

UR ASKA

The Animation Workshop/ dir. Myra Hild, 2019.



Synopsis:

Two women live happily together until one starts to transform, disturbing their usual dynamic. The one left unchanged has to decide how far their love goes. Danish with English subtitles.

Language: Danish with English subtitles.

Run Time:

7:20

Suggested Grades:

8+

The Takeaway/ Learning Objectives:

- This film is an allegory for transness.
- This film shows transness as a gift which is unique.
- Embla feels left behind by Aska's transformation and is tempted to suppress it. When she realizes that she would be suppressing the core of Aska's being, she sees that this transformation is not about her and that she can best show her love to Aska by letting her be her whole self.

Content Flags:

Brief, non-sexual nudity

Keywords:

Gender, queer, genderfluid, transformation, allyship, love

Pre-viewing Questions:

- How can it feel when someone you love changes?
 - It can feel scary or uncertain. We might wonder if they will still love us
 - We can feel honoured that they are sharing changes with us
 - We may be excited or happy for them
- What can make it scary?
 - Fear of being left behind, that the person won't like you anymore or that you won't like them anymore
 - General fear of the unknown
 - Even positive changes can be stressful

Post-Viewing Questions:

- What happened in this film?
 - Embla and Aska were living happily for some time. When Aska started to transform, Embla fears what this means for their dynamic. She tries to stop the transformation but comes to realize how much this would hurt Aska. Instead, she accepts and supports Aska.
- How does this story relate to the concept of gender?
 - Allegory for transness: when trans people come out, there is sometimes a perception from other people that they are somehow losing the person (ex. parents "mourning" the loss of a child that comes out as trans). This is really damaging to trans people.
 - When someone comes out as trans, you're not losing them, you're being given an opportunity to know and love their whole, true self.
- How could Embla show support for Aska?
 - Being there to listen, validating their love, celebrating their new talent for reaching the higher gems, etc.
 - Learning about Aska's experience and what they are feeling about the changes

Common Questions:

- Do trans people identify as birds?/other 'trans-species' jokes.
 - No, the bird transformation is just a metaphor for gender.