'A Caricature of a Woman'

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Introduction

From soap staple *Eastenders* (1985 – present) introducing its first trans man actor and character in 2015, to reality show *Married at First Sight UK* (*MAFS UK*) (2015 – present) casting Ella Morgan as its first trans bride for series eight in 2023, it is clear that trans people are becoming more visible on British television and beyond. However, the increased hypervisibility of trans and gender diverse people in the UK is simultaneous with them being discriminated against, pathologised, and victimised (Faye 2021: xiii). Whilst queer and trans people are strengthening their intercommunal allyship, the media-fuelled moral panic about the 'transgender issue' is worsening (Baker 2014: 223; Faye 2021: 6). Gender-critical voices – who harbour the belief that sex is biological, unchangeable, and overrides gender identity – have pervasive influence over nationwide debates surrounding trans lives, rights, and legislation (Brione 2022; Faye 2021: 6). Whether it is an MP like equalities minister Kemi Badenoch (2023) declaring that 'predators' will exploit gender self-identification to harm women and girls in a *The Times* interview, or the thousands forcing Ella Morgan to retreat from social media with their relentless transmisogynistic comments, anti-trans people are empowered with multiple platforms to spread the dangerous rhetoric that trans people – especially trans women – threaten cisgender (cis) people's wellbeing (Manning 2023; Armitage 2020: 19).

The platform central to this analysis is Reddit, a social news website and forum launched in 2005. Since 2020, Reddit has made an ongoing effort to deplatform hate, which has resulted in the permanent removal of homophobic and transphobic subreddits such as

r/UncensoredNews and r/GenderCritical (Stephan 2020). Despite this, hate of this nature still infiltrates subreddits that are not dedicated to discrimination, including r/MarriedAtFirstSightUk, which was created to discuss the eponymous televised social experiment where singletons, with expert guidance, wed strangers. This investigation involves combining a feminist critical discourse analysis (FCDA) and an interactional sociolinguistics (IS) approach to a Reddit thread dissecting Ella's narrative arc on *MAFS UK*. While r/MarriedAtFirstSightUk does not possess the direct political leverage needed to infringe upon gender recognition and rights of trans people, it does have the social power to influence how the subreddit's thousands of members treat them both on and offline. For that reason, it is important to understand how Reddit discussions about Ella perpetuate cis-heteronormative (above all, transmisogynistic) ideals and, subsequently, fuels the persecution of diverse genders and sexualities in the UK.

Literature Review

New Media

New Media refers to computational communication such as internet-based social networking. According to Haslett (2011), internet usage can be categorised as either expressive or instrumental (292). While instrumental internet use is for finding information, expressive internet use involves self-presentation, nurturing social relations, and observing social behaviours as means of mediating social interactions (Haslett 2011: 292). Though expressive internet use is a common attribute of social media, Nikunen (2018) noted that these sites can be hostile towards debates and constructive thinking (10). This is because all online socio-technological systems have a 'common set of core values, established over time that individuals identify with' (Haslett 2012: 53). Barmi (2023) upheld this in her claim that, in some cases, social media encourages diverse opinions whereas, in others, it functions as a space of 'contested participation' in which users make the strategic choice to share ideas that align with the platform's core principles. Terren and Borge (2021) described this phenomenon of

members perpetuating the dominant ideologies of a group to bolster their social capital within it as an 'echo chamber' (100). With Reddit having an upvote/downvote system, users have greater motivation to post content that will resonate with their fellow Redditors (Eschler and Menking 2018: 4). This creates forums of homogenous thought that, when presented with differing ideas, demonise those who challenge their collective prejudices (Bowell 2017: 582). In turn, this facilitates the spread of transphobic, homophobic, and other bigoted views. Furthermore, people with non-conformist values are excluded from public debate and engagement in certain forums. Considering that online communication is tethered to offline processes, it is crucial to explore what content is produced and propagated in digital spheres as it often reflects attitudes and behaviours in the wider world (Deuze 2006: 63).

