

Let's talk about the history of the sexual terms "heterosexual" and "homosexual" first. The terms first appeared in 1868 by writer Karl Maria Kertbeny and Karl Heinrich Ulrichs, two German sex reformists, and have the following definitions:

Heterosexual = morbid sexual perversion. The prevalent thoughts at the time on sexual behavior concluded that normal sexual behavior consisted of a man and a woman having sex to procreate ONLY. All other practices were considered perverted and dirty.

Homosexual = 1892 C. G. Chaddock tr. R. von Krafft-Ebing, *Psychopathia Sexualis* iii.

The term first appeared by Karl Maria Kertbeny in reference to unnatural fornication and only in 1909 *Merriam Webster's International Dictionary* held the word to mean "morbid sexual passion for one of the same sex."

Bisexuality comes into play much earlier thanks to the Greeks, say around 600 B.C.E. Humankind at the time did not define itself as cut and dried as we do

today by our sexuality. Bisexuality was a commonplace and came from a desire of beautiful things in Ancient Greece. One was either normal or not. At one time, sex was for procreation. All other sexual acts were considered morbid.

In 1934, *Merriam Webster's* definition of Heterosexual is one we recognize today as: sexual passion for one of the opposite sex, normal sexuality. We can thank women of the time for ushering in a “normalcy” of heterosexuals and those who wanted simply to fuck for fuck's sake during the 1920s.

One misconception: The bible may hint at gays being evil through language, but the word “homosexual” does not appear.

Also, we've had three gay popes. Pope Paul II in 1464, his successor, Pope Sixtus in 1471, and Pope Julius III in 1550.

Author Gore Vidal helped usher in a new way of

thinking that sticks with some people. Vidal's suggested that *people* were not homo or heterosexual, but rather that the *acts* were either homo or heterosexual. Why? In order for a ruling class to rule, there must be arbitrary prohibition, and sex involves everyone; hence, we can separate into an obvious "good and bad."

BACK TO OUR HERO – WHO JUST MIGHT BE GAY

At this point, we've broken down the psychology of man in general, starting with his creation and ending with in part, his needs. His life basically centers around the person who can fulfill his inner most needs and help him grow into the powerful man he is meant to be. She is the one who can help him achieve his goals and dreams.

But what about gay men? There is a plethora of female romance writers who are embracing alternative sexuality in their writing, and cranking out (mostly) well-written gay male romances.

The publishing industry is on fire with this trend! I can tell you that in erotica, this trend was big about four or five years ago and returns to the height every few years. People seem to really love gay sex. Kiernan Kelly, Kayelle Allen and Margie Church are superstars at writing M/M romance that sells really well.

Perhaps it's because society is slowly adjusting to the fact that gays are a part of our lifestyle, and that many happy, healthy men are gay. I don't really know nor do I care. I write what sells, and am only concerned with that.

If you're a woman, how do you portray the gay male mind? Is it really like the female mind? In part, yes. His mind is often attuned to the more sensitive side of life. But why? And are there gay assholes who act like the macho straight men that need to be knocked down a peg? Well, yes.

We write them the same way you portray the straight male mind. The basic principles of survival are the

same. The gay male is seeking the same thing the heterosexual male is: A companion who will love him and help balance him. The difference lies in the gay male seeking acceptance.

But straight males seek acceptance too, Sascha, you say.

You're right. They do. From the majority of other men, many of whom identify as straight. And they get it from their peers. But with gay men, it's a harder battle. I jokingly refer to San Francisco as Gay Mecca because nowhere else in the United States (except in New York perhaps) can you have a city so tolerant of such a seemingly small percentage of the population. Gay Pride is celebrated throughout the country in June, but nowhere is the parade larger than in San Francisco (IMO).

That defining moment in a man's life, when he decides he's in love with his own gender, is one many men never forget. Many times it stems from childhood discovery; and it remains a hidden desire,

until it becomes such a pain emotionally that it has to be either dealt with, or buried. Burying emotions is bad because, as we've learned, those emotions manifest themselves in numerous other ways, some of which are often destructive.

The gay male has a much harder climb up the hill of acceptance. His battles are many more than the straight man. He must conquer his own fears of self-rejection, rejection from his family and friends, and by a society that is still maturing. Rejection from his father is one of the worst things a man can deal with, be he straight or queer. That deep bond a man needs, and has with his father, is unique in the way women bond with their mothers at birth. Men teach their sons to shave, to care for their bodies, to do natural things that must be done. Gay men who come from straight parents have a more difficult road, depending on just how gay the male in question is, and how open the parents are.

