

THERE MUST BE 50 WAYS TO TELL YOUR MOTHER (LESBIAN GAY STUDIES) pdf

1: Whatâ€™s it like for a child when their mum or dad comes out as gay? | Art and design | The Guardian

*There Must Be 50 Ways to Tell Your Mother (Lesbian & gay studies) [Lynn Sutcliffe] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Coming out is a continual process, and one that is unique to every lesbian and gay man.*

Olivia Rousseau I am not your daughter or your son. You raised us to believe that God loves us. You told us that Jesus died to provide forgiveness for all of our sins presumably, whether you and I define "sin" in the same way or not. One of the first songs you taught us, in Sunday school, was "Yes, Jesus loves me. For the Bible tells me so. Then, somewhere along the way, we realized that we were lesbian or gay. And at whatever point we found the courage to tell you, or you began to suspect, or however you found out, you did an immediate , and now you tell us we are an abomination, and our place in Hell is guaranteed. And you base these pronouncements on what? On, maybe, six scriptures that mention homosexual behavior in negative, prohibitive ways. Have you ever read those scriptures critically, meaning, in their complete contexts? Did you know, for example, that one of them is part of a code of conduct specifically addressed to Israeli rabbis of that day? Like the one that says its forbidden to wear an outfit made out of more than one kind of cloth. How many of you good, devout Christians wear polyester to church? Have you ever wondered why a prohibition in one verse should be interpreted as an absolute mandate, for all people, for all times, while, without the slightest pang of your consciences, you violate the mandates in the verses immediately before and after that one every day? Have you ever cracked open a book that explains about the culture of that time? Did you know that inhospitality was considered one of the very worst sins? Not to mention the fact that these particular strangers were angels sent directly by God. Do you ever read scriptures that pertain to the same subject in conjunction with each other for a fuller understanding? Did you know, for example, that in Ezekiel Nope, not a word about homosexuality. Did you know that several scriptures refer to these sins, sins of failure to love and care for others, as being "worse than the sin of Sodom"? The most fundamentalist among you pride yourselves on taking the whole Bible literally. How many of you are women? How many of you participate in your church services? How many of you are men who attend churches where women actively participate? You do know, I assume, that Paul one of your favorite gay-bashers said, "Let your women keep silent in the churches. I can see only one way. You must not take it literally. You must interpret it in context. You must be willing to look at who wrote it, to whom, when, and why. That is who the "C-h-r-i-s-t" in "Christian" refers to, right? And to be Christian means to be like Jesus, to follow His teachings and example, right? Jesus consistently reached out to the most reviled people with whom He came in contact. The woman at the well. All of them and more. All of the people who were, in that day, viewed as you view lesbians and gays today - Godless, abominable, unworthy. And did you notice something else? Whenever Jesus was criticized for embracing these people in His love, he always rebuked those who criticized Him as judgmental, self-righteous hypocrites. I am a lesbian. About a year-and-a-half ago, I met the woman I had prayed God would bring into my life. Yes, I said prayed that God would bring into my life. I am in love. And I am grateful to God. She is just what I asked God for - a mature Christian woman who has accomplished what people like you make nearly impossible to accomplish - finding peace with both God and our lesbianism. Getting to that place where our sexuality and our spirituality can peacefully co-exist within us, and in our lives. Among the many valuable, and invaluable, things that we share, we share our love for God. And we are partners for life. We are, to each other, everything that those words represent to you. Last Christmas was our first together as partners. And my partner was not permitted to go with me to celebrate with my mother, sisters, nieces and nephews in my childhood home. And you know what? That hurt, but I could have handled that, probably without being driven to my computer to try to exorcise that pain. I had planned to stay here - in our home - and share Christmas with my partner and our children her two adult daughters; my two teen-aged sons. To be totally honest, I would have felt some sadness. But I handled it, and I would have again. Then I got this call from my mother. And she wanted me and my

