



EPISODE 1



# QUIRKYBEAN

A non-binary single parent in London

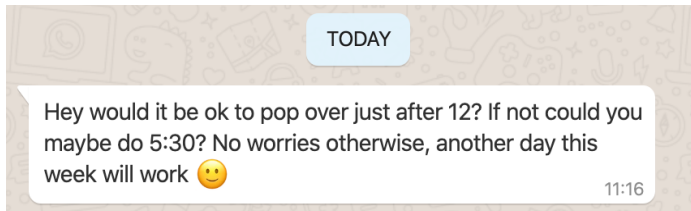
**BY HAZEL HART**



# 22.06.20

## The rule of three

**30 minutes ago:** My Ex pulled up outside the building to retrieve a couple of items. A boxset and a book. He'd kept messaging me for weeks being friendly so I'd told him 2 days ago I wasn't over the break up, "I see you as someone who says, "I love you", and "I want to marry you" [...] then become, the same guy who called me up **excited** because he'd figured he could move to back to his University City whilst WFH, and oh yeah, didn't want a 'weekend girlfriend' when that happens.". I had expected him not to respond at all, but he did this morning.



He was here for 15 seconds. My hands were shaking the whole time. "See ya" I said. "Have a nice day" he replied.

**20 minutes ago:** I noticed an email from my estate agent asking if they could do a viewing of my flat in 40 minutes time. I replied to say today isn't a good day, I haven't handed in my notice yet and could they let me know the covid-19 precautions for viewing. We've barely seen friends or family in 13 weeks, let alone having strangers come into the property.

**10 minutes ago:** The door knocks. A flustered Amazon delivery person stands there, shouting that my door bell doesn't work. I tell him I know. He mutters underneath his breath, "How am I suppose to call you then?" I swallow some shock and say, "Thank you."

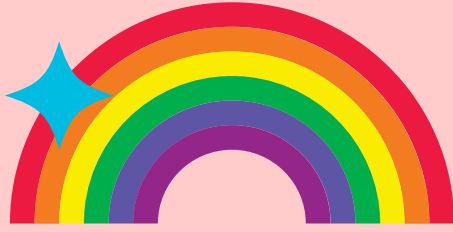
**I JUST CRIED AND THEN BURST OUT LAUGHING.  
WHAT A CRAPPY HALF AN HOUR**

**"One cannot  
think well,  
live well, love  
well, sleep well,  
if one has not  
dined well."**

- VIRGINIA WOOLF

**"Apparently I've  
eaten 900 calories  
today, and 200 of  
those are beer."**

HAZEL HART



# ***Affirmations***

**Hello there, you radiant queer  
ninja turtle. You make me  
proud.**

**I am what a non-binary person  
can look like.**

**'Single Parent' actually means  
'Double Parent'.**

***"In a society that profits from your self-doubt, being yourself is an act of rebellion."***





I'm not gay, trans, or POC.

So I tend to sweep my queerness under the rug to try and leave the floor for the folks really struggling.

*24TH JUNE 2020*

My company hosted a 'Virtual Pride Lunch' today, a way to celebrate across country wide lockdowns and international waters. A coworker asked me if I was going, and I figured I should, but was nervous.

Why are you nervous they asked.

I've not had great experiences coming out. Responses have ranged from confused to annoyed, to completely ignorant. I realised last week actually that you can't really 'come out' if people don't know what 'Non-binary' even means. With some folks, I thought I was 'out', but later discovered it was going over their heads. When someone doesn't know what Non-binary means, it's easy to assume it's a new and shiny phase.

But it's not new. You spend 30 odd years in a box, where everyone tells you you're a cis woman. And you don't know, what you don't know. Something FEELS wrong, and the subject is confusing and alienating. So every day mentions of gender feel confusing and alienating. Pronouns, Bathrooms, clothes shops, advertising. You spend 30 years like this, and by some accident you learn that there's more than a few ways to be. Cis Man, Cis Woman, Trans Man, Trans Woman. Being 'Non-binary' isn't new, having a name for how I identify is.

Now Non-binary feels about as valid as Monopoly money at this point because it's so uncatered too, so unknown. It's not even a recognised gender by UK law. But it feels right to me. If you're a Cis Man imagine someone calling you 'She' or 'Her'. It feels as wrong to me as it does to you - and I can't explain it.

My coworker asked what he could do and I said it was just nice to tell someone, "This is my experience here." I'm not gay, trans, or POC. So I tend to sweep my queerness under the rug to try and leave the floor for the folks really struggling.

And that's the cherry on top. As a non-binary person, I don't feel 'at risk' enough to take up any space in LGTBQIA+ arenas. It's why I'm making this small zine. I needed a place to validate my own existence, without taking away from the Black Lives Matter and Trans Rights are Human Rights movements.

That being said, during that Virtual Pride Lunch, a video played, a phrase echoed over and over.

