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# If Irma Bombeck Were A Lesbian

by Dee Steffan

When I was asked to write this article on mothering an adolescent, I admit that my first reaction was to draw a blank. Knowing that it would appear in *Out in the Mountains*, I assumed that my status as a lesbian was relevant and should somehow figure into my central thesis, whatever that turned out to be.

But to be honest, whereas in some aspects of my life my sexual orientation takes precedence, in parenting it does not. In parenting I seem to be just another mother, like 90 percent of the others in my daughter's class, or all of them if I can assume that the remaining probably gay 10 percent feel the way that I do about raising an adolescent.

If my daughter were gay, then my homosexuality would for once be an outright asset. I could harp about make-up and clothes and the extremes to which girls go to attract the attention of the opposite sex to an appreciative audience. As it stands now, while my being a lesbian and my daughter's being "not!" doesn't really get in our way, many of my best lectures fall on deaf ears. Instead of an enraptured response, I get mostly blank stares and good-humored tolerance from a thirteen year-old who persists in believing that Luke Perry is the Goddess's (she will grant me that the Supreme Being is most likely a female energy form of some sort) gift to teen-aged girls.

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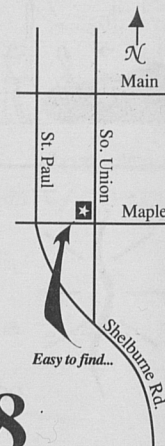
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