Create your own at Storyboard That

Image Attributions:
IMG_2962 copie (https://www.flickr.com/photos/benjamin-s/11966601806/) - benjamin92 - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
In the beginning there were two sexes, which were also the genders, and there was only one way to love.

All else was wrong. It did not really exist.

It was all in the person's head. They were just confused.

The males liked the females and the females liked the males.

Create your own at Storyboard That
Doubt

But always in the back of her mind there was doubt that this was not the whole truth.

FEAR

It felt like a story that scared people tell themselves so they do not have to examine their fear.

Hidden

But to remain a "good" citizen she kept her doubt hidden carefully in a drab looking box in the shadows of her mind. Only to stumble upon it occasionally - peek inside and close it quickly lest it escape and ruin the "truth".

N

Then one day she met someone. N was his name and he had different ideas. N's ideas were more broad, inclusive, and accepting.

Stirring

When she was around N, she could feel doubt stir in that drab looking box in the shadows of her mind.

Doubt gains a voice

She could hear doubt talking to her, muffled at first. Wordless, just urgent sounds.
One night she and N were talking. She had a sense that N might believe in "others." And a question: Do you believe there could be more than just male and female?
Shove doubt back down.

As soon as shE asked the question shE forced doubt back into the drab looking box and slammed the lid down.

Then shE waits for N's answer.

Afraid shE asked too much. Afraid shE was wrong about N.

N smiles and laughs, a little.

His answer

Of course!

I even believe there is more than one way to love.

You do??!!

Eyes wide and guard down.

Create your own at Storyboard That
In that instant...  

Doubt burst from its drab looking box and rushes out of the shadows of her mind.

Out of the shadows she can see what she once believed was doubt was actually her TRUE self.

The self she had misidentified as doubt all those years ago.

shE realized what shE had been taught to believe was monochromatic and one-dimensional.

What shE had believed about herself was also monochromatic and one dimensional.

Like the harvest moon rising above the horizon...

Create your own at Storyboard That

Image Attributions:
Bury St Edmunds The Butts (https://www.flickr.com/photos/mdpettitt/2261475008/) - Martin Pettitt - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
A Living Mars: A conception of an ancient and/or future Mars, flush with oceans, clouds and life. (https://www.flickr.com/photos/kevinmgill/8366226616/) - Kevin M. Gill - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Tuesday Night Moon on Lake Roosevelt 501 (https://www.flickr.com/photos/rockyraybell/8599090100/) - Rocky Raybell - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
The world had **colors** she had not realized existed.

...And words she had not known...

She and N stayed up all night talking...

...and though the world was still dark outside...

She felt both **RELIEF** and **SADNESS**.

It felt like the dark had shades and tones of color.

Create your own at Storyboard That.
SADNESS

But mostly shE felt excitement that shE could finally get to know heRself.

Shortly thereafter, shE and N were married.

A child came and then another.

Along the way she discovered more about heRself.

Struggle

There were many days where shE struggled with this new knowledge about heRself.

Create your own at Storyboard That

Image Attributions:
Frozen web (https://www.flickr.com/photos/jpockele/328480040/) - jpockele - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
crying (https://www.flickr.com/photos/vatobob/2163013473/) - Vato Bob - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Lost (https://www.flickr.com/photos/emertz76/8141491695/) - Emertz76 - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Path (https://www.flickr.com/photos/44412176@N05/4496710561/) - gorfor - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
And then a new entity came to stay with her...

**DEPRESSION**

ShE continued to pretend externally and in public that nothing had changed.

**heR upbringing,**

**heR family,**

**heR religion,**

**heR very place in the universe needed heR to pretend.**

Create your own at Storyboard That

Image Attributions:
- Outdoor Life Reflect (https://www.flickr.com/photos/liveoncelivewild/32975220871/) - liveoncelivewild - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
- Salt Lake Temple at blue hour (https://www.flickr.com/photos/suzumenonamida/14980155609/) - Manish Prabhune - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
- NASA Unveils Celestial Fireworks as Official Image for Hubble 25th Anniversary (https://www.flickr.com/photos/gsfc/16622147504/) - NASA Goddard Photo and Video - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Internally

and privately with N

shE could explore

What shE once labeled as doubt but now referred to as I.

Doubt

Who was she and what did she believe?

shE and N moved when N got a job in his field of study.

They now lived in a big city away from family.

Create your own at Storyboard That

Image Attributions:
19/11 - Reflejos rojos (https://www.flickr.com/photos/espinosa_rosique/5110249320/) - Arturo Espinosa - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
#fall #norway #mountain #fjords #nature (https://www.flickr.com/photos/camillaen/15527165741/) - Camillaen - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
shE continued to explore

this person named J

and shE continued to pretend.

Then one day

depression

and

COLLIDED

The resulting explosion

Create your own at Storyboard That
landed her in a mental hospital.

There she met S.

S sought her out on her first morning.

She was angry at the world.

Angry at herself.

