# The Femme Struggle Video Transcript

Hello everyone! My name is Jenna and this is Lesbian Answers.

So today I want to talk about something that I feel like isn't addressed a lot and I want to make something clear right out the gate: whether you're straight or gay or whether you're more Butchie or whether you're a gay male, no matter who you are everybody has their struggles. So this video isn't to say that the struggle that I've experienced is harder or more difficult than others. Moreover, I feel like this is a certain area that doesn't get talked about a lot or doesn't even get acknowledged so that's my intention in making this video.

I kind of want to bring to light something that I feel like isn't discussed a lot and that is the femme struggle. My friend Kelly actually wrote this great article, I'll include it in the link below, it's fantastic and she talks about a lot of these things and she's really what inspired me to make this video, so, thank you Kelly and kudos to you.

What is a femme lesbian? Well essentially a femme lesbian is a lesbian that dresses more feminine and acts more feminine. Personally I would identify as femme. Sort of a common known thing that feminine lesbians are harder to come by. I think that's one of the reasons as to why there is so many issues for feminine lesbians, so what are those issues? A lot

of people think that if you're feminine and you're gay you have it easy. In a lot of aspects I don't have to deal with a lot of hatred but there are definitely things that make being feminine and gay really difficult sometimes.

So the first thing: coming out is not necessarily my favorite thing and it's something that I

have to do every single day. The reason being that everybody assumes that I'm straight and that goes for pretty much all feminine lesbians. You're pretty much, as Kelly likes to say, straight until proven gay. Which means that your co-workers, your friends, even people that you randomly pass by and you start a conversation with you have to come out as gay because they're already a assuming that you're straight. In that instance, being gay is just as much a part of my day-to-day as it is for a more masculine lesbian. I'm talking about it

consistently. It can be a little bit exhausting having, to having to correct people so consistently so much so that a lot of feminine lesbians, including myself, just let people assume that we're straight. Better that than have to tell the 1,500th person, "Hey guess what? I'm gay." Because we are pretty much straight until proven gay, this means that males often think that we are playing for their team. Men hitting on me is totally complimentary until they get to this: "You're way too pretty to be gay."  "You're a lesbian? Well, have you been with me?" "I mean you could have just told me you didn't like me or

weren't into me. You didn't have to lie and say you were gay." "That's hot." "So like, if you're with a girl can I get in on that?"

It gets to be pretty degrading and even past the comments that are rude and really hard to hear, there's also the situations where people are kind and have good intentions but you're put in a bad situation. Let me give you an example: The other day I was working and this

really nice lady and her son came in. They were kind of trying to decide between which movies to see and since I work in box office I was helping them out. And after having a really good conversation with them the lady looks at me and says, "So, do you have a boyfriend?" She kind of gestures to her son, obviously saying my son is single and I like you. Which was super sweet, but I'm at work, I'm in this really difficult position, so I kind of stumble over my words I was like, "Um, well I, I mean, not, I mean. It's complicated." You know a lot of people would say well I would just say I have a boyfriend or I would just, that doesn't seem like that big of a deal to me but I want to be honest with myself and with others and it often puts me in a tricky predicament.

After coming out and saying, "Hey, I'm gay. I know I don't look like your idea of a stereotypical lesbian but I am gay." Then comes the battle round, as I like to call it, because I'm feminine. I have to consistently prove that I am actually gay. Not only to straight people but also to gay people. It's almost like, "Mm are you sure you're gay because you're looking kind of straight to me." I start to get asked questions and I'm being analyzed and picked apart to make sure that I'm legitimate. Why? Because I have long hair

and I dress more feminine. If my hair was cut short and I was wearing flannel would you be asking me these questions then? You know, I'm fortunate because I do blend in with heterosexuals. I don't ever have those situations where I have to walk into a bathroom and have people stare at me. I don't ever get into situations where people call me dyke and fag

underneath their breath while I walk by. But I don't get taken seriously a lot. My sexuality is a huge part of me and it's consistently questioned. Not only that but I often struggle because I want so badly to connect with other gay people, even on a day-to-day, even in just a passing moment and I can't because to them I'm straight. Best thing that you can do is continue to embrace who you are don't feel pressured to conform to what is commonly gay. Dress however you want to dress and society eventually will catch up with you. I would much rather be true to who I am and deal with judgment then conform to something normal and feel accepted.

Anyways that's my rant for today. I hope you all enjoyed this video. I love you very, very much. As always thank you for watching, you are amazing and your support means

everything to me. Have a fabulous day everybody and don't forget to be awesome.

Mwah. [Blows kiss]