

I'm 35 years old, I've known I was attracted to women since I was 5 years old. I wanted "a boy cut" which to me meant shaved sideburns... my mom cried when she let my aunt cut off my ponytail that went passed my butt. To this day, my mom still has it. But she let me do it, because it was me, and she loved me.

When I was too young to know any difference, I wore Dalmatian suspenders to my school recitals. I wanted to be called "Al". Absolutely not Allison.

Once I was old enough to know the difference, I cried daily. When I got to middle school, 7th grade and up I pretended as hard as I could to like boys. I had the best looking and most popular boyfriends. I didn't want to be gay, to be honest, no one does!!!! It's HARD! It's a life of bullying and constant questioning, internally and externally.

Who I am was someone I hid (or at least thought I was hiding) from my friends and family throughout middle school at Jim Hill and high school at Central Campus and Minot High.

When I left Minot and went to college at UND, my eyes were opened. There were other people like me. We were all finally away from our hometowns and able to truly be ourselves. I wasn't alone anymore. And looking back, I wish I would have stood up sooner, because I know there are other friends growing up who would have followed suit and been able to be themselves. But at the time, it was scary. I didn't want to be gay, no one does.

I moved back to Minot after college, and guess what! Went back to hiding my true self immediately. Tried to date men again, tried so hard to be "how I was supposed to be in Minot".

It was my friends who questioned me, turned out I wasn't as good at hiding as I thought I was! I'll never forget my talk with one of my best friends, Delaney Coyle. I said Delaney, I'm gay. She said, "Yeah you told me in 3rd grade on the swings." Same with Josie Gilles, "yeah, obviously." Ali Lambert "yeah, we know who cares." Dani Lafontaine, "yeah little A, we all know!"

Thank God, yes God, (just because I'm gay doesn't mean I can't believe in God), Allee Kory came into my life. A beautiful blonde an absolutely incredible strong-willed woman, who didn't care what ANYONE thought. She came to me, and I will be forever grateful she did.

We said I love you on our 3rd date, which was 3 days after our 1st date. We were together for 5 years before getting married.

In 2021 I called my father-in-law Andy and mother-in-law Heidi from the jewelry store parking lot asking for their permission to marry their daughter. It was so uncomfortable for me to say out loud, and sometimes it still is!

I called my dad as I was on my way home from the jewelry store. He and I had never ever ever had a conversation about my sexuality, he knew, I knew, but we talked about sports, hunting, and fishing. I was scared to death, and I will never forget the phone call.

I said, "dad, I am going to ask Allee to marry me."

Holding my breath and crying as I waited for his response.

He said "Well, this is the new generation! And I support any decision you make!"

The tears when from fear, to absolute relief.

If it was that hard for me to tell my own father, imagine standing up to strangers.

A HUGE weight was off my shoulders. We went on as normal. Still talking about sports, hunting, and fishing. Because I was still me. It didn't matter who I was marrying, I was still his little Al.

I proposed the same night I bought the ring, I put "will" "you" "marry" "me" "I approve" bandanas on our 5 dogs, with her dog cubby roo's collar holding the ring.

We got married 3 months later in our backyard on the shoreline of Lake Sakakawea. My family and her family in the front row, my family's friends there in support. One of them, a conservative as most attendees were, told me it was the most beautiful wedding he had ever been to.

We kissed at the alter, for most of the people at our wedding it was the first time ever seeing me kiss a woman, or probably any same sex couple kiss.

We walked down the aisle, holding hands in an absolutely insane strong partnership. That, I will never ever forget.

We chose to be partners. We chose marriage as a partnership. We chose each other. As a man and a woman had the right to a partnership, so did we.

Thank God for the Supreme Court. Because if it weren't for them, our wedding day wouldn't have been possible. They stood up for me and those like me, who just wanted a fair partnership like everyone else was given. Who simply wanted to choose someone as their partner and fight through life with them, no matter what.

As of today, February 25th 2025, my wife & I have been happily married for 3 1/2 years with forever to go.

ND alone wouldn't have passed this, but the Supreme court looked after me. I may live in a completely conservative state, and I might even be completely conservative myself, but my sexuality is something I can't change just because of where I live.

I shouldn't feel the need to leave North Dakota because I am married to an absolutely incredible woman. My life is GREAT! I love North Dakota!

Because I am able to love who I love, be my true self without the constant feeling of having to hide, North Dakota has gotten the absolute best version of myself and my wife.

We are proud to operate a successful Non-Profit Animal Rescue where we continue to help animals and the humans of our community multiple times per day.

In our animal rescue, we have seen ALOT. North Dakota has ISSUES! BIG ONES! Animal cruelty, child neglect, drug abuse, mental health... the list goes on and on and on. But guess what ISN'T one of the problems, my wife & I loving each other.

We have incredible difficulties in North Dakota, our kids don't have foster homes nor adoptive homes, families can't afford to feed their children, health care and animal vet care is a luxury. If you're literally pleading for mental help it takes admission into an ER clinic to get it, and even then, it's still pulling teeth to get help.

Adolescent help in our state is a 0. Mental health help in our state is a 0. Drug addiction help in our state is a 0. And you voted to take away my rights to love who I love and marry my life partner??????????

Wake up North Dakota.

If you're reading this and you are struggling internally, know you're not alone. Without my Wife, my life wouldn't be the way it is today. I love her, and we love you! Stay strong, we won't let them win!

Love,
Ali & Allee Parizek
Happily Married North Dakotan Lesbian Couple

Here is the list of those who voted to take our marriage rights away: If you are on this list, I sincerely hope you read my story and reconsider your vote.

(YEA) Anderson, B.
(YEA) Brandenburg
(YEA) Frelich
(YEA) Hendrix
(YEA) Johnson, J.
(YEA) Kasper
(YEA) Koppelman
(YEA) Maki
(YEA) Meier
(YEA) Motschenbacher
(YEA) Olson, S.
(YEA) Pyle

(YEA) Ruby, D.
(YEA) Schatz
(YEA) Steiner
(YEA) Tveit
(YEA) Vollmer
(YEA) Wolff
(YEA) Heilman
(YEA) Johnston, D.
(YEA) Kempenich
(YEA) Lefor
(YEA) Marschall
(YEA) Novak
(YEA) Osowski
(YEA) Ruby, M.
(YEA) Schauer
(YEA) VanWinkle
(YEA) Anderson, K.
(YEA) Bolinske
(YEA) Christianson
(YEA) Fisher
(YEA) Grueneich
(YEA) Hatlestad
(YEA) Heinert
(YEA) Jonas
(YEA) Kiefert
(YEA) Longmuir
(YEA) Rios
(YEA) Vetter
(YEA) Hauck
(YEA) Henderson
(YEA) Karls
(YEA) Klemin
(YEA) Louser
(YEA) McLeod
(YEA) Morton
(YEA) Nehring
(YEA) Rohr
(YEA) Satrom
(YEA) Vigesaa
(YEA) Weisze