

# COMING OUT OUTED

It is ironic that I am writing this article now in the way that I am as I was outed this week and rather than be angry, emotional, or trying to stop the spread of the information or bargaining with those that are now in the know I have decided that in order to be the most beneficial to my audience, you dear reader and friends I will relay to you what's going on in my mind, what I would have done differently, and how I am and will deal with this situation going forward.

First off, to lay some groundwork. There are generally two scenarios for coming out. The first is when you come out to someone on your own terms and timeline. The second and more difficult of the two is you are outed, either from social media footprints, search history, someone either finds you in a scene, or your stash of scene gear. Trust me when I say this is never easy and in my personal experience acceptance is dependent not on who you are as a person, friend or loved one, but on the person being told. People that view the world in only black and white and generally have strong belief systems may not be as open and accepting. The key thing to remember in all of this is that your goal should not be to "convert them."

This is all going to be my own opinion, but I have come out to several people in my life, both on my own terms and also being discovered/confronted and also having been in the community for over twenty years I have spoken to hundreds of AB/DLs and offered advice on this topic. The first key thing to discuss is why would you or should you come out in the first place? This is your life, and it ultimately should be up to you if you want to come out, but there is one situation that I personally think requires someone to come out and be honest and that is when in a serious relationship. Hiding something like a sexual fetish or desired lifestyle should not be kept from a serious boyfriend/girlfriend and keeping that secret even into marriage could be viewed as cheating.

Now, that being said, I personally made the decision a long ago to only date within the AB/DL to remove this situation, but I once came out to a partner and although they were accepting, the person was not interested in taking part in the kink and for the duration of the relationship they would tease me with humiliating comments while I was trying to have a serious conversation. I know a few age players that their partners actually dove into the deep end of the AB/DL lifestyle when being introduced to the fetish and I know some who's partners want no part in the kink but they openly know that their partner is attending age play events and conventions and they are supportive.

Coming out is putting your whole being or soul out there to a person and essentially finding out how they will react. There are ways for you to test the water. In my experience, the individuals that are less accepting of the LGBT community are not going to react well to the AB/DL fetish. For example, in my recent situation of being

outed. My parents, divorced when I was four years old are politically similar, both are conservative, one is devoutly religious and has openly made ignorant statements while the other is not religious and has demonstrated an opinion that people should have the right to live their lives as they wish as long as it is between consenting adults and doesn't harm anyone.

When I was outed both of my parents were shown my AB/DL website on the same day and it was the religious one that immediately deemed that I needed psychological help and was living a life of sin while the other parent stood up for me to the other saying, "I don't understand it, but he is a grown, successful adult and what he chooses to do in his private life is his business and none of ours."

### **One year later -**

I waited a year to write the last part of my coming out story. At this time, I have reconciled with both of my parents, but it took nearly a year of my absence from that person's life for them to apologize. There are some family members that I still haven't spoke to and I won't until they too apologize for their bigoted attacks on me and the life, I live that in no way effects or involves them. I can honestly say that although I never intended to come out to all of my family, it was a weight lifted from me and if anything, many of my relationships with family members is stronger because I truly know what kind of people they really are.

One thing I do regret is that some months later, after this incident occurred, a couple of my family members were over at my house and since they knew the truth I showed them my nursery. I am proud of the space I have built and all the craftsmanship it took to build it, but I could see after, that although they were accepting that was a step to far. I wasn't including them in any scenes or play and I was in complete vanilla attire when I showed them the space, but I know now it was the equivalence of showing them my sex toy collection, (which was well hidden) but I wouldn't recommend.