

Krista, 19 years

Up until the beginning of year 12, it never occurred to me that I would be anything but straight. I'd had a couple of dreams in which I'd kissed female friends, but I woke up thinking "yuk!", so didn't think much more of it. Then I got a bit of a crush on a girl that I met at a camp, and then someone at school. After a lot of stressing out and analysis, I decided that I was "probably" bisexual because I'd "had crushes on both girls and guys", and would, hypothetically, go out with either a girl or a guy (at this stage I didn't realise how much I had been influenced by social conditioning!!). However, being a science student, I wanted to categorise myself more definitely, and was still quite concerned about my orientation. I talked to my best friend, and she said "Don't worry, I went through that stage too". One night at a party, we both got very drunk and ended up getting together. Everyone, including us, put it down to "experimentation", and it took from November until February for us to finally admit to ourselves and each other how we really felt. At the beginning of the year, she sent me a text message saying she'd broken up with her boyfriend and that she wanted to be with me. I nearly passed out with shock! It seemed very different to say "I'm bi" than to actually have a girlfriend! I started making a couple of queer friends at uni, but felt that I didn't really fit in with the queer community. After my first meeting one of my school friends asked me how it went, and I said sulkily "None of the other girls had long hair and I was the only one wearing a skirt". It wasn't long until I had fallen in love with my girlfriend, and at that stage I felt that nothing else mattered as long as I could be with her. Then, after a couple of months, she said that we were "better off just being friends", and, three days later she told me she had a new boyfriend. I was utterly devastated. For months I was miserable every day, and didn't see any reason to get up in the morning. I decided that I'd "pretend to be straight forever, so I that I never fall in love again". Now things are better. My ex-girlfriend and I are still best friends, I have a great group of queer friends in addition to my straight friends, and am gradually becoming more comfortable with my own identity. I'm only "half-out", so I still pretend to be 100% straight around my family, and some of my friends. I often feel that I'm "too queer for the straight world and too straight for the queer world", but sometimes I'm glad that I don't fit a category. Since I was little, I've had a dream of meeting someone, falling in love, getting married and living happily ever after with two cute kids. That's still what I want. Sure, it might be a bit messier if I want to marry a girl, but I'm not going to let that stand in my way. I just hope that my parents will be as happy as I plan to be...