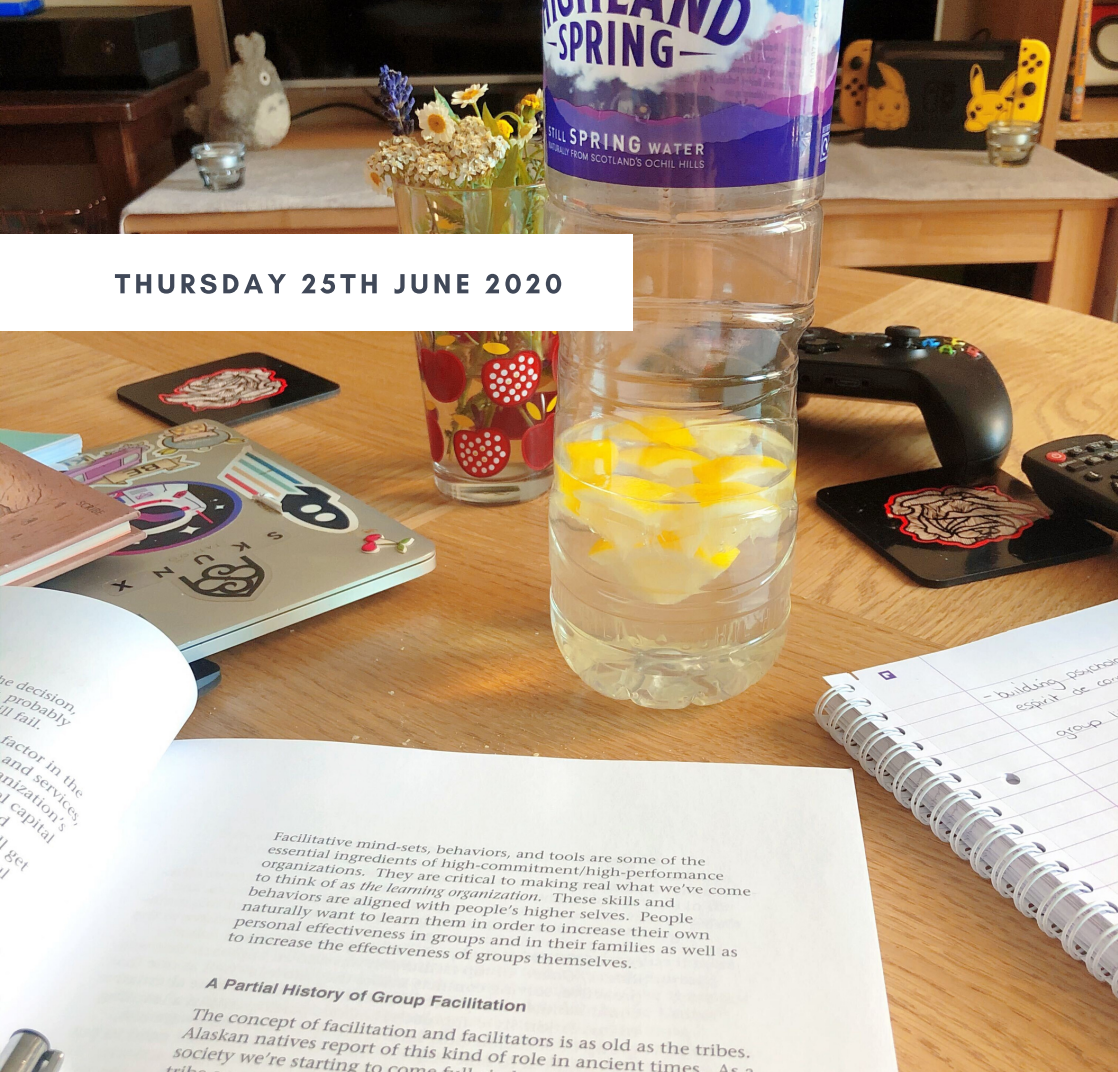
"I am part of what makes us diverse."

"I am part of what makes us diverse."

"I am part of what makes us diverse."

It made me feel like existing as I am, as I can, is part of a solution.

THURSDAY 25TH JUNE 2020



A slice of my life today. Most of London doesn't have access to the internet. It's 31 degrees and UK homes aren't prepared for heat over 20°C. A few years ago, this situation, not being able to work properly would be causing a lot of anxiety. I'd be freaking out about not being 'present' at work, and coworkers thinking I'm slacking. But there's nothing I can do.

The sun feels good, I have running water and a rando left over lemon I cut up. The wildflowers I picked at the weekend are doing really well, and on reflection in this photo alone I can see many things that make me happy. A Skunk sticker, the place where I got my tattoo. Coasters designed by my talented friend Hattie. Totoro and pokemon.



# WHEN WOMEN COME TO YOU. BELIEVE THEM.

*Re: Every guy that got to keep his job despite  
sexually harassing staff*



**Hazel Hart**  
@MxHazelHart

This is true. I'm still so angry at my previous work place for protecting him and not believing women. We had proof, we saw countless folks quit in his team. I was called a 'bitch' for not staying quiet about it. And the man that protected him became CEO.

