

## I WANT A CHOSEN FAMILY

I want a dyke for a mother. I want a fag father and I want him to give me an immaculate birth. I want my fathers groom to be in the room and I want them to be the blood donor. I want to know the stories of my great grandparents and I want to know how they fought for the kids they didn't know they would have and I want my blood to show that through generations of love, we are now immune to AIDS. I want my trans uncle to be the next drag king that will carry on the family name. I want my hair to be the color of cerulean blue, and for my eyebrows to match. I want to be in a union, not a marriage, with my lover and I want to know the pressure of having to live up to the nuptial rites and traditions of my chosen family tree. I want to read James Baldwin in seventh grade literature class and I want to buy the books with the five bucks that have Harvey Milk's likeness on it. I want to be fifteen and have my math teacher look at me actually look at me and tell me that I am capable of achievements and worth their time. I want to have a blow out gender reveal party for my friend at 16 who has decided on their current gender identity and I want this to be the norm. I want to know why I can't have this chosen family. I want to know why the lack of care for my community has seeped so far into our walls that it's made us just as blind to our wavering rights. I want to know why our history is constantly erased, and why I have to look for it in the "special collections" at Universities and nonprofit organizations where napkins, poster, and pins and t-shirts are held like sacred material, because it's all we've got. I want to know why every four years my ability to exist in this country is questioned and why I have to cherish the most basic of rights that the generation before me never received. I'm tired of being used for politics and I want to be the one debating my past, present, and futures. When can my life be the example. When can my life not be the problem and when will I be neither glorified or villainized, traumatized or sexualized, but just simply alive.