Angry that she could not be who she felt she was.
Yet, S sat down across from her at breakfast and said

Hi, I'm S.

S took her under her wing.

S shattered her view of normal

View

Normal

and opened her eyes up to the beauty of

Sex

Gender

Orientation

Create your own at Storyboard That

Image Attributions:
sunrise 1 (https://www.flickr.com/photos/50826080@N00/2066411354/) - SFB579 Namaste - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Light and shadow (https://www.flickr.com/photos/amyzirkle/7170924060/) - amy.z - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
music of my heart (https://www.flickr.com/photos/kedondeng/4753953811/) - kedondeng - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
3D view of Mar272013ima1b (https://www.flickr.com/photos/22603020@N04/8595756567/) - Kent Schimke - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Introduced her to the complexity of humans.

Taught her that being yourself is both painful and powerful.

Sex

Gender

Orientation

intersect

Create your own at Storyboard That

Image Attributions:
- Waves crashing at Ilika (https://www.flickr.com/photos/grazza1/9710928353/) - Graham Cook - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
- Pain (https://www.flickr.com/photos/zeevzeez/14099874472/) - zeevzeez - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
- Branches of the Mind (https://www.flickr.com/photos/wriggsbrown/13725083594/) - WRiggsBrown - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
- Vibrant Rose Macro - HDR (https://www.flickr.com/photos/82955120@N05/8691488200/) - freestock.ca - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
- Triple-take Rainbow (https://www.flickr.com/photos/9918311@N02/14781618204/) - societard - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
- Vibrant Hot Air Balloons (https://www.flickr.com/photos/82955120@N05/15279898793/) - freestock.ca - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
to create amazing, beautiful, talented people.

However, even if you embrace who you are not everyone will.

Many will ignore YOUR identity and identify YOU by THEIR narrow view.

Don't tolerate me as different. Accept me as part of the spectrum of normalcy.

Ann Northrop

Create your own at Storyboard That

Image Attributions:
Spectrum (https://www.flickr.com/photos/hisgett/1213744940/) - hisgett - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Rainbow Puddle (https://www.flickr.com/photos/emertz76/8100210583/) - Emertz76 - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
In the beginning there were two sexes, which were also the genders, and there was only one way to love.

That morning during medication rounds the nurse Called F and S responded.
After receiving her meds

S told her she was born F

and lived the first 30 years as him.

F married.

F had two children.

F worked.
But in secret since F’s earliest memories F always believed she should have been born S.

And then F could not pretend any more.

F needed to be true to herself.

So F told his wife how he felt

and F’s wife divorced him before he became S.

F started to dress as S.
Take hormones

During this time period the only option F had was birth control.

Transition

She began the process of transitioning from F to S.

Even though F is fully transitioned to S

all legal documents are listed as F.

Which is why the med nurse called her F instead of S.

S was known to the staff at the hospital because she had been there many times.

Create your own at Storyboard That

Image Attributions:
- Not 100% Effective (https://www.flickr.com/photos/nateone/2713580189/) - nateOne - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
- Birth control microgestin (https://www.flickr.com/photos/lookcatalog/6603865088/) - lookcatalog - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
- transition (https://www.flickr.com/photos/mintrax/14516844416/) - jmettraux - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
- Watchful (https://www.flickr.com/photos/logthyme/32902550935/) - Andrea Koerner - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
- A toast to everybody for 2015!..._*_* (https://www.flickr.com/photos/7228150@N00/15971003167/) - Rob de Vries - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
- Cannabis Cotton Candy (https://www.flickr.com/photos/jurassicblueberries/11528532653/) - Jurassic Blueberries - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
- Blue rust (https://www.flickr.com/photos/andyvangelos/26108905591/) - andyvangelos - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
- IMG_7795_c (https://www.flickr.com/photos/beadsbybecky/32721783686/) - lovelybead - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
- Ferdinand du Puigaudeau - Sailboats at Sunset (https://www.flickr.com/photos/repolo/14594646833/) - IrinaKer - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Every time she was there  
She asked them  
To call her S not F.

Yet, every time they called her F.

It was in that moment

That the harvest moon came into full view, still low but fully released from the grasp of the horizon.

She fully recognized herself as J.
J recognized that there are more than just two sexes, and more than two genders, and that there is more than one way to love.

J loved S's courage and was grateful to her for her love and acceptance when J needed it most.
J will forever be in debt to S for her kindness

and her suggestion to

Sharontheview

This world has so much to offer

if you will allow your heart

This was just the beginning of J's journey.

What a journey it has been!!

to listen to someone else's heart.

Create your own at Storyboard That

Image Attributions:
Hearts (https://www.flickr.com/photos/robbie1/10516678/) - Robbie1 - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Fractal planet (https://www.flickr.com/photos/fdecomite/2173148722/) - fdecomite - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Mountains (https://www.flickr.com/photos/127534097@N04/1523292419/) - Eu_go - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Path (https://www.flickr.com/photos/andywordsworth/33268610475/) - Andrew 3457 - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Depression still walks with her and always will.

