

Family Smirnow

„What did I do wrong as a parent? “

Since late 90s Valentina und Dmitrij Smirnow are living in Frankfurt with their 2 children. Being repatriates of German origin, they had moved from Siberia to Germany. Their son Serjoscha is gay. He was 21, when the family had moved. He had already felt that he is gay, but he didn't dare telling it someone else. He was very afraid that his family would not understand him and refuse him if they would learn.

What did I do wrong as a parent?

After one year standing on his own feet, Serjoscha didnt want to hide that anymore. Taking his courage on both hands, he invited her mother Valentina to his house. It took a long time until Serjoscha told her. That evening had been very emotional for both of them. „What did I do wrong as a mother? Is my son going to be lifelong unhappy? Is this just a phase? Shall we look for a psychologist? Did you become gay in Germany? Have you ever tried it with women? “Valentina had many questions to ask at that evening.

Will the family break up?

It was difficult for the mother to accept that Serjoscha is homosexual. She blamed herself upon the homosexuality of her son and she asked him to keep it as a secret. She was extremely afraid of being ridiculous and disrespected among the circle of friends and in the eyes of relatives. However, she always emphasised that the happiness of her son is the most important of all. A couple of years later, Serjoscha told his 14 year old sister Mascha. She reacted absolutely positive, so that Serjoscha felt himself very happy and supported in his coming-out. He was still afraid of the reaction of his father though. He was trying to guess how his father may react upon his homosexuality, but that was not able to. Most of all, he was afraid of a fight between his mother and father, which may result in the break-up of the whole family. Serjoscha wouldn't like to do this to his family and especially to his small sister.

A double-life away from the father

Years passed by. Serjoscha lived a double-life. These double identity put a lot weight on him and he realised how distanced he become emotionally from his father. To be able to stop all these, he had to tell his father about his homosexuality. His father, Dmitrij, was very calm, as he listened to his son. There were neither aggressive reactions nor scolding. He said aridly: „This is a crisis that we have to overcome“. However, Dmitrij can not appreciate that Serjoscha is homosexual.

Not anymore being obliged to hide

Life goes on. Today Serjoscha is happy. Although his parents don't respect his homosexuality, but only tolerate, Serjoscha believes that he is fortunate with his family, because the relationship to his family has been improved since his coming-out. Since Serjoscha needn't to hide himself and his emotions, he feels himself better too. Meanwhile, Serjoscha can bring his boyfriend Christian to his parent's house. Valentina and Dmitrij like Christian and they are happy to see them both.