

yo, i'm fin. congrats on coming
out as trans.

- fin.

lmao yeah i sure have pronouns
gen. i don't really care which
ones you use for me though.
and yeah i've gotten that sorta
response a lot, i tend to be more
on the quiet side, that's part of
why i ended up in here. but i'll
admit, even if i don't know you
and you seem a bit... extra,
talking to people is nicer than i
remembered.

if you want me to talk more, then
here: i've got a question for
you. i've never had someone come
out to me before and like, i'm
sure i did something wrong, but
what was it? i'm realizing i
don't know how to approach this
gender stuff.

- fin.

wait no, you're fine. i really
don't know shit about gender, idk
what's goin on behind the scenes
with you, i'm sure that you're
probably fine.

- fin.

hey gen.

i'm sorry if i ended up upsetting you. i had no clue that there was so much you were holding on to...

i found some old letters of yours, and they made me realize that there's a lot of stuff i need to figure out about myself too. and with all you've had to deal with, you seem much more confident in yourself, and i want to learn from you.

so, if i ever meet you, i'd love to sit and chat. maybe we can even leave this train...

- fin.

Hi!

I hope this letter finds you well! Or I guess, if you're in this train you're probably not doing the greatest... but that's beside the point!

I just wanted to introduce myself to other people here on The Train! We've got this mail system set up, and I haven't gotten anything from anyone yet!!

I should probably actually get to the point, which is my name! I'm Gen (pronounced like "Jenn"), and I'm a girl!

I've always wanted to be able to say that :) I'm a girl!

It took me a long time to build up the confidence to even say that (*thankfully my time here in The Train has helped plenty*), but now I can!

I'm still new to the whole "being trans" thing, but I wanted to be out and open and tell everyone who I am!

I'm sure nobody is gonna read this, let alone reply, but it feels great to get this off my chest!

So one more time, hello everyone, I'm Gen!

Yo Fin!

Yeah, me coming out is kind of a big deal haha! But hey, you're the only one who's responded so far, so tell me a bit about yourself!

Fin is a pretty neat name! I think something trans people do is ask about pronouns? Do you have those? Or wait everyone has pronouns I just meant like what are yours?

Sorry, I'm really new to this! I just expected more of a reaction not gonna lie, I'm not really sure how to follow up on just "hi".

I mean, this was a huge deal for me, and nobody else has even responded, positively or negatively.

I'm a little lost at what to do here not gonna lie??

I don't know, I was prepping myself for like a negative response, I had a plan in place on how to deal with that happening, but just a totally like, neutral response??

Not gonna lie Fin you really know how to make a girl confused...

Anyways, I think it would be cool if you told me a bit about yourself! Only if you want to of course... It could be fun though!

Getting to know someone else here on The Train, it gets pretty lonely here! I mean I know that's the point but sometimes the isolation really gets to me.

How about you? With the way you responded I'm sure you probably enjoy the quiet. Not to say you're a loner! Or anything else negative about you!! I don't know you, like at all. I'm sure you're a good person... probably. No, that's not a good thing to assume about a stranger. You are more than likely a good person! I would love to get to know you better.

I would love to get to know you better. And hey, maybe a biiiiiit more than just one line would be nice!

Thanks for talking! Or well, at least trying to?

Gen!

(P.S: Sorry this letter is so long! Gotta make up for the quiet somehow haha!)

Oh wow, I'm the one being asked about gender stuff? Never thought this would happen so soon haha.

But that's cool about your gender! I think?

I've never met someone who uses multiple pronouns, which one should I use?

Or should I just be swapping them around? Geez it's starting to sound like you know more about gender than I do! Sorry, I just don't really know much about gender, I'm like, really new to this. I'm not sure that you did anything wrong!

My standards might just be too high, like I mentioned this pretty much the first time I've ever come out to someone...

Hey neighbor, I'm ■

Actually, I'd rather not share my name. I'm your current neighbor, if I've addressed this properly, and well... I have a secret that's been weighing on me for so long, and I really need to get this off of my chest.

I'm... not a boy. I don't think so at least. I've had a while to think about it, especially since I entered this train, and I just... I've always felt like I was different, you know? Like there was some sort of glass wall between me and the other boys.

Nobody could see it, hell I wasn't even convinced it was there for the longest time, but whenever I tried to join the boys, to be like them to act like them just to fit in somewhere with "my people", something would be stopping me and I could never figure out what it was.

But sorry, I was getting a little sidetracked, don't need to give away my whole life story haha. All this is to say, I'm your currently-unnamed neighbor, and... I think that I might be transgender. I don't know what I'm hoping to accomplish with this letter, but just being able to put this into words is nice, even if you don't end up reading it. So thank you.

-Your Neighbor <3

Hi Neighbor!

So, when I made that comment at the end about it being okay if you don't even read this, I was hoping for it to be more rhetorical haha. It seems like you took it more literally than I expected!

That's okay though, because it honestly was helpful just to send the letter at all. It's only been a few days, but I've already started feeling more comfortable thinking about myself as trans. It's scary, but exciting. I've been so busy worrying about how other people would feel if I transitioned, that I never even considered how it would make me feel.

