Contact (Chapter 2 of the book Between Gay and Straight: Understanding Friendship Across Sexual Orientation)

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Document Type
Book

Publication Date
2001

Abstract
"Contact" is chapter 2 of the book Between Gay and Straight: Understanding Friendship Across Sexual Orientation (AltaMira Press, 2001). The timeframe portrayed extends from June 1994 to September 1995. It begins with my boyfriend Doug meeting David Holland, who would become our first gay male friend. In this chapter, Doug begins his four-year tenure with The Cove, a team in the predominantly gay Suncoast Softball league.

Published In

Publication Title
Between Gay and Straight: Understanding Friendship Across Sexual Orientation

ISSN
0759101116

And differences between gay and straight men don't necessarily apply when one compares lesbians and straight women. "Most researchers who have studied the mental traits associated with sexual orientation have simply compared samples of gay and straight people, and have presented the results as averages," LeVay writes. "Thus, the diversity within the categories of gay and straight people tends to get ignored....It could be, for example, that gay people who are very gender-nonconformist and those who are more conventionally gendered arrive at their sexual orientations through quite different paths."

Start by marking "Between Gay and Straight: Understanding Friendship Across Sexual Orientation" as Want to Read: Want to Read saving... Want to Read. During its course, the author develops a growing understanding of the differences between the two communities, the difficulties of developing bonds across groups, and the inherent rewards of seeking (and being) the Other in contemporary society. She explores sexuality, marriage, lifestyles, and the meanings of friendship, culminating in a boisterous dissertation defense attended by her new community of friends.