Cisnormativity and Heteronormativity in New Media

There is a misconception that New Media acts as a neutral space where all demographics have equal freedom to share and consume content. This disregards how, just as in the physical world, much of cyberspace is dominated by cis-heteronormative ideologies that intersect with gender binarism, a Western cultural framework that combines sex and gender to uphold only two genders, male and female, in hierarchical opposition (Beasley 2005: 11). The exclusive naturalisation of cisgender and heterosexual identities as ontological and pre-discursive in online settings results in them being, as Dhiman (2023) articulated, a 'breeding ground for harassment and cyberbullying' towards gender and sexual minorities. Instead of the Terms and Conditions on digital platforms providing a solution to this, Albury (2017) argued that their stipulations, alongside the (anticipated and actualised) abusive responses of other users, lead to the cyber-policing of queer communities (457). This stigmatisation of non-normative gender and sexual identities influences *how* these minorities present themselves, with participants in Duguay's (2016) research stressing the importance of being cautious during online interactions (895). Therefore, while New Media can support sexual and gender minorities in exploring their identities, accessing resources, and interacting with peers, the

prevalence of cis-heteronormative discourse establishes a point of contention in their experiences with the internet (Colosi, Cowen and Todd 2023).

The demographic that bears the brunt of the epistemic violence that cis-heteronormative online discourse unleashes is trans and gender diverse people, whom Powell, Scott, and Henry (2018) found faced more digital harassment and abuse than cisgender individuals (199). This is amplified for trans women because gender transgressions toward the feminine – as is the case with male-to-female (MTF) trans people – attracts more disparagement than their trans masculine counterparts in patriarchal contexts (Serano 2021: 867). In her earlier work, Serano (2007) coined the term 'transmisogyny' to describe this facet of cis-heteronormativity whereby traditional sexism dictates how people engage with gender diverse individuals who assumedly have a desire to be feminine (irrespective of their self-identification) (14-15).

Social Identity Theory

Due to language contributing to their construction, identities can be classed as a discursive phenomenon. Tajfel and Turner (1979) proposed social identity theory (SIT) to explain how, when navigating social situations, people organise themselves and others into categories (40). Bucholtz and Hall (2005) affirmed this by defining identity as 'the social positioning of the self and other' (587). This is because identities are established through social interactions termed as 'indexical processes' (Bucholtz and Hall 2005: 594). These processes consist of references to identification categories, presuppositions about the attributes of oneself and others, evidenced evaluative and epistemic orientations to ongoing conversation, and the adoption of linguistic structures and systems that have ideological connections to particular groups (Bucholtz and Hall 2005: 594).

Using discourse to establish a presence in a group stimulates improved self-esteem and, at times, a sense of being superior to others. Fitzpatrick (2020) explained how, because in-groups shape individual personal identities, these collectives have substantial influence

over how members treat out-groups (19). However, when individuals perform their identities, the classification of social groups that societal institutions have developed in discourse restricts them. Zotzmann and O'Regan (2016) deduced that, due to the identities constructed within social groups being a manifestation of the exact power and ideological discourses that represents their unified identification, there is less scope for evolution (124).

While SIT occurs in both face-to-face and computer-mediated communication (CMC), Yang (2012) observed that identities are performed in a different manner (108). CMC reduces social context cues of people's identities and, in turn, provides broader opportunities for self-presentation online. Haslett (2011) argued that people making expressive use of the internet via social media platforms construct a persona (292). Their online image reflects their level of social grooming, desired impression on others, and sense of what should maintain private (Haslett 2011: 292). Social media users can develop their self-portrait through sharing their interests and opinions, as well as engaging with like-minded groups. In essence, individuals express their identities when interacting with groups that resonate with them (Haslett 2018: 93-94).

Methodology

Data

The data for this research comes from the subreddit (a forum dedicated to a specific topic on Reddit) r/MarriedAtFirstSightUk. It is a community of practice (CoP) where predominantly UK viewers of the hit reality television programme *MAFS UK* share their opinions about the episodes and casts. This CoP is popular by Reddit's standards, with r/MarriedAtFirstSightUk and its duplicate r/MAFS_UK having a combined 44,000 members at the time of writing. Its popularity, coupled with the 2023 series that trans woman Ella featured on being the latest and current (social) media focus, makes it a valuable source of data regarding the overarching discourse of cis-heteronormativity, alongside the specific and competing discourses within that. In addition, the pseudonymous nature of the forum emboldens users to reveal their cis-

heteronormative (in particular, transmisogynistic) views without fear of repercussions, so the data source presents ample opportunities for analysis. Though the decision to explore one thread is a limitation in that the risk of cherry-picking data to confirm a predetermined position increases, the selected post 'Ella's 'story'' (appendix) has a large number of upvotes (a quantification of approval on Reddit) and comments. Thus, while one thread may not encompass the ideological stance of the entire r/MarriedAtFirstSightUk subreddit, its significant engagement indicates that it offers an authoritative representation of the cis-heteronormative narratives circulated on the forum.

