



This piece of digital media conveys, in the social operations of the patriarchy, that many individuals assume that men must be at the forefront of relationships. This comic can specifically relate to how, in many sapphic and/or lesbian relationships, it is common for heterosexual couples to assume that one woman must take on the “male” position that there is in heterosexual relationships. This goes even further with the idea that chores are split between women according to their more masculine or more feminine gender presentation. A study presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association dives more deeply into this idea, and also how “people were more likely to consider there to be a distinct “man” and a “woman” in lesbian relationships than they were when it came to gay male couples.” The article goes on to talk about how people will define which woman is more masculine or feminine. This distinction goes past appearance; it comments on hobbies, career, salary, etc. In this way, many things are being constructed as masculine or feminine. Sports are more masculine, shopping is more feminine, cleaning is more feminine, power tools are more masculine, etc. Gender stereotypes are being forced on people who don’t identify as that particular gender as well. As stated in the aforementioned article, “all gender is performative.” There is

nothing that truly defines what fits into which category, it is entirely made up. And in reality, the idea that there has to be a man/masculine role in a queer female relationship, stems from the idea that there can't possibly be something that doesn't involve men. Men shaped and built the system and world we live in, being in a relationship that is entirely focused on women is seen as mind blowing. As Cosmo Luce states in a different article on Elite Daily, "The reality is that women, femmes, and non-binary people don't need men to be happy and fulfilled within relationships." While the above comic doesn't push the idea of these gender roles, it comments and makes fun of it. The oppression shown operates from mostly meso levels, but can also apply to micro and macro as well. Meso level operates in inter-group, and you mostly see this taking place between homosexuals and heterosexuals, where the heterosexual group is the one doing the oppressing (trying to enforce these gender roles). The enforcement of these roles is oppressive in personal lives, how a household runs, and also how lesbian/sapphic relationships are viewed on a political/social level as well. Overall, trying to keep these female queer relationships in a box formed in imitation of heterosexual relationships, is entirely outdated and presumptuous. Society knows now that gender is a spectrum, and there are so many different ways a relationship can work in a healthy and happy manner. The chopsticks are a great explanation of that. Yes, they are used to eat just like the fork and knife are, but they do it in a different way entirely. One of the chopsticks doesn't need to act as the fork (or the knife) in order for them to be used efficiently. It is the perfect analogy for same-sex relationships, and in the same breath, and with little words, explains how dumb the question "So who's the man" is.

Works Cited

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