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sons at her house for Christmas. All of my sisters would be there. All of their children would be there. My year-old mother, whom I love in spite of everything, fussed and cried and accused me of choosing my partner over her and the rest of my family, because I refused to be with them, without her. So I desperately searched for some kind of compromise. I offered to bring the boys and visit her the week before Christmas. She is so genuinely convinced that she is obliged to "take a stand" about my life, and my relationship, that she would not meet me any fraction of the way. I had to choose. And the "wrong" choice would break her heart. Because I still was not going. I love my partner. I live with her. In a very real sense, I live more fully and completely because of her. That is my reality. That is the truth. So after sharing and giving and receiving and being all that we are to each other days of the year, on the most significant day of the year for most Christian families to be together, how fair is it to demand that I take my children and we leave her here to go spend that day where she is not welcome? For the first time in my 44 years, I told my mother, "No. My partner talked about the fact that she is my one and only mother. She reminded me that, at her age, you never know which Christmas might be her last a fact that we both realize is true for all of us, but it seems a greater concern when it comes to elderly parents. And she pointed out that giving in this time would buy us another year we hope in which my mother might have a change of heart before next Christmas. Just not in the same house. Who was being more Christ-like? Mom, as the matriarch of my family-of-origin, deems my partner unworthy to be embraced and treated as part of our family because of "the nature" of our relationship -- implicitly, by the way, judging me to be unworthy, too, since every fact upon which she bases her judgment of my partner is equally true of me. She was willing, apparently, to put that judgment aside for me because I happened to be born to her. No such dispensation was available to my partner. And tell me, honestly, who was being more like Christ? I keep asking myself, "If Jesus were the head of our family, sitting there at the head of the table last Christmas Day, how would He have handled this? And, next Christmas, give your son or daughter what Jesus will give him or her for Christmas and every other day -- unconditional love. Just be like Jesus. He is, after all, the One whose birth we celebrate. We want to know!! Send a letter to the editor , write to the author of this article by clicking on their name at the top of the article, or fill out our reader survey!!

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2: Whosoever: An Open Letter to Homophobic Christian Parents

*There Must be Fifty Ways to Tell Your Mother (Lesbian & gay studies) by Lynn Sutcliffe () on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

My students chatted as they worked. My stomach instantly tied in a knot. I was a brand-new teacher in what felt like an incredibly challenging teaching situation. I started teaching at the middle school level partly because it is such a difficult time for kids struggling with their sexuality and there are so few role models. Will you talk to us, too? That night I collected a few pictures of myself with my partner and daughter, cooking and hanging out at the playground, and one of our extended family. I also thought about how to explain this in a way that would be appropriate for middle schoolers. When I was young, no one talked about being lesbian or gay—the whole subject was silenced. I met Karen when we were in our early 20s, and we have been together ever since. When I first told my parents I was a lesbian, they were really upset and that made me feel terrible. But eventually they realized that it is just part of who I am and that Karen is a wonderful person. Nothing about sex and nothing that felt deliberately disrespectful. And I found wording in the social studies standards that I could use to back up my decision to do this. The next morning, there was a note in my box to go see the vice principal. Several kids told me that their church says homosexuality is wrong; I simply acknowledged that I know many churches have that perspective. One of the kids asked a question about lesbian sex—not a disrespectful question, but a question. Everyone else had relevant and engaged questions or comments: Are you still angry at her? I also received emails from several teachers offering support and encouragement including two from teachers who told me they were gay but asking me to keep their secret. There were no complaints from parents. I contacted my union representative, who sent a letter to the principal and to my file supporting me. I felt only positive results in relation to the kids; I could see the progress over the year as the kids who thought homosexuality was a sin struggled with the dissonance between that belief and the reality of who I was and how I treated them. Two students told me in their journals that they thought they might be gay or lesbian. And I felt that my openness changed the class dynamic; the kids knew I trusted them with important, adult knowledge, and they responded accordingly. In the spring, I received a notice that the district was not rehiring me. In response, the other teachers at the school raised such a clamor with the principal at a staff meeting that she told them it was a clerical error and renewed my contract. Why am I telling this long story? In my own case, after two years of battling homophobic administrations at two different middle schools, I opted to teach high school in a situation where I knew other teachers who were open with their students about being lesbian or gay. Each situation is different: But I do want to talk about some of the reasons to come out, and to talk about ways to make it less risky. To me, the overwhelming reason to come out is to make school a safer place for youth who know, think, or fear they are lesbian, gay, or bisexual. Adolescence is hard enough without positive role models for every aspect of who one is or is striving to become. One young lesbian told me I saved her from suicide; she was brought up in an abusive and homophobic family, and knowing that I had a family, a career, and a positive self-image made her life feel worth living. In so many ways, silence is the enemy. There are a lot of us, so there are a lot of kids affected one way or the other. It also is an important piece of education for students who are being raised in homophobic families or communities. There is nothing quite as strong as a living example to counteract stereotypes. Coming out can protect lesbian or gay teachers, too, in many situations. But here are a few ideas from my experience: The process can be tumultuous as students wrestle with their feelings and thoughts, so you need lots of perspective and experience to ride it out. Line up support ahead of time. Start with teachers who you know will be supportive. How have they dealt with it? If not, does it seem possible to start one? Is there a straight teacher who would be willing to co-sponsor it? What about your union? Will they support you if problems arise? On the other hand, I would think long and hard before talking with administrators. Unless you know that your principal is going to be supportive, you are probably better off coming out first. But you know your own situation best. Over the

