

A Family Confronts 15-Year-Old Gay Son

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beautiful child, no grandchildren from this child."

Mary cried at the time. She grieved the loss of her "normal" child. She grieved the loss of unborn grandchildren and a future based on the world she knew. Bill reacted violently.

"I was devastated," he said, remembering. "I had suspected, but when he told us . . ." The evening was spent in loud argument. Bill would not accept the reality. He later restricted calls from Bobby's gay friends. Bobby's every move was under suspicion for two years.

"He went out of his way to make us miserable," added Bill, who was recovering from open-heart surgery at the time. "I thought he was trying to give me another heart attack."

Bobby frequently stayed out all night without informing the family. He hid marijuana under his father's car seats and took any medication he could find in the house. At last, Bill and Mary had to lock up even Bill's heart medication to keep Bobby from taking it.

Mary continued. "Again, we went to a psychologist and I got terrible advice. They said to either accept him as he is and live with this horror, or throw him out. Pack his bags in the middle of the night and put them outside the door. In the middle of the night. What mother would do that?"

"From that point on, our lives were miserable. He was out. He was gay. And we had to figure out how to deal with it."

Mary shook her head, remembering the bewilderment. They had no one to turn to. There were no support groups

such as PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) to help them learn how to deal with their son's antisocial behavior, let alone his gayness. This was not something they could talk to their friends about.

Then Bobby dropped out of high school and announced he was moving to New York City. He told his family, "I hate it here. I'm not happy. You're not happy."

"I told him, 'That's fine, if that's what you want,'" Mary said. "He had some money in the bank and we gave it to him gladly. The following day was Dot's marriage. She and her husband went off on their honeymoon. Claire and (her husband) went back to New York City and Bobby went to live with them. The next day Bill and Sam and I walked around this big old empty house. It had been so full of life, friends and children. Sam said, 'I don't think I'm going to like being an only child.'"

And Bobby, rebellious, 17, had gone away to win over New York. In the process, he would find out how to love and begin learning about his own limitations. His story is just beginning.

Part 2, March issue: Bobby's parents talk about his life in New York.

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Do Not — Repeat — Do Not Miss February At Charades

FLASH! The word is they're lost in fantasy. Believe it! Just look at these shake-your-head parties:

13th & Full-Moon Party

FRIDAY, FEB. 13. The word is Charades will actually hold a Full "Mooning" Contest with a \$50 cash prize. Can't stand the heat?

Sweet Heart's Ball

SATURDAY, FEB. 14. Whew. Reality returns.

Anniversary of Grand Canyon

THURSDAY, FEB. 26. The rumor is that Steve fell on the ice, and actually said "anniversary of Grand Canyon" when he came to, smiling. Whatever it is, drink specials will be part of the party. (Don't miss this!)

New Moon Madness

A night to remember! (We just publish what they say, folks.)

Monday Blahs? Charades is open via the patio entrance, serving drink specials!

Thursdays. No cover for members (except for QCO's Valentine Party Feb. 12). It's usually "Rock, Roll & Remember" Night!



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