Quickly to qualify, gay is gay. While some men are quite happy being out in the open, others may prefer to remain private about their sexuality; but you also

get many private people who are *not* homosexual, so the privacy is not exclusively a gay trait.

If you enjoy oral sex, regardless of gender of the person performing it, OR perform ANY sexual act with a member of the same sex, you're at LEAST BISEXUAL. I can't tell you how irritated I get cruising Craigslist only to find "str8 tops looking for a fuck."

The words used around my house, and how they were associated with negative connotations, had an impact on my opinions as a teenager and young adult

Occasionally my father (an Oklahoma native) would call the birth mother a faggot or vice versa like it was a bad thing. They were joking around of course, but I didn't know that. Children grow up being taught that "gay" is bad, and even teenagers overuse the phrase as though it still has the power to offend when talking about mundane things. The stigma is still with us, and will remain until we either learn to change the behavior, as many of us have, or accept the appropriate use of the term and understand that words have no power until proper context is placed around

them.

Are things making sense so far?

THE GAY LIFESTYLE

Let's talk about the gay lifestyle.

Gay men seem to be cleaner, know the best party places, best places to shop, how to dress better and attract attention of others without being overly loud and more. Why?

One gay friend speculates that because many gay men have no families to take care of, money is freer, therefore making having a life an actual reality compared to most of us. This is the same friend of mine who I have to book a "date" with weeks in advance because his weekends are generally busy, and I'm a workaholic.

His reasoning for demanding the finer things in life

matches that of the straight man on many levels. One: Why the hell not? Two: If you know where the best places are to eat, to shop and play, then your chances of meeting someone like-minded and of the same sexual orientation increase. Without the demands of family, the gay male is free to live the life he chooses. His income is purely his own. What's his choice? Often most it's to go out and live life on his terms! He sounds like our macho straight male in a way, doesn't he?

Gay men network with others. I know of a party that happens once a quarter in SF that's dedicated to sensual play, touching, massage, light refreshments, safe and consensual play (no bare back sex, i.e. anal sex without a condom) etc. NO BDSM, no pain or anything hardcore. The moderator of the group who sends out these notices in a fairly timely fashion is also a good guy who wants to provide people with something other than the usual.

(Now, being bisexual does not give me a necessary "in" to either side; it just means I spend less time finding a date on Saturday night, LOL!)

You'll commonly hear gay men talk about themselves, or others, using terms like Top, bottom, versatile, bear, twink, Daddy, or bubble butt. These are terms used to define them and what they're looking for in personal ads, or in a group setting. Gay men, in general, seem more open and comfortable labeling themselves in order to attract just what they want. Straight men have a more difficult time with this concept, since being direct is a hard thing for many.

Quick definitions:

Cruising: This is the same thing straight people do, hitting the club/bar scene to find a date

Top: Inserts TAB A:

Bottom: into slot B (haha)

Versatile: Can do one or the other, depending on mood or partner.

Bear: Usually a larger hairy man.

Twink: a boyish looking young man with little body hair.

Bubble Butt: Picture a man with J-lo's ass!

Pitcher and **Catcher** refer to orientation during sex.

Daddy/son: "I" consider this a May/December romance but it's usually an older man/younger man type relationship.

Leather Daddy: Culturally a Dominant with a leather fetish. Entire groups develop around leather fetishes and while they're open to all types, the National Leather Association has traditionally held a gay male bent.

Yaoi: Man/boy love, literally. It's an anime term that's made a crossover in erotic romances. Stephanie Burke does a panel frequently on Yaoi at anime conventions, and along with being a talented author, is an expert on the subject.

These terms come up a lot if you look at gay cruising sites online like CraigsList or ManHunter.net.

I do not know enough about leather culture to go into

detail, but would definitely suggest you research it if your characters are gay. I can tell you that it started back in the 50's and has strong leanings towards the biker bars and clubs. Perhaps I will cover it in future lectures as the need arises, but I have a lot of research to do before I could seriously offer suggestions. Just know that Leather Culture in the gay lifestyle revolves around hot, sexy men in leather, often whom find other hot sexy men in leather for uhh...fun!

