

I was not who I am today. My sexuality just seemed to work itself into a lifestyle. I wasn't comfortable with having a "vise versa" sexual identity, so I chose the easy road, the one most traveled, or the only road I was aware existed. I have a healthy relationship and a unique marriage, one based on honesty, trust, openness, and individual strength. My husband has always known about my sexual preferences. Out of anyone I have ever known, he has always been undeniably accepting of it and has embraced me

ently if I was back then who I am now? Without a doubt, but I'm sure I'm not the first person to feel that way. Do I follow behind others' footsteps to ensure acceptance and a direct path? I'm miles to the side of everyone and my feet don't just walk an unbeaten path, they dance.

I try to enhance the limitless possibilities this life has for me. Admiring and desiring both men and women can create intense emotions and leave a feeling of void at times. I am still building and growing, learning and expanding. Surely as my life progresses, such

Choosing to not deny this and that out of respect for myself.

Women and men are attractive and delicious in various ways. What can be a woman's strength can be a man's weakness and vise versa. What makes a man or a woman attractive to me is the uniqueness in their eyes and their inner beauty that lies beyond the surface of the skin. I connect intimately with the person who best complements who I am.

Do I have to make a decision as to what gender I prefer? Must I decide one over the other for the rest of my life? I've been told by many that everything in life works itself out, and I try to believe in that as one moment brings me to the next. Given the insecurities of social status and the emphasis placed on sexual identity, sometimes I feel pressured to decide between men and women.

But the only real pressure that ever exists is the pressure we place on ourselves. Onlookers may assume I fall into the category of heterosexual, or think I no longer have a choice to be anything other than a happily married heterosexual, due to the choice I made years ago. What may be seen by the blind eyes of society is just that.

However, what is within me as a woman, as an individual, is a beauty yet unseen by those blind eyes. Nothing is ever certain, nothing is ever forever. Change, growth, and realizations all come to us moment to moment as we live each day. I would be disappointed in myself if I set limitations in my life and denied possibilities that I may or may not know even exist in the moments to come.

I am queer, bisexual, driven, and full of intimate depth and voice. What you see at a glance in my direction makes me but a stranger to what lies within. I wish for us all to cherish the ability to love another, look deeper than the skin and embrace all the beauty that lies within all of us. It is easier to embrace others when we first embrace ourselves.

It was Ghandi who once said "Be the change you wish to see in the world." I am being. ▼

➔ Heather was born in Burlington and now lives in Colchester. Her obsession is rock climbing and she loves to write, especially poetry.

## Curious

BY HEATHER REED

Curiously licking my lips  
Watching her push the  
hair from her face  
Her eyes  
They eat me alive

*For the woman my heart truly moves to. With every moment and every breath, I cherish you. For the silent melodies sharing life with you brings, this heart cradles you, with words unspoken.*

for who I am, regardless of my sexual split. He supports me as a person and does not deny me my right to think, do, and choose for myself. We think very much "outside the box" as individuals, and as a couple. Although we share life together, we are unique individuals who have our own mind, heart, and life to nurture. We build inner strength together which allows us to be stronger as individuals.

I can embrace myself now in ways I couldn't do before. My sexuality has not changed. I have not chosen one over the other. In the close-mindedness of society maybe it seems I have. I embrace what I have while I have it. Tomorrow that may change. What I know to be certain is that I will love to the best of my ability and give to others only the best of me. Boundaries in our lives do not exist unless we create them. Would I have done things differ-


voids will work themselves out in their own unique way.

I have a profound and genuine love for the man in my life. I appreciate that he contributes to who I have become. He is unique in how he views life and respects mine. I am captivated by a woman in my life who is close to my heart. I adore her and desire her completely. I have much respect for her as a beautiful woman and my dearest friend. I listen to my heart, feel its breath, and embrace its voice. I am with a man at this time in my life, I have a strong desire for a woman, am still growing with myself in knowing where my heart brings me, all of which are parts of my intimate soul's journey. Ten years from now when I wake in the morning, will I look into the eyes of a man, or a woman, or maybe merely my own reflection? Where my heart brings me from this moment to the next is what living and loving is.

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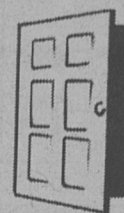


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