

REAPROPIANT-NOS de les nostres vides

FELIX

1001 Outings

There is no such thing as “the one and only coming-out moment”. After my first outing, which I am going to talk about later, I have been outing myself a thousand times more: Every time I meet a new person I must decide if I tell them I am gay. Every time I enter a new place, I am forced to choose whether I show I am gay or not.

This is not because of me; it is because of others, and by “others” I mean those who identify as “normal”. Others who – even if everyone is different according to body, gender and sexual orientation – group together to form the “normal majority”.

I first came out to one of my best friends. I was only 15. It was very special to me, not only because after years of lonely nights having to face my fears and struggles on my own I was then happily in love for the first time. It was also a suitable moment because of the way my friend approached the whole thing: She chose the right time, the right place, and above all, the right words to address the topic. She did not put me in the position of having to explain or defend myself. Instead of waiting for an outing or asking questions, she started with an explanation: She said that being a straight person herself, she was eager to learn more about sex, gender and sexual orientations. She also talked about the deep respect she has for those who struggle with their identities just because they do not fit a constructed majority. She finished by adding that, no matter who I am or who I love, she would always love me.

After listening to her, not only was it easy for me to tell her that I finally had a boyfriend but joyful and empowering, too. It did not feel like an outing anymore – it felt like speaking to someone who was really interested in my life.

Be like my friend and apply this to you as well: Before asking a question to someone who may not be straight, just consider if you would like to – or even could – answer the same question. And one day, hopefully, I will not have to out myself anymore.



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