**John Lloyd** @Seraxia · Jun 23  
I've been debating about typing this out, and i was going to do so anonymously, but fuck it.

Gregg Baker, Community Developer at Ubisoft, has sexually harrassed women.  
[Show this thread](#)

I'm going to keep the people who told me about him, anonymous as well as their stories, as they are not my stories to tell, but I'm fed up of keeping my mouth shut about this man. Future career be damned as I wanted to make my way back to Ubisoft one day.

Gregg Baker, community developer in Ubisoft, sexually harasses women. i was made aware of this in February of 2009 , when I was rang by a very good friend of mine who was disturbed and horrified to find out that he was now working at Ubisoft. They told me about his past and some of what he has done. Multiple people got in touch with me over the course of several months as they found out the same.

He had abused his position as a Senior Manager at Riot, Head of

6:21 AM · Jun 25, 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)



## Friday 26th June

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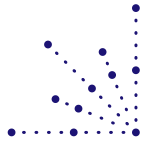
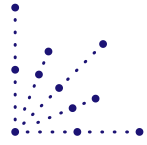
I am now closer than I've ever been to buying us a flat. 10 years ago, I turned up to the hospital in labour and I remember the confusion from the staff. I'd been living in their district, but they had no record of me. And whilst I remember going for the first scan, something happened where all pre-natal care stopped.

We've been homeless. For two years we've bounced around places where I had £11 a week as a food budget. We were taken in by my parents for a while, and I struck back out as soon as I could afford it. Moving to London, we stayed in a cold flat with a dodgy landlord for a few years. I got a new job, a better job and commuted 3 hours a day to make it work.

Then in 2019 we came here. Much closer to the new job. A great school. I burst into tears at John Lewis once when I bought my son nice pillows for £30, and realised that was more than twice the amount we used to be able to spend on food.

And now - we're a month away from moving,  
into a flat I've bought.

And I'm just...



Saturday 27th June

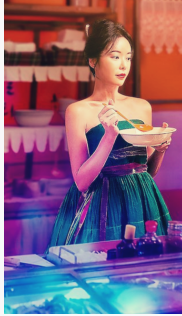
# WATCHING:

I finished the latest K-drama I've been watching -  
**Mystic Popup Bar**

I started watching Korean dramas in High School, when other soaps like Hollyoaks and Neighbours just left me feeling strung out and stressed. Where those types of shows drained me, Korean Dramas were electric.

This one was pretty good! It had all the usual wonderful elements; magic, ghosts, revenge, silliness, triumph, love. My favourite character being Kang Yeo-rin - personal bodyguard and all round kick ass (top left photo). Any scene she was in was a delight.

The coolest thing is starting to realise I can understand more and more without the subtitles. 저는 매일 한국어를 공부하고 있어요.



# BLACK LIVES MATTER

This month I've been reading, "How to Be an Antiracist" by Ibram X. Kendi, first by myself to learn, and then as part of a meetup at work, so we can have these conversations and do better.

Sharing my favourite paragraph so far, in the hopes of spreading anti-racist ideas, starting more conversations, and encouraging you to read the book if you haven't yet.

"...racial discrimination is not inherently racist. The defining question is whether the discrimination is creating equity or inequity. If discrimination is creating equity, then it is antiracist. If discrimination creates inequity, then it is racist. Someone reproducing inequity through permanently assisting an overrepresented racial group into wealth and power is entirely different than someone challenging that inequity by temporarily assisting an underrepresented racial group into relative wealth and power until equity is reached."

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Visit <https://blacklivesmatter.com/>

Watch and Listen, Donate, Read, Learn and then don't be silent in the face of racism. To be silent is to be complicit.



# The Weekend Menu

13 weeks in lockdown and I've gotten used to spending my weekends indoors. Previously I'd be out every Saturday visiting a new place in London, usually in search of secrets and good coffee. If I don't have a plan though, I will spend the weekend being controlled by netflix until I feel lethargic. Which isn't relaxing.

I make a 'menu', things that I want to do to rest, progress and self-care. A coping technique which guides me out of my depression now also works wonders for weekends in lockdown.

## SATURDAY

Watch Pride in London	£1.00
Korean Homework	£2.99
Finish Zine	£2.99
Watch Eurovision Film	£3.50
Tidy Flat	£4.99
Do Laundry	£4.99
Tarot Spread	£5.50

## SUNDAY

Research giving notice	£1.00
Read to chapter 9	£2.99
Write up Friday's Meeting	£2.99
Reach out to folks on Bumble	£3.50
Check out Thoughtbubble	£4.99
Face Mask	£4.99

# Episode 01

## WHY THIS ZINE?

"Diverse representation is sorely lacking in a lot of media. Sometimes, if you want to see yourself represented, you have to create or write or otherwise dream it up yourself."

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If you enjoyed this, let me know  @mxhazelhart