

June 2024
Volume 04
Issue 02

Pride: Visualizing Our Invisibility



QUEERETHIOPIA
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Nisnis - A quarterly magazine published by Queer Ethiopia focusing on LBQ issues

QUEERETHIOPIA

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“Queer Ethiopia” is an alternative space created by a group of queer Ethiopian women. It is designed to be a space for a diverse group of Ethiopian queer women whose sexual and gender identifications vary. It includes cis and trans women who may be lesbian, bisexual or asexual. This is a space where the experiences of queer people takes center stage. We hope to include personal experiences from our daily lives as queer people, various stories, interviews, original artwork and poetry. We hope it will also serve as a place where Ethiopians in Ethiopia and Ethiopians in the diaspora come as themselves to explore and create an online community.

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From the Editors

We have taken a major departure in tone and format for this 12th issue of Nisnis.

We have chosen to do a zine because they have historically been a vital site of resistance and celebration for marginalized communities. Nisnis, in its more “formal” format, has always offered our community the space to tell our own stories. This zine, however, allows us to celebrate pride in a more fun and lighthearted manner.

As queer Ethiopians, our existence is about navigating the tricky balance of visibility and invisibility, alternating between the largely homophobic cisgender heterosexual community and our accepting, loving queer spaces. It can be draining to constantly hide.

But these pages transform our invisibility into unapologetic acts of visibility. We are claiming our truths, desires, and full, messy selves - building community, creating intimate connections, and celebrating the vibrant spectrum of queer experience.

Whether it's the sensual softness of queer intimacy, the liberating freedom of accepting ourselves, or the profound sense of belonging when you find your people - these testimonies capture the richness of LGBTQ+ existence in all its beautiful complexity. We're laughing at the cheeky flirtations, nodding knowingly at the awkward coming-out stories, and feeling a deep kinship.

As we honor Pride, let us hold tight to the wisdom, humor, and empathy flowing through these pages. Let's take joy in the revolutionary act of simply being ourselves, making our invisible world visible.

Happy Pride, our beautiful community. May you continue to laugh, dance, and rise above the hate.



What is a
non-sexual turn
on for you?

This might be
weird, but I
really like it
when my wife
uses a difficult
vocabulary – a
word I don't
know. – Gloria

A good conversation, even
better if the conversation
is happening in a bathtub –
Haben





Eye contact is a huge non-sexual turn on for me. First, I am a way flirty person, so eye contact creates a deep, unspoken connection that can be incredibly powerful and intimate. - Betsetlot

INTERNATIONAL
My wife's laughter -Red
20th 26, 1437 A.H.



What's the funniest
reaction you've ever
gotten when coming out
to a friend or family
member?

One of my friends

said, "You're not gay;

you're just a virgin."

- Melat

"How do you have
sex?" Now that I
think about it, I
should have said
"You want me to
show you?"
- Annon

I came out to my sister-in-law as we were having lunch at the Greek Club in Addis Ababa. She smiled wildly and excitedly called the waiter and said, "Bring me another Macchiato, we are celebrating!" - Haben



Who is your
LGBTQ+ icon,
and why?



I really don't have any; I
think I myself am an LGBTQ+
icon. - Abigail

So proud of us! - Annon

Why does
community matter
to you as a queer
person?

Finding someone you can relate to and
share your experiences with is healing.
It matters for our mental health. -
Annon

Because we all need someone to
support us and tell us that it's okay
to love who we love.
- Melat

Because when you are a community
that is pushed over by everyone, we
need to stick together and protect
each other. -S

It says, I am not alone; I have
someone; in fact, there are many of
us. - Messi

What's the best pickup line you've ever heard (or used yourself)?

"Do you believe in love at first sight, or should I walk by again?" It's simple, charming, and always brings a smile. - Betsetlot



Do you have a name or should I save your contact as MINE?
- Jamzee



"Are you a camera? Because every time I look at you, I smile," (I have never used it tho, lol) - Melat



You look tired; you
wanna sit on my face?
- Red

"Can I slytherin to bed with
you?" (We were talking about
Harry Potter.) - S



What is the
one quality
you appreciate
about queer
friendships?

Just because we love the same
gender doesn't mean we will have
the same political consciousness or
value, BUT understanding and non-
judgmental friends are blessings.
- Annon



It's being there at the
lowest times for me.
- Ela



If the friendship is healthy, I can
say whatever I feel and not be
judged. - Red



What quality do
you most appreciate
in a romantic or
sexual partner?

