

[Excerpt] "Silent Lives: How High a Price ~ For Personal Reflections and Group Discussions about Sexual Orientation." Author Sara L. Boesser.
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What are the ripple effects when people pass? 1

Reflections—

7. "a threshold had been crossed. Same-gender couples had been married in a city's government-sanctioned ceremony in the U.S. and no one else's marriages had overnight gotten any better or worse as a result. As to what protection anyone's marriage could possibly need from the marriage of Phyllis and Del, that is a question that will be hashed over in the years ahead, to be sure. But on that February day, history was made and the sky did not fall."
 - a) If you are married, was your ceremony religiously sanctified (performed by a religious official), or was it a civil marriage (performed by a justice of the peace or other licensed marriage official)? Why?
 - b) Regardless if you're married or not, do you think the sanctity of any particular person's religious marriage is lessened in any way by the civil (non-sanctified) marriages between men and women that are performed regularly in the country?
 - c) Given that civil marriages are already granted without religious sanctity for men and women couples, do you think allowing civil marriages between same-sex couples constitutes a threat to other people's sanctity of marriage dire enough to amend the U.S. Constitution to deny it?
 - d) Imagine if a constitutional amendment did pass to prohibit same-sex couples from marrying. Would your particular marriage be directly affected at all (improved? worsened?), or not? Do you imagine the marriages of your friends and family would be directly affected?