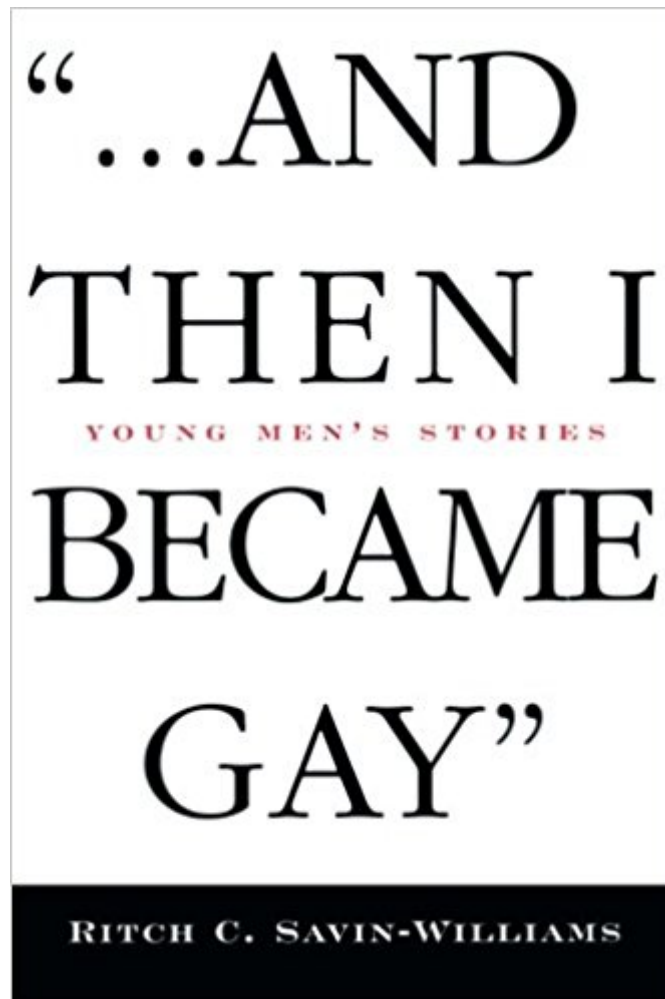


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# '...And Then I Became Gay': Young Men's Stories



## Synopsis

"...And Then I Became Gay is about the lives of young men who express the complications, adversities, and satisfactions of being a sexual outsider in North America during the 1980s and 1990s. Consisting of narratives which chronicle developmental progression from first memories of being attracted to other males to a subsequent integration of their sexual identity with a personal identity, this book is also unique in its cross-section of men from different ethnic backgrounds. Although each story in this volume has a personal meaning to the individual youth disclosing it, aspects of these narratives can express a normative experience growing up gay or bisexual during the past two decades. For many of the contributors and readers, these stories may prove to be not only ones of coming out, but coming of age.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (4 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Savin-Williams's book, though a dozen years old, remains a good, highly readable starting point, with caveats. Savin-Williams presents a clear developmental trajectory for what he calls "sexual minority" kids: memories of same-sex attractions, labeling feelings and attractions, first gay sex, first heterosexual sex, labeling self as gay/bisexual, disclosure to others, first gay romance, and positive identity. Within each category he gives the diversity of when and how sexual minority youths -- all boys, and I believe all Cornell College students -- achieved or didn't/hadn't yet achieved these "milestones". In particular he shows similarities and differences between boys and young men who achieved them during childhood, early adolescence, middle adolescence and young adulthood. He then compares/contrasts the experiences of white males with those of ethnic young men. So far, a

fairly clear, fairly traditional approach to developmental history: here is a "separate" or at least a somewhat distinct category -- gay & bisexual boys/young men. Here's how they develop. Sadly -- my first caveat -- this is a "traditional" approach, using only boys/men, one not overturned until the late 1970's with Carol Gilligan's *In a Different Voice: Psychological Theory and Women's Development*. I'm not sure why Savin-Williams only studied gay/bi young men. (He may have mentioned this somewhere in the book; I don't recall.) It may have been a funding issue, or simply accepting that female sexual development, including female sexual minority development, tends to be quite different in many ways.

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