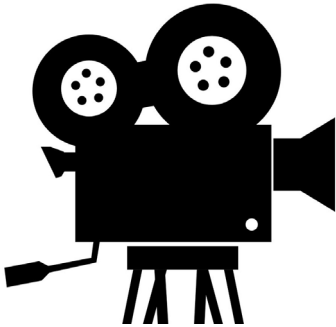
Their strong arms 🥵 The
arms that don't get tired
easily, and they hand me
a cup of water after all
the hard work 😊 - Gloria



Someone who likes staying home. - Red



What is your
favorite queer
film or book?



- Rafiki

- Imagine Me & You, Below Her Mouth, Gap

- Elisa and Marcela, The L Word

- My First Summer

- Crush and Pride

- Carol, Station 19, Orange is the New Black

- The Handmaiden

- Disobedience

- Fear of

Falling" by

Georgia Beers

- Sister Outsider

by Audre Lorde

- The Color

Purple by Alice

Walker

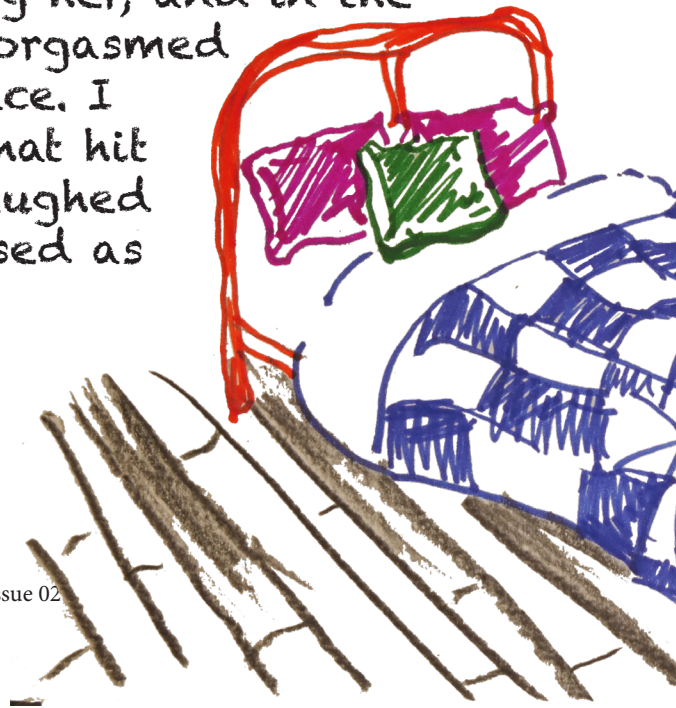
- Camren fanfics

(in Wattpad)

What is your most embarrassing sexual moment?

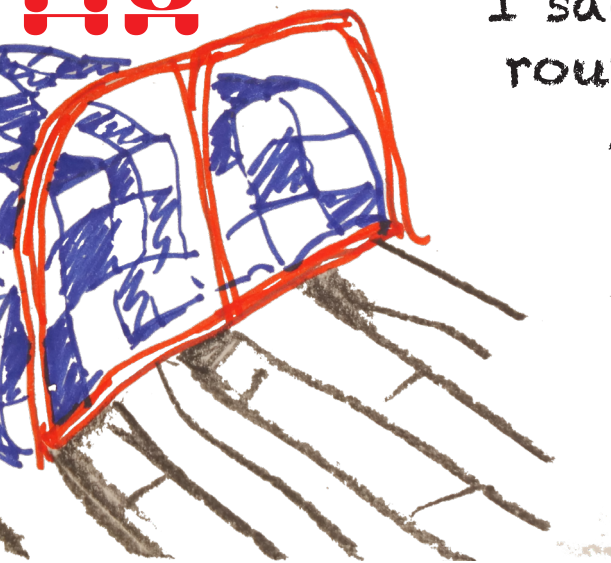
Period stains while fucking. I was young, so I def felt embarrassed. Period sex is hot. - Annon

The first time a woman squirted on me. I was in between her legs, fingering her, and in the throes of fucking when she orgasmed and fluid squirted on my face. I flinched and didn't know what hit me for a few seconds. We laughed about it, but I was embarrassed as hell. - Haben



🤔🤔 trying the 69 position.
The moment was awkward.
She didn't understand what
I was trying to do and I
couldn't explain. 🤔🤔
- Gloria

I said נפֿ'י (enough) after one
round, and she said, "Like a
straight person?!" Red

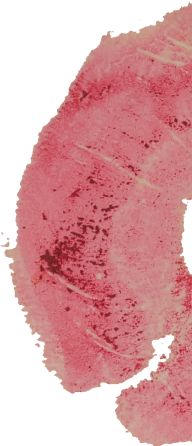


What's one thing you
wish more people
knew about the queer
community?

