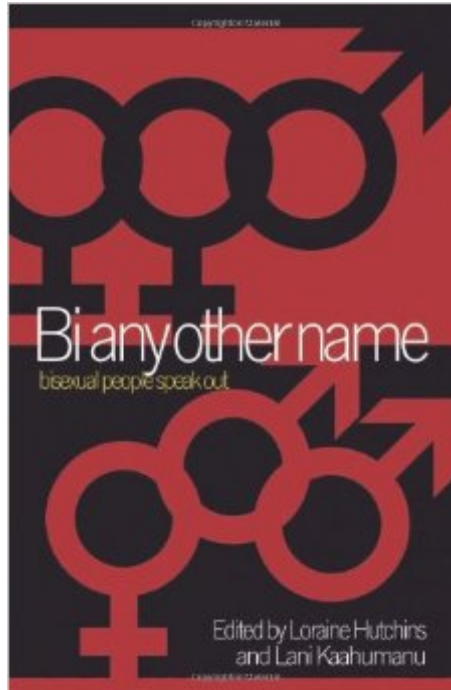


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Bi Any Other Name: Bisexual People Speak Out



Synopsis

Bisexual People Speak out

Book Information

Paperback: 408 pages

Publisher: Alyson Books; 1st edition (March 1, 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1555831745

ISBN-13: 978-1555831745

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.9 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (31 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #830,839 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #77 in [Books > Gay & Lesbian > Nonfiction > Bisexuality](#) #1395 in [Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Sexuality](#) #1461 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Gay & Lesbian](#)

Customer Reviews

What I liked most about this was that it presented the personal stories of such an extraordinarily diverse group of people, showing that really there is no "typical" bisexual, and also showing how bisexuality has factored into the lives of different kinds of individuals. One really good point that this book stresses is the duality of our monosexual culture-- the belief that everyone is either gay or straight. Our society leaves no room for the enormous spectrum between the two, since very few people are 100% homo- or heterosexual, and I think the book did a good job of emphasizing this point, and the way bisexuals feel out of place or "invisible" in both the straight and gay communities. The only thing I would have liked would have been more stories about bisexuals who are not part of the "gay community". Many of the stories concerned people who came out as gay or lesbian, and then realized they were bi. While I definitely agree that bisexuals are a largely invisible group in the gay community, or, as the book puts it, "queer among queers," I would have liked to see more stories of those who felt equally invisible among heterosexual company. Still, overall, this is an excellent book, and definitely a must-read for anyone fed up with the assumption that all are either gay or straight. Bi, gay, lesbian, straight, undefined, or simply curious, I highly recommend this book for everyone.

The essays compiled in this anthology address the many struggles and contradictions that characterize bisexuality known to anyone who identifies as bisexual. As a bisexual woman I was very affected by the poetry and prose of many entries and often found myself re-reading passages multiple times. This text documents the personal experiences of bisexual individuals, indicating to me that I am not alone even though I often feel without a community or place to belong. This text is a wonderful read for any individual, regardless of sexual orientation, as it explains the beautiful reality of bisexuality by referencing the lives of a diverse group of bisexual men and women. Its approach to defining bisexuality and explanation of what it means to form a strong bisexual identification in society today is extremely adequate. The editors of this text deserve much praise for developing a resource which discusses the discrimination and exclusion of bisexuals from many communities while simultaneously encouraging those who identify as bisexual to assert themselves with pride and seek alliances in order to form strong, supportive communities.

At the beginning I was thinking that I have bought the wrong book, but after I began reading I realize why I feel so out of the straight world and that I also don't fit into the lesbian world. The testimonials of the people sometimes look like my life.

In 13 years some of the 75 pieces in this collection may seem a bit dated, or perhaps I just hope that there are more resources and more acceptance for bisexuals. The book is divided into four main sections that focus on a particular concern for bisexuals: coming-out; personal stories; community; and politics. Finally there is a history of bisexual activism in the USA. Most of the pieces are essays of a fairly personal nature but there are a few interviews, some poetry, and some visuals; there are even some non-bisexuals writing about their friends and family who have come out to them.

No matter what "kind" of bisexual you are, read this book and you will find validation in it somewhere. This is the best book I have ever read on bisexuality. I didn't relate to all of the people, but related to many of them. I was also surprised at the number of people who came out as gay first, then later realized they were actually bisexual and had to come out all over again! I never knew it happened that way until I read this book. I have a lot of admiration for the editors, getting so much into this book, so many different voices. Definitely required reading!!! GET IT NOW!

Even now, as in 1991 when this compilation of essays was published, a community for the

bisexual person is essentially non-existent and, if contemporary studies are accurate, its members face prejudices that not even the gay community had in its evolution. "Bi Any Other Name," one of the pioneering publications that even acknowledged much less discussed in detail the dynamics being bi, is a worthy and valid read for both men and women whose dual attractions come with a sense of isolation and self-doubt. The essays here elicit the experiences of emotions of men and women bisexuals who share their own personal issues of loneliness, shame and secrecy and, for many, how they found the courage to come to terms with themselves and the sexual mores that sometimes condemn them. Especially now, when contemporary (2003) research indicates that bisexuals are literally hated even more than gays (with the rationale being that bi's introduced AIDS into the "straight" community?), the stories of the people featured in this book may provide a source of strength and a sense that the individual is not truly alone. For an early effort, this collection of personal stories may well be more relevant now than then.

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