

What's Going to Happen to Me?
Compiled by Hooper Schultz

Star Newsom and I sat at a large wooden table at the Lee County library. She talked for a long time, and we laughed a lot — about family, life, first kisses, and coming to terms with who we are. Although she could laugh about these things now, none of them had been uncomplicated.

My coming out was a long drawn out process
over many years and many different layers —
— before I finally just got to the point and said:
"I'm done."

You know, this is it.
Once and for all.
This is who I am.

Deal with it or move on.

But my fear for so long was the fear of rejection.

You know of being kicked out of a group.
Being kicked out of the family.
Being kicked out of a job.
Being kicked out of where I lived.

Which were very —
— are still real things today
but even more so
during that coming out time for me.

And once again
there were no role models.
There was nothing being shown anywhere
about this process.

Did we know Elton John was gay? Yeah.
But he didn't talk about it.

Did we know Melissa Etheridge was gay? Yeah.
She didn't talk about it.

ELLEN.

I mean all those things.
It was like
the secret society
that
we knew.

But if they can't come out and say it,
then I sure can't.

Because they've got money
and wealth
and power.

You know, what's going to happen to me?