People often don't think that they
would know a "homosexual." Honey, we
are next to you. We are the siblings. We
are the parents. We are everywhere.
- Annon



That we
are just
humans
too, no
matter
who we
love.
- Yohan



I wish more people
understood that being
queer is not a choice; it's
just the way we are. We
don't need other's support,
just their understanding
and acceptance. - Betsetlot

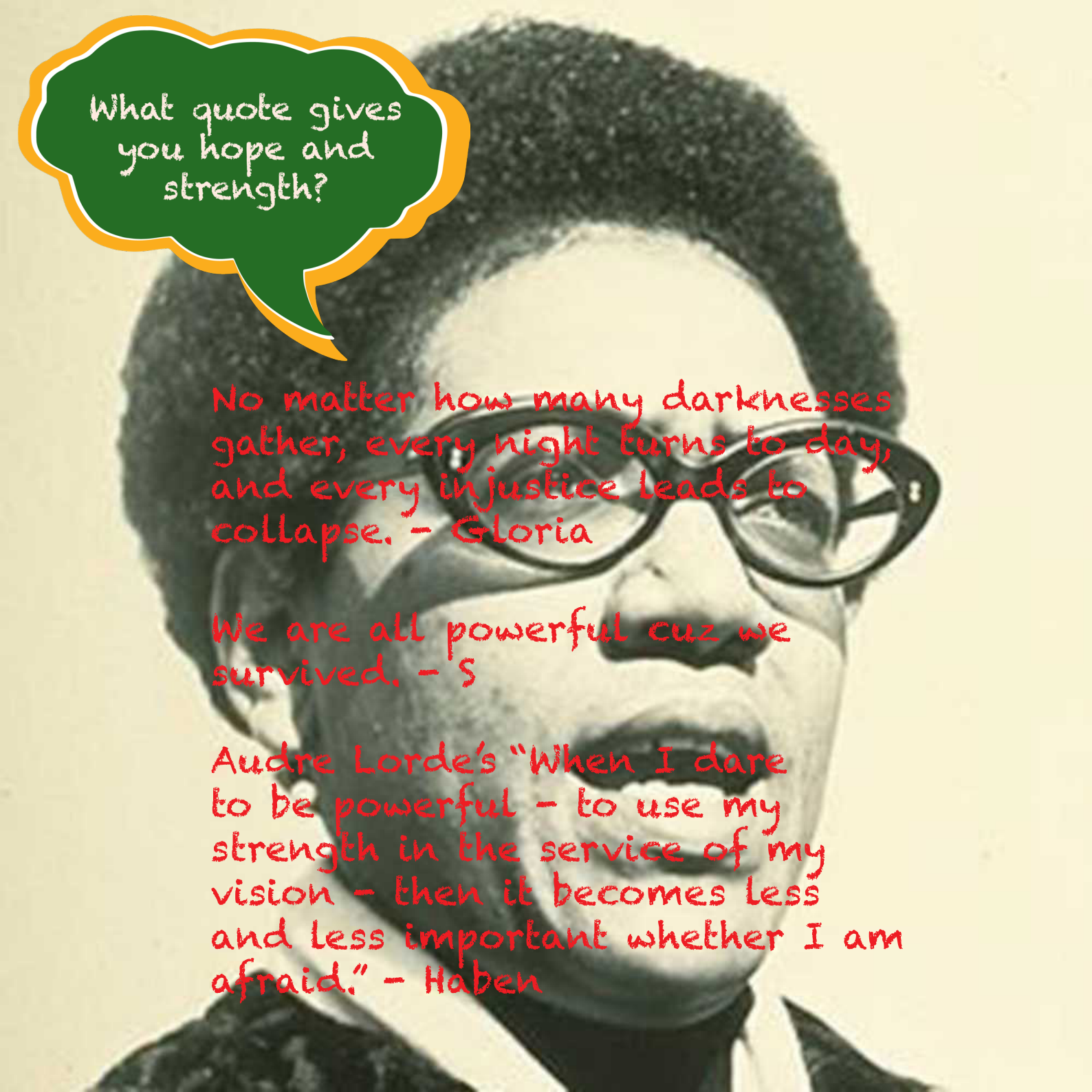
What's the most unexpected way you've celebrated or expressed your queer pride in public?

I came out to my older brother on Ethiopian New Year's Eve last year. It was a spontaneous decision that felt right in the moment, and it turned out to be a liberating start to the new year. - Betselot



I kissed my ex, but no one saw me, of course, but we were in public.
- Yohan

😂 I wore a bi flag pride mask all through COVID. People just thought it was a cute gradient of pink and blue - S



What quote gives
you hope and
strength?

No matter how many darkneses
gather, every night turns to day,
and every injustice leads to
collapse. - Gloria

We are all powerful cuz we
survived. - S

Audre Lorde's "When I dare
to be powerful - to use my
strength in the service of my
vision - then it becomes less
and less important whether I am
afraid." - Haben