

Gentle dear being

Jacqui Beck - for Finnbar, 2011

Note from Jacqui: I wrote this poem about ten months after Finnbar came out. During that time we were both in deep transition, wondering and curious about what gender meant to us. Finnbar was experiencing a lot of pressure from people he knew to not identify as male. It was a very hard time for him. He was working so hard to understand how, even as a male, he could experience himself as having a range of gender experience and expression.

Gentle dear being in the huge dark forest
of this uncivilized world
deciding to be who you are and knowing that who you are
changes as fast as the swift
water of the Skykomish River
in your backyard
in your front yard.

Turn. Stay still.
Wear the armor and self-declaring freedom of
breast-binding
and the armor and flowing freedom of silver dangles and cotton swirls.

Look! a humming bird.
You are a bird to me.
a complex animalhumanspirit.
Gentle curiosity
and furious challenge to the world.