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years, I have sometimes decided to wait to come out to my students until a relevant situation arose, and other times decided to deliberately create a situation for coming out. For me, it works better to decide when and how to come out, and to do it very early in the year. It also saves me the anxiety of constantly deciding when to do it, or whether a specific question from a student is the one I should respond to by coming out. For example, one year early in my teaching career, a planned field trip to the Castro district of San Francisco sparked a deluge of homophobic comments throughout the 7th grade. One way to do that is with an Identity Poster Project I use to push students to think about why larger social issues are relevant to their lives see sidebar, p. As part of explaining the assignment, I show them my own identity poster. I mention that two people I love are in prison, and that this is a source of pain in my life. I had a striking personal example of this during my second year of teaching middle school, the year of the field trip to the Castro. The principal told me I should have known better than to come out because the students were too mean to trust with that kind of information. Then I was out sick for a week and the adults at the school left a homophobic slur on my door for the entire time. But the students in my classes were supportive and open, our process was encouraging, and I thought I was coping well. One day after school in the early spring I noticed homophobic graffiti scrawled on a stairway wall. Dispirited, I walked into the room of the teacher next door to tell her about it. Discuss homophobia when it comes up in class, in the halls, in the news, in literature. Integrate lesbian and gay issues into the curriculum—as protagonists in literature and activists in history. Science and math teachers may have a harder time with this. When teaching genetics, substitute male and female genes for mother and father. Unexpected Side Benefits Is coming out, particularly in a conservative school or district, worth the risk? On the other hand, taking this risk—to make it safer for teachers and students to be who we are—can lead to unexpected gifts. In my experience, it has played a significant role in establishing a kind of classroom community where students feel supported to be open about a whole range of issues, and to be able to talk about difficult topics—racism, sexism, sexual harassment—in ways that are thoughtful, deep, and respectful of each other. This is the world we cover. Because of people like you, another world is possible. There are many battles to be won, but we will battle them together—all of us. Common Dreams is not your normal news site. We want the world to be a better place. If you can help today—because every gift of every size matters—please do.

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3: Lynn Sutcliffe | LibraryThing

Lynn Sutcliffe, author of There Must Be 50 Ways to Tell Your Mother (Lesbian & gay studies), on LibraryThing
LibraryThing is a cataloging and social networking site for booklovers Home Groups Talk Zeitgeist.

We are taught this by the education system, family and friends, the media, the legal system and religions. Until we come into contact with accurate information and meet other Lesbians and Gays to challenge these negative beliefs, we believe the bad things we have been told. It usually means that we hate ourselves, have low self-esteem and try to hide or suppress our sexuality. As Lesbians we are doubly oppressed: The combined effects of homophobia and sexism mean that women are less likely than men to realise their Homosexuality, to act on their feelings or to come out. However, with the greater portrayal of feminine lesbians in the media, more feminine lesbians will be identifying as Lesbian. At some stage, most lesbians find that they cannot keep their true feelings under control any longer and have to act on them. Some Lesbians stay in marriages and have Lesbian relationships but never accept that they are Lesbian. Some stay in marriages for the sake of the children and come out later in life whilst others never do come out. Sometimes Lesbians stay in heterosexual relationships for fear of losing their families and friends and the privileges society gives to heterosexuals. You can choose to come out though, and develop a positive Lesbian identity. Coming Out Coming out is a process which begins when we first admit to ourselves that we are Lesbian although at first we might just admit to being Bisexual. We then have a choice whether to act on our true feelings or live the rest of our lives a lie. Those of us who choose to accept our feelings want to find out more about Lesbianism, meet other Lesbians, find a partner, and come out to our families and friends. Later we may decide to come out at work and, finally, to tell the world well, be on television or in the newspaper. Some of us never come out to anyone or only to a few people and keep it secret from our families. Coming out is not just telling a friend, parent, daughter or son and then never mentioning it again; it is a long process of integrating your lesbianism into the rest of your life. This creates a huge dilemma: The process can be even more difficult for those Lesbians who have developed harmful ways of coping with the suppression of their true sexual orientation. For example, some may have fantasised about Lesbianism read novels, watched films but kept their Lesbianism very separate from the rest of their lives. This sort of strategy could continue once you have started to come out and may take some time getting rid of. When a Lesbian comes out in her youth, integrating her lesbianism into her whole life painful though this is is part of her growing up. However, being partly out and not integrating your Lesbianism into the rest of your life has serious consequences: Using alcohol or drugs as a way of coping can seriously stop us developing positive Lesbian identities. Eventually, at 34, I stopped drinking and came out - I thought maybe it was being in the closet that was causing my drink problem. Find Support It may be that if you have a negative response to coming out - especially from someone you care about - that you go back into the closet. You must be strong enough to deal with any possible rejections you may come across; there are several actions you can take to help: You will probably find this step very daunting because it means admitting to someone else for the first time that you are Lesbian. This takes a lot of courage but remember, most of the volunteers on helplines will have been through a similar process and will be able to understand your fears. Read materials to help you get rid of your Internalised Homophobia - to challenge all the negative beliefs see book list and alternative bookshop list. When coming out to parents it is useful to make contact with a parents group and understand that it is likely your parents will be shocked and will also need support. More information about coming out to parents can be found in our "Parents of Lesbians and Gays Resource List" see, also list of parents organisations. As an older Lesbian coming out it is likely that you will have children. For further information about coming out as a Lesbian and identity formation we have produced the "Lesbians Coming Out and Identity Development Resource List. Reading books and watching films and videos that portray positive images of Lesbians. Adopting a Lesbian identity, i. Self-disclosing telling others about our Lesbianism: This is necessary for intimate relationships with partners, family and friends , confirmation of our Lesbian identity

