad. Like there are gay men who have slept with you. I have a really good friend in his twenties who dates trans guys and doesn't make a distinction, like he dates guys. Some of those guys are trans. And I also gave him a call about this question and he had a three word response which was "don't do boobs"."

Buck Angel: (laughs) "Oh my God!"

Dan Savage:

"Like he needs, you know, he's fine with the vagina but he needs all those secondary male sex characteristics that the trans guys he dates are post-op with top surgery but he doesn't care about anything else."

Buck Angel: (laughs)

"Right and he's allowed to have that, you know what I mean? Whatever he wants to do as a gay man and whatever makes him attracted he can do. This person, you're right, is complaining without even understanding what they're complaining about. They want the whole world to just be like "OK!", but they're living in a fantasy world and this is a really bad and a big problem because we're not coming down to this reality. They're living not in the world as far as I'm concerned, they're not."

Dan Savage:

"'Cause this is someone who would rather complain than get laid."

Buck Angel:

"Yes, exactly and many people will have sex with you my friend but you just have to find the person who finds you attractive and that's that."

Dan Savage:

"And that's gonna be someone who with the exteriors and the object thing that you are 'cause we're all objects as well as human beings and three-dimensional persons, that exterior is female presenting so you're gonna draw the eye initially of someone who's attracted to the female that you present as and if you go for a bi guy, that guy might be able to tap into also the man that you are."

Buck Angel:

"Yes, that's a really great point by the way, that's awesome point so that's that."

Dan Savage:

"But gay guys aren't gonna be able to, most of them, almost all of them, aren't gonna be able to go there and that's not because they're assholes, it doesn't prove that they're transphobic, it proves that they're men attracted to men."

Buck Angel:

"That is so ridiculous that they would even say transphobic. There's trans people who don't date trans people. Does that make them transphobic? Hehe, That's like ridiculous behavior. Now we're, now we're oh, we're getting so insanely nitty gritty about, you know, just in deep, every little crevice that we are actually not moving forward and this is so upsetting to me that these kinds of things happen because we're not moving forward, we're moving backwards. We can't, we have to, anyway, makes me just go crazy."

Dan Savage: (laughs)

"Well Buck Angel, you are a force for good and you are moving us forward. Buck Angel, speaker, author, porn star and trans man who again i'm going to assert has had sex with more gay men than I have, thank you so much for jumping on the phone."

Buck Angel: (laughs)

"Alright, love you my friend, bye."

Dan Savage:

"You too. Bye."