Approach

The research takes a qualitative approach, considering Redditors' comments about Ella and how they perpetuate cis-heteronormativity. Qualitative analysis is beneficial for achieving detailed evaluations of linguistic phenomena, as found in the context of authentic, communicative situations such as r/MarriedAtFirstSightUk (Baker 2008: 64). Critical discourse analysis (CDA) is a qualitative and interpretive method for interrogating how discourses create, continue, and condone social inequalities (Fairclough 2014: 6). This is extremely relevant in online contexts wherein interactions help shape users' behaviour in real-life experiences (Lieberman and Schroeder 2020: 16). However, with CDA not being grounded in feminist scholarship that acknowledges how gender works in a more complicated and ubiquitous manner than other oppressive systems, its feminist offshoot is a better fit for this analysis (Lazar 2007: 143). Like this investigation, FCDA aims to examine how 'power and dominance are discursively produced and/or resisted in a variety of ways through textual representations of gendered social practice, and through interactional strategies of talk' (Lazar 2005: 10). In the same manner as Ugah's (2023) study of the responses that Nairaland forum users had towards female victims of sexual harassment, this research utilises Lazar's (2007) understanding of FCDA as a 'close textual analysis of written and spoken discourse with a view to interpreting and explaining societal structures' (151). Ugah (2023) adopted FCDA to address the New Media medium of online comments instead of adhering to the traditional

focus on formal media like newspapers and oral, written, and visual political discourse (Duff and Zappa-Hollman 2012). Therefore, FCDA as projected within the parameters of Ugah's (2023) investigation is a useful methodological framework for exploring the discursive reinforcement of cis-heteronormative ideals on r/MarriedAtFirstSightUk.

This analysis will also involve some principles of IS. The chosen methodologies overlap but differ in overall goals: IS typically has a sociocultural diversity focus, while FCDA prioritises uncovering gender inequality and social power abuse (Bailey 2015: 829). IS is a mode of discourse analysis rooted in the search for repeatable methods of qualitative analysis that interpret how language users create meaning in communicative practice (Gumperz 2001: 215). For analytical purposes, IS founder Gumperez (2001) argued that talk should be considered as constituted by sequential turn-taking that allow conversationalists to clarify the meanings of their actions and their comprehension of others' (217). Though IS has traditionally been reserved for analysing face-to-face interactions, it is increasingly being used to deconstruct the conventions and challenges of online communication (Stæhr and Nørreby 2021: 757). Considering Bucholtz's and Hall's (2005) stance that 'identity is a discursive construct that emerges in interaction', IS will be beneficial in examining how language is used to divide the selected CoP into an in-group and out-group based on attitudes towards gender, sex, and sexuality (587). Hence, in this cybercentric combination of IS and FCDA, light will be shed on how r/MarriedAtFirstSightUk interactions about Ella relate to, reproduce, and sometimes challenge cis-heteronormative views, particularly transmisogyny.

Analysis

From the thread (appendix), it is clear that r/MarriedAtFirstSightUk has in-group and out-group based on their acceptance of cis-heteronormative ideals. In treating their transmisogynistic opinions as fact, the in-group construct their identity as logical and level-headed as opposed to the hysterical and overly politically correct (PC) out-group that crawl 'out of the woodwork to spout bullshit' (lines 37-38). One such take of the in-group is that Ella exhibits masculine

behaviours that, as a consequence, undermine her as a woman. This begins with u/lollybaby0811's declaration that 'Ella is a sex toy and exaggerated circature of what a woman is' (line 2). In depersonifying Ella as the noun 'sex toy', the user reduces her to being a means of sexual gratification. There is little consideration into how the persistent fetishisation and sexualisation of trans women pressurises some of them into highlighting their sexuality for validation from cis-heterosexual men, nor how television producers often place disproportionate focus on scenes where sex is discussed (or, in more risqué instances, enacted) to increase viewership (Anzani et al. 2021: 903; Ellen 2022). The semantic pleonasm of the synonymous verb 'exaggerated' and noun 'caricature' emphasises their belief that Ella is unsuccessful at performing womanhood. Such sentiments are affirmed in their use of auxiliary verb 'is' instead of the modal expression 'should be' to factualise how Ella, and all other women that place 'importance on self and sex' (line 3), fail to fulfil 'what a woman is.' u/lollybaby0811's standard of womanhood – selfless and sexless – is cis-heteronormative, with Holland et al. (1998) describing how being 'conventionally feminine is to appear sexually unknowing, to aspire to a relationship, to let sex 'happen', to trust love, and to make men happy' (6). Their gender binarism continues with the simile stating Ella 'still thinks like a man' (lines 2-3) to reference her MTF transition. This is problematic as, beyond promoting the oppressive gender essentialist belief that behaviours are fixed, innate, and gendered, it disregards the fact that Ella, who began identifying as trans and hormonal transitioning during adolescence, never was a man (Jakubowski 2018; Seifert and Morgan 2023).

