

## Gagging for the Good Judys

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Wait – hold up... what do you mean you've never heard of Lil Nas X?! Have you been living under a rock? Jenna, he's one of the most influential artists of our time. When I watched his **Montero** video I screamed! I remember it like it was yesterday. I was leaving my math class checking my twitter when I saw he was trending. So obviously, I stopped everything I was doing just so I could see him in all his glory. The video did not disappoint. I watched that video over 100 times the first week it was released. You know how people have their muses? Like how a painter's muse could be his boyfriend or something? Well, *my* muse is Lil Nas. Every time I walk through these god forsaken halls with all these.... *straight people (says line with a hint of disapproval)* I think to myself, *Sammi, what would Lil Nas do in a moment like this?* Remember in government class where we were talking about republicans vs democrats and Shaun said something about how he doesn't understand why people can't look past a difference of opinion? Well, I took that moment to let him in on a little secret... in front of the entire class I said, "queers don't want to be friends with people who don't see anything wrong with passing queerphobic laws" That was inspired by Lil Nas. Why should I dim my light for the comfort of others who could care less if someone hate crimes me?! I mean, it's 2022 for crying out loud. I'll listen to country music before I go back into the closet - but when I say *country music* I'm not talking about our lord and savior, Shania Twain – which by the way, her saying "Let's go girls" was not only iconic, but it was also a whole cultural reset, and I will forever stand. I mean the type of country music where straight men sing about how they want to top their trucks. What is it with country men and trucks?! They're obsessed with them. Why not get a cute little pink Volkswagen Beetle?! Anyway, my point is that there's no way that I'm going to allow these mediocre straight boys to scare me. The only thing I'm scared of is having to wear stripes. That's not my style and, it's so 2017. I mean what happen to innovation?? That's what makes Lil Nas so amazing. He's not just an artist but he's an icon who doesn't care what the world says and is consistently serving the girls looks. I don't know if you saw this but at the VMAs last year, he wore this lilac color dress suit that had me GAGGING. It's almost like he's always trying to figure out how he can take things to the next level and that's who I aspire to be. I don't want to be like the rest of the folks in our class and let's be honest here, majority of people, not just at school but in our town, have no plans to leave and are just content here. Meanwhile I'm looking around like – "Girl, we live in the Midwest, there's so many places better than this." What's wild to me is how people expect me to love this city just because I was born here. *(Says line sarcastically)* *Oh boy, can't wait to hop on the bus and have people stare at me trying to figure me out.* I'm so much bigger than this town and I absolutely REFUSE to spend the rest of my life here wondering what my life would look like if I left the first chance I had. You know where I want to be? *New York City.* Everyone says it's hard to live there with how expensive it is, but you know the difference between here and there? In NYC, I don't have to worry about if politicians are going to pass laws denying my basic human rights. If I wanted to, I could get on hormones unlike here where everyone hates trans people. So Jenna, by next week, I'm going to make sure I get you together because I just don't understand how you can listen to Taylor Swift but not Lil Nas X. So, what are your thoughts on Shawn Mendes, do we think he's a good friend of Judy's?



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