And you know what? It feels nice.

So, even if you're not paying attention, I hope you don't mind me clogging up your inbox with some letters!

If even just one letter (or I guess one and a half now haha), can be that therapeutic, I'd love to see how I feel after sending a few more! Thank you for the help, neighbor. It's appreciated, even if you're not doing much.

Or anything, really.

- Thank you!
Your Neighbor <3

Hey!!

I know it's been a few weeks since I last wrote, but I had a super-secret plan for my next letter to you, that I'm finally able to do! I wanted to have picked out a name for myself before I wrote again, I was getting tired of signing off as "Your Neighbor" ya know? At first though, I really wasn't sure what to do with my name.

I know my parents really did put in a lot of care in naming me, and especially with how tense things may be after I come out to them, changing the name they gave me on top of that? I can't imagine how bad that would feel.

It especially sucks too, since I was named after my dad. I can't imagine the feeling, having finally given birth to your kid after however many failed attempts, and choosing to give that kid the greatest gift you could think of, your own name.

And then they just go and get rid of it?! I wouldn't want to do that to somebody. But, at the same time, trying to convince people I'm a girl while having my dad's masculine as hell name? I've gotta make concessions somewhere. I'm doing this for me, I'm gonna upset people along the way, but if it's what will help me feel comfy in my own skin, then maybe it won't be so bad.

Enough of the sob story though.
It's time for the name reveal
you've been waiting for!

I decided to go with something
pretty simple, just: "Gen".

What do you think? Not "Jen" with
a J, not "Jennifer" or "Jenny",
just "Gen"! I got it from the
word Genesis, since I really want
to approach this transition as a
new beginning for myself.

I've been letting my fear and
anxiety control me for the
longest time, they've kept me
from seeing who I am and being
who I want to be, but I don't
want that anymore.

Today marks the start of my new life, one where I know despite whatever happens, I'll actively be fighting for the best life I can have, and that's all that matters.

This got a bit long, but thanks for bearing with me!

And! Now I can sign with my real name!

Hey, it's Gen.

Sorry to write to you like this after my last letter was so chipper, I've just been having a lot of trouble like, mentally.

It's crazy, just a few days ago I was feeling so good about this, but now even just thinking about gender for too long is making me feel sick to my stomach. There's so much going against me, is it really worth it? I feel so selfish, I know plenty of people really aren't gonna like it if I transitioned, but I'm gonna do it anyways?

I don't know, that just feels so selfish, I don't want to make people upset just because I can't get over some stupid brain gunk.

I don't know, the more I think about it, the more I start to doubt if it's even worth it. I feel like it would be easier if I just like... got over it ya know?

I know I'm essentially just talking to a wall right now, but at least being able to sort these thoughts out on paper is better than nothing, haha.

- Thanks,
Gen

Hi again,

Sorry again about that last letter, I was really getting in my head. And honestly? Still am. But more than anything, I don't want to go down that easily. I know I'm going to have to face plenty of adversity going forwards, I really don't want to add more pushback from myself, you know?

It's difficult to not be my own worst enemy right now. But out of everything that's going to try and stop me from transitioning, I should be the easiest one to convince otherwise, ya know? I want to fight for a better life, even if people are gonna try and keep me down, I'd rather live a short and happy life than a long and miserable one.

I'm done trying to be someone I'm not, someone whose sole purpose in life is to blend in and be "just another guy". I'm trans, I'm a girl, and I'm going to make it everybody's problem. That's my promise to you, neighbor.

That's also the first time I've been able to confidently call myself a girl, that's pretty cool...

- Thank you,
Gen <3

Hey!

It's been a little bit, but it's your bestie, Gen! I just finished drafting up a letter to a few more cars, formally announcing my coming out! I know it might be tacky, but I think making some sort of announcement makes it more final ya know? No turning back if everybody already knows!

I can't lie, I'm scared out of my mind right now. I haven't sent any letters yet, and honestly if the other passengers are anything like you, I probably won't get any sort of response, but still... it just feels so real now. I've worked hard to get here, there's been highs, there's been lows... but at the end of the day, I am who I am, and there's no denying that.

I can't promise that things will be easier for me going forward. But I can promise that I'm going to do what's best for me. I'm going to fight for a better life, one where I can be me. Be who I am and who I want to be, and not anybody else. I'm Gen, and nobody is going to take that away from me.

I'm doing this for Gen, the girl who's always been inside me, wanting to be free and happy, show herself to the world and give it all the love she has to give.

I'm doing this for the young boy I pretended to be, to show him that things will get better, and that life is worth fighting for, that soon she'll be happy too.

I'm doing this for myself, to give myself the chance to break down that glass wall that separated me from everyone else. Every day that passes, is another day I'm engaging in the most radical act of self-love possible. I promise you, I'm going to be okay.

Thank you for letting me fill up your room with these letters. Whoever is reading this, know that I love you, and I thank you so much for listening. It's been nice dumping my thoughts somewhere.

Thank you so much, and I hope to see you one day. And I'll be so much happier when you see me.

- Gen <3