In an endorsement of u/lollybaby0811's comment, u/InterviewNo6736 replied that Ella came 'across as a bit of an autogynophile' (line 17). Derived from Blanchard's (1989) concept of autogynephilia, the common noun 'autogynephile' describes men who experience sexual arousal at the thought of themselves as a woman (323). Blanchard's (1989) finding that, depending on their sexual orientation, trans women can be categorised as male homosexuals or autogynephiles continues to pathologise them for transgressing against cis-heteronormative expectations despite numerous researchers discrediting the theory due to

false taxonomy and aetiological claims (Serano 2020: 768). Even though u/InterviewNo6736 refers to Ella with the pronoun 'she', associating her with a proposed paraphilia that misrepresents trans women as men experiencing psychopathologies is an act of misgendering. However, it is done in a microaggressive manner that makes it easier for the in-group to claim the out-group inflates the extent of transmisogyny on r/MarriedAtFirstSightUk.

To further the in-group's narrative that Ella is treating womanhood as a costume, her appearance receives scrutinization. u/McGeezy88 remarked that 'Ella seems to think being a woman is all about dressing slutty, wearing makeup and having men lust after her' (lines 9-10). The catenative verb 'seems' before the ambitransitive verb 'think' suggests that Ella's alleged version of womanhood is wrong; it disregards how some cis and trans women alike practice their gender within these parameters or, at best, positions them as immoral for doing so. With a triadic list, a popular rhetorical device, the user aims to convince their fellow Redditors that Ella has distorted what being a woman means. In the process, u/McGeezy88 piggybacks on u/dollybaby0811's upvoted suggestion that Ella is too sex orientated to be anything more than a 'caricature' by using the pejorative adjective 'slutty' to align Ella and her fashion sense with promiscuity. This bid to share the approval u/dollybaby0811 received resonates with Eschler's and Menking's (2018) reflection that Redditors are self-conscious about posting content that will earn them the favour of their CoP (4). Choosing to prioritise their social gratification, the user ignored the nuance of how, in the current context where UK doctors are telling trans women to wear lipstick and 'feminine' outfits to evidence their gender, trans women are conditioned into 'dressing slutty' and 'wearing makeup' to simply receive acknowledgement of their gender dysphoria (Swerling 2021).

Despite the overwhelming cis-heteronormative perspective, some users do condemn transmisogyny on r/MarriedAtFirstSightUk. In lines 20-21, u/moplumb's anaphoric use of the determiner 'some' in the dependent clause 'some women like' reiterates that, contrary to what the in-group believe, there is not a singular way to be a woman. Their outrage towards the cis-

heteronormative narratives is made apparent from the expletive attributive 'fucking' preceding the adjective 'disgusting', as well as the comment's ecphoneses. Unsurprisingly, this received pushback from the in-group; u/McGeezy88 responded with how '[l]abelling everything as transphobic isn't helpful at all.' (line 24). Even though u/moplumb was only labelling comments where Ella had been misgendered as an 'autogynephile' and been said to 'think like a man' because of her desire to have sex and wear 'slutty' clothes as transphobic, u/McGeezy88 exaggerates the extent of the criticism with the pronoun 'everything.' This hyperbole helps position u/moplumb as part of the 'PC Brigade' who, according to Pilkington (2021), are often misidentified as 'snowflakes incapable of tolerating dissenting opinions' for condemning prejudice (579). To rationalise the in-group's comments, u/McGeezy88 added that 'Ella even admitted herself she doesn't have much about her other than her transition' (lines 24-25). In this example of procatalepsis, the user anticipates u/moplumb's potential counterargument that the hyperfixation on Ella's transness is unwarranted considering there is much more to her and attempts to undermine it with supposedly Ella's own words. However, this is an eristic argument because Ella has a multifaceted view of herself as a 'crazy, loud, flamboyant person who's confident' at times, but 'vulnerable' and 'insecure' at others (Morgan 2023).

