

Message from an SO

I am a member of an on-line support group mainly for wives and partners of crossdressers. I thought you might be interested in what one of the other wives had to say to the other wives on the list about crossdressing. SO refers to “significant other.” CD refers to “crossdresser.” DH refers to “dear husband” or “darned husband” depending on how the wife feels when she is writing.

“In just a few short days, this board has shown me that there are so many more ways to feel as the SO of a CD than I ever thought possible. I’ve read books, blogs, and discussed this subject with my DH, and, of course, I knew that reactions ran the gambit from extreme anger to full-on acceptance. I think that perhaps seeing, first hand, all of your reactions has just made it so much more ‘real’ to me.

In reaction to your emails, your heartfelt stories of love and woe, I have myself run that gambit of emotions. I am broken-hearted at the number of you who hurt on a day to day basis. Many of you have stated that your hurt comes, in large part, because of this being hidden from you for so long. I am thankful that I can’t relate to this, but I ache when I think about how hard this must be for you. Some of you have expressed that your primary issue is that you think it’s wrong as you were raised in a strict, religious home. Those of you who feel this way, it upsets me that society (and society’s idea of what is right and wrong) has closed your mind, and is now negatively affecting your marriage/relationship with the person you love enough to choose for yourself, and who chose you for him.

I’ve read apologies from some of you for being happy and content in your relationship. I’ve seen pleas for help. I’ve seen lighthearted joking. I’ve seen a sisterhood of support. All of this in only 3-4 days.

The truth is none of us is exactly alike. None of our situations are exactly alike. None of our spouses/boyfriends/DH are exactly alike. I’m learning this the more I read. There is one thing that we all share in common: The men we love dress in women’s clothing. None of their reasons for doing so are the same. None of them do so in the same way. None of them are exactly alike, either. I’d also venture to say that we all love these men very much; otherwise we wouldn’t be here trying to grow and learn from each other so that we can make our relationships work better.

I would like to offer a challenge to you all (the accepting ones, the forbidding ones, and all of those in the middle). When you’re at a place mentally and emotionally that you can do so, try and reflect on the emotions your DH must feel, and must have felt his entire life. Try and imagine him as a little boy dealing with these thoughts. He was probably so confused and alone, and terrified that he was bad and that the people he loved might stop loving him. Imagine how horrible that must have been for him as a little boy, an adolescent, a teenager, a young man. Imagine that at some point in his life, he met you, fell in love with you, and asked that you to be his partner in life.

Think about the comfort you feel knowing he’s there for you. Think about the rock he has been for you. Think about the feeling of ‘home’ you have in his arms. Now, remember, he feels those same things about you.

Also, think about how emotionally crippling it must have been for him to live in fear that he could lose that with you if you ever found out about his secret. He’s hurting, too. He’s probably been hurting for longer than you know. This is the man you love, the man who loves you, and the man you’ve chosen to live your life with. You know this man inside and out, and now finally you know his secret. The weight of the world is probably off his shoulders now, and he’s probably holding his breath, waiting to see how much he will lose.

I guess what I’m trying to say is. I feel for each and every one of us (myself, included). What I see here is

A Significant Other View

by Julie Freeman

love. True love. Strange love? Perhaps. But we're all here. Trying, working, sharing, and growing. You've all touched me. Thank you so much for sharing your stories, and for listening to mine."

Perhaps more wives and partners will become accepting when they read her wonderful post.

© 2006, *Julie Freeman*