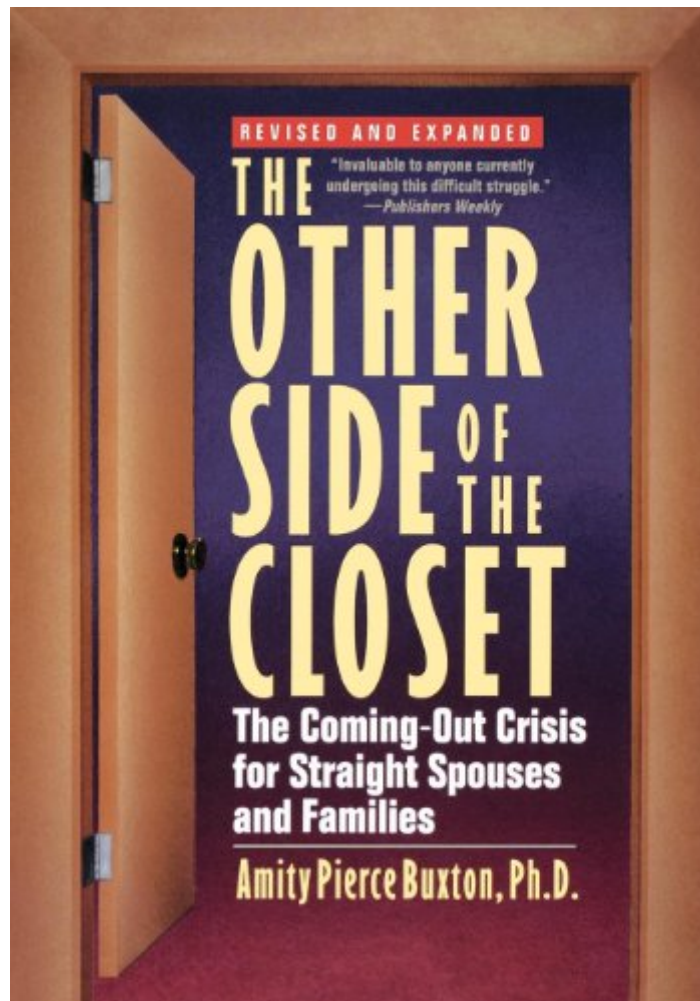


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The Other Side Of The Closet: The Coming-Out Crisis For Straight Spouses And Families



Synopsis

Candid, compassionate, authoritative--a rich source of insights, information, and practical guidance. "The first major work on the topic." --Gay Community News "A much needed comprehensive study of what happens to husbands, wives, and children during the coming-out crisis. --The Reverend Jane E. Vennard, founder Task Force for Spouses of Gays and Lesbians "The new enlarged edition adds important factors, especially children's reactions to a parent's coming out. Well-researched and insightful." --Fritz Klein, M.D., author of The Bisexual Option "Anybody practicing in this area would be well advised to read this book." --Professor Arthur S. Leonard, New York Law School In two million marriages, one spouse is gay, lesbian, or bisexual. Having a spouse or parent disclose his or her same-sex attraction is a shattering experience fraught with pain, confusion, anger, and a profound loss of self-esteem. Amity Pierce Buxton spotlights this exploding phenomenon and reports constructive coping strategies that spouses and children have used to resolve problems of sexual damage, family breakdown, deception, and homophobia. Illustrated throughout by riveting personal narratives, this expanded edition of *The Other Side of the Closet* traces the family's journey from initial trauma to eventual transformation. This invaluable source of information for spouses, families, and professionals is based on Dr. Buxton's eight years of research, including interviews with 1,000 straight spouses and children, her own personal experience, and her counseling work with spouses of gay, lesbian, and bisexual partners.

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Customer Reviews

This book turned my head around like hundreds of hours of therapy couldn't do... saved me thousands of dollars on anti-depressants. Thank you, Amity Pierce Buxton! This book is the ultimate resource for the spouse who finds their husband/wife is gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.

Finally, someone acknowledges the pain, the confusion, the guilt, the incredible blows to self-esteem that happen to the spouse of someone with sexual-orientation issues.... I am so glad I found this book... Until the moment I discovered it, I thought the failure of my marriage to a bisexual was my fault, and that just one more therapist or self-help book could turn things around. With this book, I found out that it wasn't my fault, that I wasn't alone, and that life could go on for me. Life changed immediately. Buy it... join the Straight Spouse Network... take charge of your life again.

This book concentrates on how the coming out process affects the straight spouse, which is often forgotten when the homosexual partner is going through the trauma of the coming out process. If you are in this situation you will be shocked at how similar the stories in the book are to your own story! It deals with moral issues, parental issues, self-confidence issues, sexuality issues, and much more. If you are married to (or suspect you are married to) a homosexual person of either sex, this is a must read, whether or not you decide to stay in the marriage. Thank you Dr. Buxton for writing this book!

I was excited when I saw the title of this book. For years I had been disappointed to see that the mass medianever seemed to take into account that a person who is coming out in a marriage could be bisexual. I hoped this book would be different, but it was not. If there was a reference to bisexuality in this book, I could not find it. I certainly hope that someone can prove me wrong. The message I read, however, was "wives, don't even attempt to save your marriage. It is over, there is no way your husband will ever be interested in you." This book leaves absolutely no possibility that a man might actually love and sexually desire his wife, but still struggle with being attracted to other men. I have heard others who have reported having the same reaction to reading this book - it lacks a true bisexual perspective. I would look forward to another book by Ms. Pierce Buxton on this subject that allows for the possibility that the person coming out might be bisexual.

Amity Pierce Buxton's book is a good resource, to a point, for spouses who find themselves in a mixed-orientation marriage. While I found that the stories were somewhat outdated and I had difficulty relating to them, the statistical information in the book makes it worth the read. It reads a bit like a scholarly textbook outside the personal testimonies, so expect it to be dry in places. But it does provide information and stats to the straight spouse. Some of these statistics can be pretty depressing, and I found that the book does not really cover all of the different types of mixed-orientation marriages, and the ways that many couples come up with to retain a relationship with their spouses. All in all, an interesting and informative read, but somewhat outdated.

No one ever expects to hear the words I heard my husband of 11 years say when he sat me down last January and told me he was gay. We had been together for nearly 16 years and have two young children. I was devastated. I went through (and am still going through) extreme emotional rollercoaster girations that left me dizzy. I felt every emotion nearly everyday. I didn't know which way was up. I didn't know what to do, who to talk to, who to trust. Trust was the first thing I started challenging in my day to day life. Friends, family, coworkers... any one I met I wondered if they too were lying to me. It was a destructive mind set that I eventually, through the help of counseling, got over. Like the book mentions, there is a moment when the strait spouse feels they've been pushed into the closet. Hiding what they know from everyone, pretending things are normal. Having been there, I can attest that that was a very scary time and this book did help me get through that and helped me rescue myself from the closet. 8 months later, I'm in my own house, feeling the freedom to have my own routine, getting on with my life, and we're divorced but still friends. Most importantly, we're both happier now that we have been for several years. The kids have come first through this whole ordeal and we have managed to keep them on track that there is no shame in who their father is. We still do things as a family, after all, we got divorced from each other not the kids. we even do things as a big happy family with my ex and his partner. The kids seem to have adjusted pretty well so far, but I know the road is long and we've just started the journey. If anyone is just starting this journey or is having difficulty with a similar situation, I strongly urge you to get this book AND seek counseling. This book helped both of us understand what the other was going through. It will help you. And you will heal over time. Good Luck.

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