

Family Stepanowa

„What does the doctor say? “

3 years ago, Irina decided to tell her mother. Her girlfriend Anna asked her to do that. The mother Stepanowa ought to know what kind of a role Anna plays in the life of her daughter. „We don't do anything wrong. “ The words of Anna were echoing in the ears of Irina on her next visit to Moscow as she took all her courage: While they were washing the dishes, Irina told her mother that they are living together as a couple.

Without dropping a word the mother Stepanowa left and came back after an hour.

Tatjana Stepanowa is a freelancer architect living in Moscow. Her daughter Irina is 36 years old and has been living in Berlin for 11 years. Mrs. Stepanowa brought her up alone. Single mothers were not rare in Soviet Union. Mrs. Stepanowa blamed herself upon the love of her daughter for another woman, because Irina was brought up without a father. Lesbian is “not normal” for her.

Eventually, Mrs. Stepanowa went to a sexologist. She wanted to have her daughter treated by the doctor, so that she could become “normal” again. The doctor was surprised: “It is not a reason that you visit a doctor if your daughter is lesbian”.

All of her relatives already knew, as Irina visited them in Russia after her coming-out.

Irina keeps many of the prejudices of her relatives still in mind. The aunt, the sister of Tatjana Stepanowa, had even forbidden that Irina brings along her girlfriend. Luckily, the grandmother and the uncle are different. The Grandmother of Irina told that she had shared her bed with a girlfriend in wartime. The uncle patted on her shoulder: „Live the way you want. You are always welcome here and there is always a place to sleep and a plate of soup for you. “ Tatjana Stepanowa is „a brave woman“, this is why Irina doesn't believe that she is afraid of people's reactions. She still blames herself. Mother Stepanowa cannot also accept that her daughter feels at home when she is in Berlin. The relationship between the mother and the daughter is tense these days. They fight endlessly almost every time as Irina visits her every two months in Moscow. Tatjana Stepanowa has always headache whenever the girlfriend of Irina is present.

Irina and Anna will marry and have children.

Of course, they are going to invite the mother to their wedding. Whether the mother will come? Irina looks sad after this question. The answer seems to be obvious. However, Irina answers with a bit of hope: „Let's see! We are going to invite her anyway. She would

definitely be happy, if I have a child.“ On the other hand, if she would ever accept the child of Anna as her grandchild, or not?