GAY PROTOCOL

There is a bit of a protocol with gay men, but from what I've seen of many gay romances, it's not a requirement that I delve into this. Still, we'll touch upon it. In any alternative lifestyle, there is always going to be some protocol that dictates behavior. The reason for this is to get the optimum outcome for the participants. When I talk of protocol, I'm not referring to the strict sense of protocol you may find in BDSM, though it's certainly possible to see that. I'm merely referring to the dating portion of protocol.

One of the protocols that used to be predominant was the white shirt and red tie. That signaled homosexuals

in an earlier part of American history, and eventually became replaced by the “hankie code.” Or kerchief code. Colored handkerchiefs worn on one side of the body or another denoted various fetishes and positions such as red worn on the right for gay top. The fad is not in practice much these days.

Standard stuff is often determined by a man’s role. No matter what, regardless of whether the man likes women or men, he’s still a man. His choices in life may be biased towards his sexual preference, but he still has the ultimate need to either protect or be protected, to love and be loved by, and to achieve happiness **at any cost**.

Even if that cost is his family, his friends and coworkers. Many men find communities where being gay is accepted and they can talk about their lives and needs. There are areas of town that are gay friendly, just as there are parts of town that could care less. Men flock to these parts of town and tend to build family-like environments due to the acceptance factor.

The homosexual male and female have gone through quite a torrid history once we started defining people by their sexuality. From castration to lobotomies in the 1950's, the queer male has been scrutinized by society. Studies have even found that certain parts of the gay male's brain look more similar to the female mind, suggesting that they have a better relationship dealing with bilateral thinking, while men are more specialized.

A study was done in 1984 that led to the conclusion that Gay Men process estrogen differently than heterosexual men. Odd for me since I love wearing dresses and lingerie, but will offer to put my spike-heeled shoe up anyone's ass who messes with me.

Yes, we still have the asshole queer, macho jerk. We also have the asshole "straight guy" who loves blowjobs and swears he is straight. All groups have good and bad apples.

Ever notice women tend to feel safer around a gay

man? Yeah, me too. The reason is that a predatory mindset is usually not there when it comes to women. Yeah, there are a lot of gay men in denial about being bisexual, but again it's not a majority. The mindset is still that of a man, no matter how effeminate he seems, unless he's trying to change genders. (This workshop cannot begin to touch upon the scope required to discuss the Male to Female (m2f) lifestyle.)

The gay male is more in touch with his own emotions and often feels them because he accepts them more readily than his straight counterpart. I believe this is related to the similarities in the female brain. Yes, there are gay "bad boys." Kayelle Allen has written one. In Wulf, Luc St. Cyr is a bad boy of sorts, a Bruce Wayne of the gay vampire set. In *Twilight*, the vampire that Robert Pattinson plays is a clear queer-sexual. Sparkle this...

Bestselling author Kiernan Kelly writes gay males well. Her stories are clean and leave you with a sense of the gay lifestyle without being overblown. Not only that, but her writing is clean and her stories are clear. This is important, because clear characters

make for a better story.

What you ultimately need to know about gay men is that they're not just effeminate men for any reason. They have a reason for sharing their feelings and expressing themselves, often more roughly than their straight counterparts.

ARCHETYPES

The archetypes we've already discussed for men apply to the gay man as well. His sexuality may be different than the standard belief, but that doesn't change who he is. Society defines us in many ways, and usually sexuality is the most questionable one, but take that away and what are we left with? The same behaviors across the board for a group of the same sex.

Bisexual men may have a split in how they function for a variety of reasons. Example: I mentioned earlier that I felt some of you would be highly disappointed in me if I had a huge set of notches in my bedpost for all the conquests I've ever had, if that number were huge. I'll never view women this way, as I perceive

many women to be nature's nurturers. Men however, while the tally is one or two off the low number of women I've been with, I could discard.

Why is that?

Good question. I don't have an answer other than "I'm not wired to love men in the same capacity as I do women."

But other bisexuals may feel different. This boils down to a basic need, as Maslow outlines it in his Hierarchy of Needs, with sex being in the "physical need" realm of his breakdown.

The biggest problem I have seen in women writing gay males is that they just don't have any clue about fear or experience. They're not writing deep enough. It's like they see a figure with a penis and think he can just be either stereotypical or emotionless. The same goes with the sex. So remember, put those emotions behind the gay men you create, put all that lovely

description there. Everything here you have been taught applies to both orientations. The backstory issues, the needs, the desires, it all applies. Your internal conflict for your gay characters is practically written depending on your plot.