Suler (2015) explained that people are more inclined to argue with strangers online than in-person because 'when you cannot see or hear the other person, the lack of visual and auditory cues tends to make people more bold in what they say' (cited in Freyne 2015). Hence, despite the conversation reaching an impasse when u/moplumb concluded that the in-group were exhibiting 'good old, classic misogyny' (line 28), u/putitoutyoufools felt emboldened to further antagonise them with the contribution, '[y]eah I can't believe Ella thinks that that is all a girl/woman is. She's such a misogynist!!!' (line 31). Through their use of excessive exclamation marks, alongside the polyptoton achieved through imitating u/moplumb's use of the uncountable noun 'misogyny' in its countable variant 'misogynist', it is apparent that u/putitoutyoufools is making a deliberate distortion of the point. The lack of nonverbal communication cues in online interactions led to u/moplumb's confusion about the comment's

mocking tone (line 34), but u/putitoutyoufools came back with a detailed clarification (lines 37-44). With the repetitious use of the deontic modal verb 'could' in their statements that one 'could argue [Ella] is a caricature of a woman' and 'could claim to [find her to] be misogynistic' (lines 40-41), there is a pretence that they are open to debate despite dismissing u/moplumb's criticism as the expletive noun 'bullshit' in the same paragraph. In oscillating between first ('I') and second ('you') person pronouns, the user confirms that this negative view of Ella is their own and implies that u/moplumb should share it due to their supposed mutual interest in denouncing misogyny. u/putitoutyoufools' stance recalls Srinivasan's (2018) remark that anti-trans feminists believe 'trans women equate, and conflate, womanhood with the trappings of traditional femininity, thereby strengthening the hand of patriarchy.' This is ironic as, along with others in the r/MarriedAtFirstSightUk in-group, u/putitoutyoufools obstructs gender liberation via their cis-heteronormative comments about Ella.

Discussion

Through the use of FCDA, the above analysis highlights how r/MarriedAtFirstSightUk perpetuates cis-heteronormative ideals when discussing Ella. Like much of the West, the UK operates within a cis-heteropatriarchal socio-political system wherein White, heterosexual cis men have sociocultural, legal, and institutional privileges over people of other gender and sexual identities (Alim et al. 2020: 295). With this system of gendered power being sustained via linguistic and semiotic processes in both the physical and digital realms, r/MarriedAtFirstSightUk is not an inclusive space as Nikunen (2018) stated New Media is sometimes mistaken as, but rather a breeding ground for cis-heteronormative beliefs (10). Multiple commenters on the post 'Ella's 'story'' (appendix) presented their transmisogynistic opinions of Ella being like a man as factual, drawing upon their traditional perceptions of womanhood to highlight how her dress sense, sex drive, and prioritisation of her feelings fell short of their standards for 'real', principled women. Though, like Haslett (2011) noted is typical of online systems, the subreddit has core values that align with most of the users, some still enlisted rhetorical devices such as triadic listing (lines 9-10) and procatalepsis (lines 24-25) to

needlessly persuade like-minded Redditors that Ella is merely a man masquerading as a woman (53). Narratives as such running rampant on a forum that outlines disrespect, discrimination, and offensive jokes as rule breaks resonates with Albury's (2017) observation that online platforms' Terms and Conditions do not protect gender and sexual minorities (457).

Along with FCDA, IS underscores how an in-group and out-group is established on the subreddit. During their engagement with the expressive internet, the Redditors utilise social actions to manage their self-image (Haslett 2011: 292). In affirmation of Bucholtz's and Hall's (2005) stance that 'linguistic forms are used to construct identity positions', users in the thread aligned and distanced themselves with others depending on the ideological stance that their discourse revealed (594). Due to the prevalence of cis-heteronormative views, most users responded to u/dollybaby0811 agreeing with, and building upon, their projection of Ella's identity as an 'exaggerated circature of what a woman is' (line 2). This created an in-group wherein users categorised themselves as rational in their defence of traditional notions of womanhood against Ella's (and other trans women's) undermining of it. Contrastingly, u/moplumb was implied to be hyperreactive to the transmisogynistic overtones of the in-group's criticisms of Ella and, as a result, was relegated to the out-group. Thus, as Terren and Borge (2021) acknowledged is their research into social media echo chambers, the in-group's intolerance to dissenting opinions regarding gender and sexuality expression manifests as r/MarriedAtFirstSightUk being a homophilic CoP wherein cis-heteronormative ideals dominate discussions (101).

