

Gender, Sexuality and Identity

Acceptance - Video 2

L:
Being so young?

K:
I know!

L:
And having that happen?

K:
I know.

L:
I mean how do you recover from that?

Host voiceover:

You just underwent a double mastectomy, losing both breasts to cancer. This has been an intensely personal and gruelling experience. Coping with the physical and emotional loss of body image and identity. Your colleagues are horrified and sorry but no-one knows what to say. You just don't look the same as you did, can't really look people in the eye anymore because they're not looking at your face, are they. You don't know what they're thinking: their facial expressions and polite responses leave you thinking that you're now seen as 'less than' in the office circle.

The affair you've been having with a married co-worker has ended badly. Someone in the office made it public this weekend, and now people are speculating. Even though you were assured that no-one would ever know because you were both so discreet, you are now worried about your reputation and job security. Your ex-lover is very well established, and has shut you out wherever possible without crossing any HR [Human Resources] boundaries. You are sure you are hearing words like 'cheap' and 'loser' and 'desperate' floating around.

Your child is in jail. They have been battling a drug addiction problem for many months and things took a turn for the worse. Charged with theft, they

have been incarcerated [put in jail] for eight months. You are frantic and heartbroken, and everyone at work knows. A colleague you confide in shared this with someone they confide in and, well, you know how that goes. Now any conversation that comes up during a meeting or in the staff room about arrests or drugs or kids seems to get suddenly cut short when you enter the room. You know people are looking at you - talking about you - and you feel wretched.