

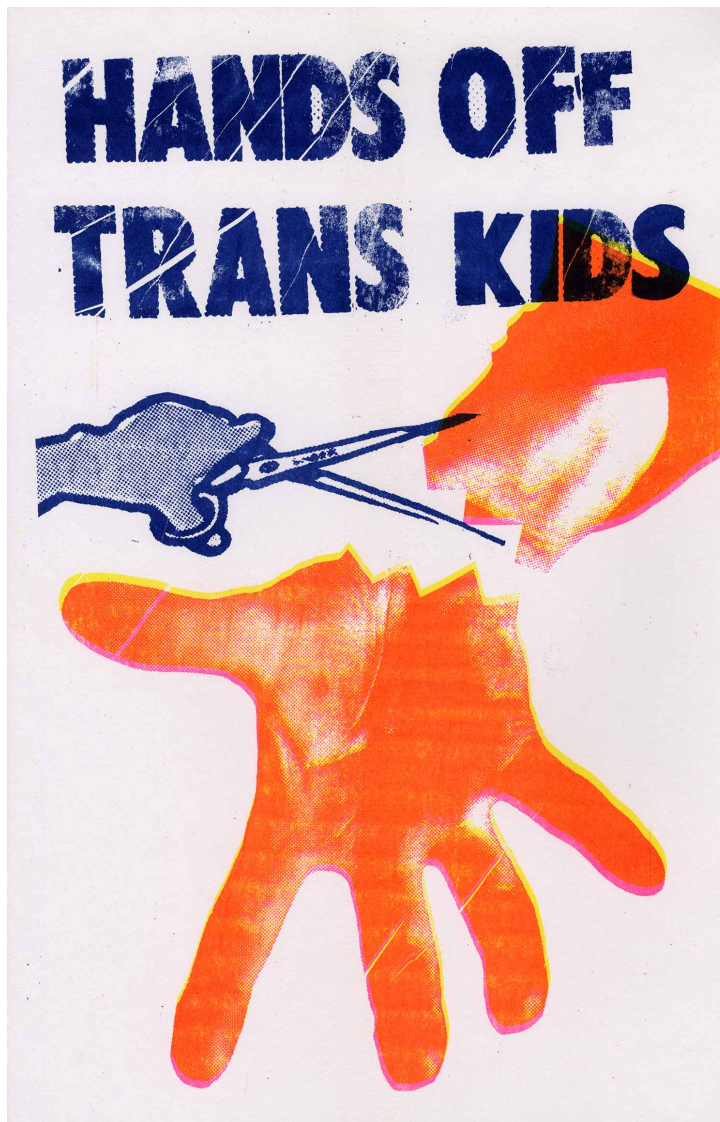
RADICAL TEACHER

A SOCIALIST, FEMINIST, AND ANTI-RACIST JOURNAL ON THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF TEACHING

Poetry

Quiet Wisdom

by Tansy Julie Soaring Eagle Paschold



ARTWORK BY JOSH MACPHEE, "HANDS OFF TRANS KIDS" 2022

Quiet Wisdom

Often it is the silent one
that has the most wisdom
I know humans are quick
to judge
and that we like to base opinions
on knowing only part of the story
I know success
is not always measured
in wins and losses
especially for the junior
just starting a sport
who is taking on opponents
that have practiced since preschool
I know gender is not sex
and being a woman
has nothing to do
with the ability to breastfeed
or carry a baby in your womb
especially for the woman
born without a functioning uterus
whose breasts will never feed a baby
I know biology does not work
in concrete binary situations
and there are exceptions
to every social cultural norm
we try to draw in the sand
especially for the person
born with a female body
who wants to play with creepy crawlies
and dig in the soil
or the person born as a boy
who wants to wear a skirt
and play with dolls
or the baby born prematurely
with unknown chromosomes
whose parents decided
to accept a doctor's recommendation
to choose a girl over a boy
because, unformed,
the sexual organs were easier
to surgically create
Know what is fact
and what is opinion
Realize every judgment you make
may be affecting the person
sitting right beside you
Do not assume you know
it all
Be open to learning more
and to changing your view
with better information
if it should come along
But above all
please
be kind to one another
we here on this earth
are all
each other's
keeper



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