But usually like a moderately well-behaved child.

J has continued to explore who she is.

First identifying as bisexual.

Frustration!

Where she encountered frustration that bisexuals often

get accused of "passing" as either

Homosexual

Or

Heterosexual

based solely on who their partner is.
Afraid to "come out" because

what was there to "come out" over?

J is married

and it looks to all, on the outside, that she is heterosexual.

No signifier

Lesbians and gays can

Bisexuals on the other hand have none of these.

There is no bisexual signifier she can call up to quietly indicate that she is bisexual.

dress certain ways,

visit certain bars,

and even be seen holding hands to indicate their orientation.
She has encountered accusations of being just a lesbian in the making or going through a phase. But every time she encounters these narrow views -

In the beginning there were two sexes, which were also the genders, and there was only one way to love -

she remembers to Sharontheview

Being yourself is both painful and powerful —

The harvest moon is now well into the sky and shining brightly.

Create your own at Storyboard That

Image Attributions:
Sunset Beach Eclipse May 20th 2012 (https://www.flickr.com/photos/jimnista/7239478006/) - jimnista - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Mountains (https://www.flickr.com/photos/triplea4/15229309305/) - Tony A. - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Waves crashing at Iluka (https://www.flickr.com/photos/grazza123/9710928353/) - Graham Cook - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Pain (https://www.flickr.com/photos/zeevveez/14099874472/) - zeevveez - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Moon set over the Rockies (https://www.flickr.com/photos/vaquero_rey/86957657@N00/5199422937/) - Vaquero Rey - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Illuminating the landscape.

J has become Jennifer

The world is too large for her to limit intimate connections to only those who fall within the confines of a binary system.

and she now identifies as pansexual.

As a pansexual she still encounters similar accusations experienced as a bisexual.

But now she experiences added ones:

SEX-AHOLIC

Can't make up her mind.

And

Promiscuous!

Create your own at Storyboard That

Image Attributions:
Moonlight over my homeplace (https://www.flickr.com/photos/janhelge69/15826638984/) - Jan-Helge69 - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
orion wide (https://www.flickr.com/photos/davedehetre/4442806972/) - davedehetre - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Sunset Beach Eclipse May 20th 2012 (https://www.flickr.com/photos/jimnista/7239478006/) - jimnista - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
And her favorite:

She still feels frustration because what is there to "come out" about?

She has instead found close friends who she can be herself around.

She can quietly "come out" to those close to her and feel loved and supported for being herself.

Create your own at Storyboard That

Image Attributions:
Dirty Feet (https://www.flickr.com/photos/bs/495829266/) - Britt Selvitelle - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Triple-take Rainbow (https://www.flickr.com/photos/9918311@N02/14781618204/) - sociotard - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Heavenly Rays (https://www.flickr.com/photos/msvg/6242162956/) - MSVG - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Coming Out to Play (https://www.flickr.com/photos/msvg/4797533916/) - MSVG - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Because 23 years ago she became intimate with N and trusted him just enough to let doubt out of its drab little box she started on a journey which lead to meeting S. S, taught her that sex and to Sharon theview

Which has lead her to become finally Jennifer.

I dedicate this to N, Nathan, my partner.

And to S, Sharon

I am Jennifer: female, women, pansexual, white, middle class, curvy and over 40. AND I am beautiful.

male, man, straight, white, middle class, athletic and almost 50.

male, woman, lesbian, white, upper middle class, curvy, and over 70.

Please Sharon theview we are all beautiful.

Create your own at Storyboard That

Image Attributions:
Boston - Zakim Bridge "Intersecting Cables" (https://www.flickr.com/photos/the-o/2818369944/) - David Paul Ohmer - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Vibrant Hot Air Balloons (https://www.flickr.com/photos/82955120@N05/15279898793/) - freestock.ca ▽ dare to share beauty - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Vibrant Rose Macro - HDR (https://www.flickr.com/photos/82955120@N05/8691488200/) - freestock.ca ▽ dare to share beauty - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Triple-take Rainbow (https://www.flickr.com/photos/9918311@N02/14781618204/) - socotard - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Morning on the Bocchle (https://www.flickr.com/photos/127130111@N06/19649801948/) - J McSparran - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Sunrise over the barn, Biesbosch Dordrecht (https://www.flickr.com/photos/dordrecht-holland/16407188267/) - Nederland in foto's - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Sunrise at Morro Bay with Rainbow (https://www.flickr.com/photos/seligmanwaite/35102496926/) - seligmanwaite - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
end of the day (https://www.flickr.com/photos/.dexsus/5820866907/) - paul bica - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Oahu Sunset (https://www.flickr.com/photos/tdlucas5000/29476999080/) - tdlucas5000 - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)
Still I rise

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.
... Just like moon, and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes spring high,
Still I'll rise.

---Maya Angelou

Create your own at Storyboard That

Image Attributions:
Tears of the Sun (https://www.flickr.com/photos/jjjake1977/37292083012/) - jjjake1977 - License: Attribution (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)