

You're a fence-sitter. We're all waiting for you to come out come down. We're all waiting for you. (Carlton 14)

I guess, in retrospect, it's the notion of this last opinion that I find the most bitter pill to swallow, although I would be lying if I said it didn't resonate to some degree.

Sometimes I think I'm only bisexual in that "not lesbian enuf" kind of way. (Crago 15)

Conclusions?

If only I had come to some conclusions, I could articulate them here in a clear and concisely written paragraph whose topic sentence would begin with "Therefore, it has become clear that blah blah freakin blah." Instead, I find that I have come to no conclusions about bisexuality. The only belief which has become clearer for me through the course of doing these readings is that bisexuality is a separate identity/orientation with a distinct political agenda and a separate sexual life. At least for me, it is *not* two separate orientations: sometimes I live my life as a lesbian, sometimes as a het, but never as a bisexual. I cannot compartmentalize my life so neatly. While there may be an overlap between sex between two women and sex between two lesbians, it is clear that they are also different in a number of ways. Greta Christina says it best:

So when you have sex with men, you are straight, and when you have sex with women, you are a lesbian. As a bisexual woman, this is what I hear; again and again, this is what I hear. Your sexuality comes in compartments, like Tupperware, your heart has two chambers and you cannot feel with both; your soul is like Berlin before the wall came down. And the truth of my experience is this:

my sexuality is whole. I am not straight with men and lesbian with women; I am bisexual with both. (qtd. in Pramagiorre and Pramagiorre 161).

So I am in a monogamous, committed relationship with a man. "Not much of a bisexual you say" (Yoshizaki qtd. in Hutchins *et al.* 25). However, for me I am. More than being about the "*au courant*," bisexuality has allowed me to better understand my potential. Even if I am still clutching (hopelessly/helplessly?) to labels that stay firmly "within the box," this notion of bisexual "possibilities" has allowed me to understand that being bisexual can have more to do with potential than reality.

In all honesty, I don't know if bisexuality is a political "cop out" because it allows me to hide behind heterosexuality. Yes, there is definitely some truth to this view. Still, I refute the notion that bisexuals are safe from discrimination. After all, homophobia is sometimes nothing more than the umbrella term that includes biphobia. I realize that I have failed to prove that it is either easier or harder for bisexuals. In all honesty, I'm still not sure.

Shoshana Magnet is a third year Arts and Science student at McMaster University. While she may draw her inspiration from her mother and their mutual (brave, bold, courageous) friends, she owes her most radical side to the confidence inspired by her partner, also a pretty fantastic feminist.

References

- Carlton, Susan. "This Poem Can Be Put Off No Longer." *Bi Any Other Name: Bisexual People Speak Out*. Eds. Loraine Hutchins and Lani Kaahumanu. Boston: Alyson Publications, 1991. 14-16.
- Crago, Anna-Louise. "Queer & Young & So Much Else." *Canadian Woman Studies/les cahiers de la femme* 16 (2) (1996): 15-17.
- Garber, Marjorie. *Vice Versa*. New

- York: Simon and Schuster, 1996.
- Hutchins, Loraine and Lani Kaahumanu. *Bi Any Other Name*. Los Angeles: Alyson Books, 1991.
- Murphy, Marilyn. "Thinking About Bisexuality." *Resources for Feminist Research* 19 (3/4) (1990): 87-88.
- Papazian, Ellen. "Woman on the Verge." *Ms. Magazine* (November/December 1996): 38-45.
- Pramagiorre, Donald E. and Maria Pramagiorre, eds. *RePresenting Bisexualities*. New York: New York University Press, 1996.
- Rust, Paula and C. Rust. *Bisexuality and the Challenge to Lesbian Politics*. New York: New York University Press, 1995.
- Sinclair, April. *Ain't Gonna Be the Same Fool Twice*. New York: Avon Books, 1996.
- Tucker, Naomi, Liz Highleyman, and Rebecca Kaplan, eds. *Bisexual Politics: Theories, Queries, and Visions*. Harrington Park Press: New York, 1995.

LEA MURRAY- MACFADDEN

rose of thorns

A wise man once told me
every rose has it's thorn
and for every thorn that
pricks
a heart will break
and for every petal that falls
a tear will also fall
I've been pricked and lost
a lot of petals
but I finally found
my rose that holds no
thorns

Lea Murray-MacFadden has been writing poetry since she was a small child. She has been happily married for 13 wonderful years.