Conclusion

From this study, it is conclusive that cis-heteronormativity is prominent in discourse about Ella on r/MarriedAtFirstSightUk. Gender is treated as a binary concept as demonstrated by a FCDA of a thread wherein a trans woman's identity is defined by her resistance to restrictive, (trans)misogynistic notions of womanhood. Through IS, it is apparent how the normalisation of transmisogyny leads to the formation of an in-group that disseminate such values and an

out-group that is discouraged from sharing contrasting opinions on what presents itself as an inclusive space to discuss *MAFS UK*. Therefore, the subreddit can be considered a microcosm for the wider social intolerance of diverse genders and sexualities in the UK.

The findings of this research are not without limitations. Although the chosen approach of FCDA and IS was modelled after Ugah's (2023) analysis of a New Media platform, this is still a new practice that is undergoing development. There are many factors that delinearise online comments that could not be explored within word count which, alongside focusing on one thread for the same reasoning, limits the depth of the discourse analysis. For instance, a Reddit thread can reveal additional layers to its discourse that this research does not cover, including how the hierarchising of comments based on their engagement influences how their contents are perceived, and the potential to identify users' genders and/or sexualities from their account activities.

Gender, sex, and sexuality in New Media is an expanding field that presents ample research opportunities. A recommendation for future projects on the perpetuation of cis-heteronormative ideals on r/MarriedAtFirstSightUk is to explore how Ella's cis men partners on *MAFS UK* Nathanial Valentino and JJ Slater had their respective pansexual and heterosexual identities rewritten as homosexual. This will give more insight into how transmisogyny also harms people with male privilege. Additionally, further research can be conducted on social media platforms wherein posts are not pseudonymous to underscore the influence that physical social identities have on the ideologies shared.

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Appendix

"Ella's 'story'" –

https://www.reddit.com/r/MarriedAtFirstSightUk/comments/17gh22t/ellas_story [Accessed 8 November 2023].

u/lollybaby0811:

The story is, Ella is a sex toy and exaggerated circature of what a woman is. Ella still thinks like a man and it's why there is so much importance on self and sex. Ella thought Ella would be special and the sweetheart of the show due to the nuance of the conversations around transexuals.

Anyway hope Ella's enjoying the much needed shag

u/McGeezy88:

This is my issue, Ella seems to think being a woman is all about dressing slutty, wearing makeup and having men lust after her. All Ella said when she was with Nathaniel was he doesn't fancy me, completely ignoring the fact he asked to get to know her on a deeper level.

u/ind3pendi3nte:

Her entire personality trait is that she's trans. It's like there's nothing else.

u/InterviewNo6736:

I thought she was coming across as a bit of an autogynophile

u/moplumb:

Some women like to dress like that! Some women like male attention and makeup! How anyone can read comments like this and see it as anything other than transphobia is fucking disgusting.

u/McGeezy88:

Labelling everything as transphobic isn't helpful at all. Ella even admitted herself she doesn't have that much about her other than her transition.

u/moplumb:

Okay it's just good old, classic misogyny.

u/putitoutyoufools:

Yeah I can't believe Ella thinks that that is all a girl/woman is. She's such a misogynist!!!

u/moplumb:

Huh? When did she say that? Whats your point?

u/putitoutyoufools:

She never said that. The point I'm making is that I'm bored with people, like you, coming out of the woodwork to spout bullshit like "classic misogyny" or "transphobia" every-time there is some kind of comment or legitimate criticism made of trans people. Her portrayal of womanhood, you could argue is a caricature of a woman, one that is held by many men who view women as such, these men you could claim to be misogynistic as they seem to view women only through their physical appearance and sexual worth. Which is something that Ella has constantly spouted about whilst she's been on the show. Therefore, I can legitimately claim that Ella is a misogynist through her performance on the show

u/moplumb:

The mental gymnastics in this is quite honestly astounding 👏 also, im not 'in the woodwork' you absolute clown. Im commenting on a bloody post in the same way you are. Does it hurt that someone disagreed with you / challenged your beliefs? Grown up.