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and becoming our selves. Positive responses to coming out will help you move forward, negative responses can have the reverse effect. The opposite of self-disclosure is affirmation of internalised homophobia which implies that this aspect of yourself is too shameful to tell anyone. Developing ways of handling direct and indirect disclosures. How would you evaluate the risks in who to tell: Remember how long it took you to accept your Lesbianism? Well, your parents and children will need to go through a similar process before they can accept it. Separating yourself from negative environments. Finding a positive circle of Lesbian friends - join a pen-pal scheme, contact your nearest helpline to find out if there are any coming out or support groups. Remember, internalised homophobia in either or both partners in a Lesbian relationship will greatly interfere with that relationship. At the same time, the nature of the relationship and your interpretation of it can have a major impact on your development, either reducing or enhancing your internalised homophobia. Comfort with your own feelings of being a Lesbian? Comfort with your relations with women? Comfort with your own feelings about Lesbian fantasies? Comfort with, and respect and admiration for, other Lesbians and Gay men? Ability to form meaningful relationship with another woman? Ability to self-disclose in a positive way i. Use of a Homosexual friendly reference group? As a way of measuring how you are coming on, ask yourself how you would have answered the above questions a year ago. Or, putting it another way, 1. Do you still experience discomfort with your own feelings, relationships and fantasies? If in a relationship, do you respect your partner? Do you take your relationship seriously? How many people have you come out to? How did you do this? Were you confrontational or apologetic? Who do you turn to to talk about things concerning your Lesbianism? Whose opinions do you respect? Writings by Radical Women of Color, eds. Talking About Young Lesbians, L. Trenchard, London Gay Teenage Group, Lorelee MacPike, Naiad, Coming out to children. Trenchard, Gay Mens Press, Being Happy, Being Gay: Borhek, , Pilgrim Press. Dorsey Green, Seal Press, Reprint. Neisen, Health Communications, Jean Swallow, Alyson Publications, What about the children? Sons and daughters of Lesbian and gay parents talk about their lives, Lisa Saffron, Cassell,

4: "My Teacher Is a Lesbian": Coming Out at School

Buy There Must be Fifty Ways to Tell Your Mother (Lesbian & gay studies) by Lynn Sutcliffe () by Lynn Sutcliffe (ISBN:) from Amazon's Book Store. Everyday low prices and free delivery on eligible orders.

5: COMING OUT AS A LESBIAN IN LATER LIFE

If you just found out your child is gay or lesbian, online to help him in deciding if he should tell his dad. And the best way to do that. If there are more than 50 members of your church.

6: About Your Privacy on this Site

50 Ways To Tell Your Mother, Lynn Sutcliffe, Mansell, Reclaiming Pride: Daily Reflections on Gay and Lesbian Life, Joseph H. Neisen, Health Communications, Coming Out: A Book for Lesbians and Gay Men of All Ages, Suzy Byrne, Martello Books,

7: Studies on LGBTQ Language: A Partial Bibliography

If you are gay, know that there are many, many gay, lesbian, bisexual, and straight people all over the world who have been in your situation. The doubt. The nagging guilt.

8: How to Know If You Are a Lesbian: 14 Steps (with Pictures)

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This is actually a good question, but there's a better way to ask it. How about, "What does he call each mom?" When our son was born, we couldn't decide what we wanted to be called.

9: How to Know if You Are Gay (with Pictures) - wikiHow

Evaluate why you are questioning your sexual orientation. The decision to explore your sexual orientation should be a personal choice. Question your sexuality because it is a process you need to complete, not because members of society are telling you that you are a lesbian.

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