Panorama Review by Dr. Ritch C. Savin-Williams, Ph.D.

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Author of “Mostly Straight: Sexual Fluidity among Men”

In this small book are two masterpieces, a riveting remembrance of several life-altering experiences and relationships the author began in Seoul, South Korea, and an essay, let’s call it part tirade, part profound reflection on our view of men, masculinity, sexuality, and romance.

The *first book*, you cannot stop until finished because there is no midway, no stopping point as you become a part of Ross’s world. The *second book*, you have to stop, after nearly every sentence as you scream with or at his observations either with critical reflections or ecstasy.

For me, it was an overwhelming delight, the realization that someone gets it. The reader should know these issues have been ignored by developmental and clinical psychologists, sociologists, and everyone else who believes they understand Gen Z’ers and Millennials, because they don’t. I will tell you that Ross Victory knows his generation. He has his pulse on the most precarious issues confronting us and our communities regarding sexuality and romance. How can you ignore these six Ross Victory observations Ross makes in the book?

* “Your bisexuality is cute, but the world I advocate for has limits that I adhere to — being bisexual, fluid, pan, sapio, no label, whatever the f\*ck you are, challenges our systems, and the choices I have made personally.”
* “If you’re a minority man (black, Hispanic, or Asian or heaven forbid an non-English speaking immigrant bisexual)........... probably just kill yourself. We will NEVER permit healthy visibility of your circumstances.”
* “For the clever, “woke” ones, if you don’t select an option, we will stigmatize your identifier so much that you won’t want to associate yourself with anything besides straight or gay anyway—so sorry and best of luck.”
* “Polyamory will never trend.”
* “What message is implied by a masculine man’s sexual power to want women and men? Is the fear that he cannot be easily tamed, punished or rewarded?”
* “For some reason, gay men find sport in breaking bi men down or fetishizing them … perhaps the word bisexual has a closer association to straight and manliness or if it’s from regret—the regret of deciding to repress their own interest in women. Or if it’s just to be mean.”

And this final Ross forecast is, I hope, prescient: “Maybe there will be a day where anyone who suggests they are gay or straight will be labeled archaic and extreme, or at least evoke a hearty laugh from the terms’ irrelevance to the quest for fulfillment and inner peace.”

The vast, overwhelming majority of research shows bi people have lower levels of about every mental health variable you can imagine. Why? Most attribute it to:

1. Minority stress (biphobia) from not only straights but also gays/lesbians who sometimes believe that bisexuality isn’t real but a phase on the way to being gay (males) or rebellion (females) or they can’t decide what they are.
2. Few support services or community centers for this life experience

Also, some say:

1. Bisexuals tend to have personality traits resulting in scoring higher on openness to new experiences, curiosity, impulsiveness, spontaneity and, as a result, suffer more mental health problems (they get themselves into trouble according to traditional clinical psychology and public health (drugs, lots of sex)

These three may be true, but I’d place my bets on the following (with a combination of #3):

1. The bisexuals assessed by research surveys are atypical bisexuals—perhaps those most hurting because of biphobia and lack of support services—and those who are more typical and healthier, like Ross, don’t volunteer for research because they have more of a “fuck you” attitude, rebellious against the status quo, are perhaps in a clear point of their sexuality after trial and error, have personality characteristic of #3, don’t want to be harassed so seclude themselves because they’re not gay, lesbian or straight and don’t believe others will believe them or take their feelings seriously, and etc.

*“Sexuality exists along a spectrum with degrees of heterosexuality and homosexuality, and yet we continue to categorize people as if the only options are gay, straight…But new research shows this is changing, especially among young adults…Young adults today do not want their sexuality boxed in. They want alternatives and new ways to describe the complexity of their sexual and romantic selves and the research, does in fact, reinforce this spectral understanding.”*