

# Christina

Where a father decided to 'come  
out'

# Issues

- Urgency for father of explaining his new position...what do these explanations mean at different ages
- Reactions...in terms of effects on family life and peer responses at school
- Long term issues, relationship with father, father's new partner, gender identity issues for self

# School

- Weeping Christina at school; tells a best friend, mother has to explain to best friends and to mother that husband is `gay`
- fear of parents disapproval that children exposed to this; information that some parents not ready to discuss with children
- Older brothers `we will have to change school if it comes out that dad is gay`

# Mother: Luisa

- A double rejection is felt because the body of a woman has been set aside for the body of a man
- A sense of being 'disgusting'
- Rage at being 'used' for the production of children before he 'finds true love'
- Health risk 'why is his desire more important than the four of us' (he used to go to park for sex without 'thought of AIDS risk')
- Mourning the unreality of the marriage

# Fears for children

- How will it affect my (teenage) sons' gender identity
- Will they be drawn into a homosexual world
- Will they be at risk (for sexual soliciting) in that world
- Will they suffer at school
- 'it is important that they continue to know their father but do they have to know his friends'

# Homosexual `porn' in her home

- 'soft porn in my face...images that really upset me infiltrating the safety of my home... I want to stay friends but feel I am being tricked into agreeing with something I do not agree with... When I think of what they do I feel really sick... Do not want the boys staying with them'
- Example of husbands 'playing with porn at home `showed a `willy' (penis) to her...`do you want a bigger one...then just click here'
- Seeing the 'porn' turned her against him and his 'new' sexual practices

# Wanting her approval

- Treating me more like a mother than a wife: tells me about his dependence on Juan
- Discusses his 'need for Juan' 'I yearn for a man's arms around me' 'He's just replaced me with Juan'
- She doesn't want the children to stay with him during the holiday, but fears his anger if she says no

# Comment: The new relationship

- The problems is more with the relationship and the sexual practices than the man himself... As though the 'beloved' has remained the same, but is now seen as utterly different
- Is it mother's perception and subsequent homophobic stance that affects the children more than the new relationship itself??
- OTHER QUESTIONS



# Issues of gender identity for the daughter Christina

- Father was the more loved parent of her two parents
- Does not want to become a `woman' in case she is 'not loved' by father.....in case she is 'let down' by father
- Obsessed by meaning of father's relationship with Juan

# Ten years on

- I would expect dad to look for a father figure in an older man, but he has done the opposite and gone for someone who people mistake for his son. Why? Perhaps by being older he wants to get away from feeling like someone's vulnerable passive son the way he grew up. He plays the father himself so he can feel strong and active which is how he views his father (dad mistakes cruelty for strength). This is screwed up because Juan is the cruel one, and even though dad is older he can't hold his own, therefore dad still ends up as the 'vulnerable' passive son

# Thinking continued

- It's strange the way dad attacks his father through this dynamic. Dad tries to be more like his father by adopting a little boy partner, Juan. So Juan becomes Dad's boyish self and dad becomes his father, my grandfather, but Juan does what my dad could never do, attack. So every time Juan attacks dad, dad's boyish self attacks his father, my grandfather. I find this disturbing when I consider the old fashioned stereotype of the homosexual pervert, the gay priest or school master that fondles little boys

# Young adult daughter relating to her mother and father

- Mother experienced as 'overpowering'
- Invading Christina's mind (the difference between reaching out and enjoying her mind; versus 'invading it')
- Father fully 'out' with circle of gay friends whom she meets regularly; dislikes his public appearance flirting... 'sort of like a girl who is embarrassed to talk with someone they like' but is putting themselves forward anyway.
- He does not want to talk to me about how it affects me.