Again, his sexuality may define him, but we're probing deeper to get a more relatable character for our stories.

Want a good example of good gay romance? Blue Ruin 1: Some Kind of Stranger by Katrina Strauss is a Loose ID release that didn't make me want to throw the book across the room. Her elements in the story were spot on, and even though the story has an anime-based plot, it's a gay romance that works *because* of the plot.

Morgan Hawke writes Yaoi too, www.darkerotica.net for more information. Kiernan Kelly's m/m romance Seti's Heart was well written, too. These women did their homework on the gay lifestyle. I know Kiernan personally from having talked to her on my Authors

Helping Authors phone calls, and from interviewing her. Same with Morgan, as she's my mentor.

Let's take a moment to talk about anal sex. How many of you who are reading this have actually had anal sex? Show of hands. *I see a few hands. You're all dirty perverts *g*

I'll raise my hand. And when I raise my hand you can bet it was the GAYEST sex I'd ever had...right down to the dance music in the background...

Unless it's rape, which we don't do (line blurring notwithstanding), anal sex must ALWAYS have some form of lubrication. It could be a lubed condom, but that still isn't as fun as using KY jelly or Elbow Grease. Sexually, the man may be ready as all get out, but without lube, anal sex HURTS. And the sad part is, for some it doesn't hurt enough to make them stop and say, "hey, we need lube."

ALWAYS write your sex scenes with some sort of

lubrication in anal sex. The ass hole is NOT self-lubricating. If you miss this point, someone (a reviewer like me) will nail your ass for it, pun intended! The only exception will be the obvious ones (aliens, maybe were creatures, magic, or masochists), OR unless the plot calls for it. This is slightly different in erotica because in erotica SEX IS THE PLOT. In Romance, erotic romance especially, sex FORWARDS the plot.

Because of the nature of anal sex, we need to bear in mind the mentality issue. Is it dirty for our characters? Is it not? Is it an issue of submission? Is it an issue of enjoying a different side of sexuality? Are we worried about the risk of STDs? This is a huge factor in the gay subculture due to all the playing that occurs.

That's important, because it dictates what's in the character's mind, and how he'll react.

Some men may like the vulnerability. Others may like the dominance aspect. Some may like the fact that

they're getting off. Some are more in touch with their feminine side, which is also fine for our stories. The fact is, the male G-spot is located in the ass. You can stimulate this point from the outside by feeling just behind the man's balls where there is a tiny ridge of skin. Press on that point when your man cums and he'll never leave you again! A gentle pressure on that point from the outside forces ejaculation out harder, along with intensifying all of the wonderful feelings that go along with it. BDSM writers and players use this technique in milking the prostate.

The important thing is to know *why* your man likes taking it up the ass, or giving it. Or if he's versatile, what's the attraction. Then make sure you use lube! In real life, too much lube is not enough.

THE SEXUALITY MINDSET

Coming back to the mindset of sexuality, remember our talk about sex on a primal level for virgins and the newly deflowered heroines? Our heroes will not only echo those thoughts but have questions on their own masculinity as well. It doesn't matter that they're male, they're still expected to be the stronger one, the

bigger one, which is why a number of women like gay male romance. The vulnerability factor isn't just a turn on; it's an endearment and something relatable.

The discussion of condoms is another issue that a LOT of gay men avoid. But the truth is that a seemingly much higher percentage of gay men have STDs or AIDS than straight folks. I haven't seen the stats on this yet, but it wouldn't surprise me. Men seem to have issues with condoms, which amazes me. Obviously sex feels better without them, but if you're doing the one-night-stand thing a lot, better safe than sorry.

It's also just a consideration for your partner. You CAN write your gay men having bareback sex, that's just fine. But make sure you explain the why on that because if my abovementioned information is wrong, it's still a majority belief by most of this country that gays have more STDs compared to Heterosexuals.

One queer male told me that anal sex for many men his age was considered special, as opposed to run of

the mill oral sex. Again, your plot dictates that, as does the genre you're writing in.

The other thing about STDs is that the gay community from what I've seen is supportive of those with AIDS. Sometimes it was an accident, sometimes it was a bad needle. Queer men tend to be openly more self-destructive because of the reasons we've talked about so far.

(The group getting STDs and AIDS faster than ever is the straight population over 60...they never had to use condoms when they were young, and now that they're single again due to death of a partner or divorce, they're not playing safe.)

I will say that this part of the workshop is still in development, and will be updated as I learn more.