



*2 PARTS
OF DESIRE*

Sarah

When I was 4, or maybe 5, I felt out of place. I was completely different; I just didn't fit in with the rest. I remember constantly switching TV stations to look for people like me. At first it was confusion, but as I grew older I'd look at a girl & say, "I should be like that!" But you know, it all felt normal...I didn't force anything, it felt perfectly natural. I was my own girl. People must have seen something, they said "he's so quiet, so sensitive." My mother, if she knew she must have denied it. At school I was bullied a lot... I wasn't bothered with studying, I just wanted to read Vogue! I'd be minding my own business when my bag would go flying & I'd be punched to hell.

When I was around 10 I started pinching mum's stuff & spending hours in the bathroom dressing & wearing mascara. I couldn't always get it all off, so I'd go to school with lipstick & eyeliner...in an all-boys school! I used to tell the school I was sick & stay home to be myself. Do normal things, nothing special. Those are the only moments I felt good with myself in all my life. I've never showed my true self to the world, not until a few years ago. I'm still terrified of going out during the day.

I was very lonely, always on my own. Every night I cried on my bed, praying "God, let me wake up me." In my heart I was dying. At 11 I had a stress-induced peptic ulcer, & still live with debilitating migraines. Many people like me just give up. Some choose to live a lie. Others choose to die.

I was terribly afraid of mum, a real force to be reckoned with. She once caught me with a pair of tights & heels, & she went completely ballistic...the beating I was given that day! "Freak! What would my family say?" They tried changing me, sent me away to do manly stuff. She accepted others, but never me. "You can't help your desires, but you sure can help your actions." She once got a priest over, & he said, "you have no right to be married, no right to be in love, no right even to be living."

It all became clear when I was 19, thanks to one particular priest who opened my eyes & gave me Communion. When he told me I was loved by God, I found the courage to research & realised that yes, God made me as I am, & for a reason. Angry, frustrated, exhausted. I've been fighting since I was a child. I'll continue fighting, you know, but now I'm not alone. I've got my beloved partner & we have a circle of real friends. I want to feel like a normal human being, feel the sun on my face, feel the wind, hear the birds. I want to go to University, I want to get involved in politics & say things that need to be heard.

I just wish everybody listened.