

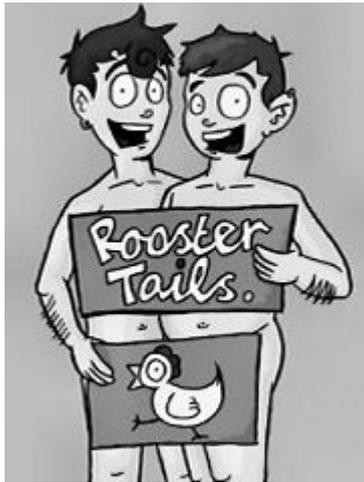
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# Queer 101

## Trying to Find Who I Am

by Sam Orchard

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... a gratuitous picture of Sam and Joe, because they're perverted like that.

**M**y life is rarely reflected within the media that I consume. As a kid I searched for myself in books, television, film, in music, and in art. And I couldn't find myself anywhere.

I felt lost, alone, and confused.

I knew what I wasn't; but it's hard to define yourself to others using only negatives:

I am not a girl.

I am not a boy.

I am not straight.

I am not gay.

I am not ...

So I started drawing comics to help me explore who I was.

I still haven't quite figured out who I am yet, and I'm not convinced that I ever will. But, I have found some words that I can claim as mine:

I am trans.

I am queer.

I am in movement.

The complexities within human experiences of our genders, sexes and sexualities can never be fully articulated. We live beyond words, beyond spectrums, and our lives can never be wrapped up neatly into short comic form.

Queer 101 is meant to be the start of a conversation; it is a flawed, simplified, fun introduction to how gender, sex and sexuality can be explored. It's not by any means complete, fully-realised, or all-encompassing.

But it's a start ...

### Sam Orchard

From Rooster Tails ... [Sam Orchard's comic/blog](#):  *Rooster Tails* is a weekly autobio comic and pet project (to keep me out of trouble), exploring the life of a simple transguy transitioning in New Zealand.

It's written by me! (Sam). A geeky, chubby transguy who spends too much time on the internet, messing about, and reading comics. It's a way to pass the time while I try and get hairier. (that sounded way more weird than I intended it to, sorry.)

And it also quite often features Joe (my gentleman companion), who is an incredibly smart, verbose (articulate, is perhaps a nicer word) trans/political/feminist theory nerd. He also seems to be reading a lot of dragon fiction lately.

Anyway, that's enough for now – Roostertails updates Sundays or Mondays, depending on which hemisphere you're in.

[Visit Rooster Tails!](#) 



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