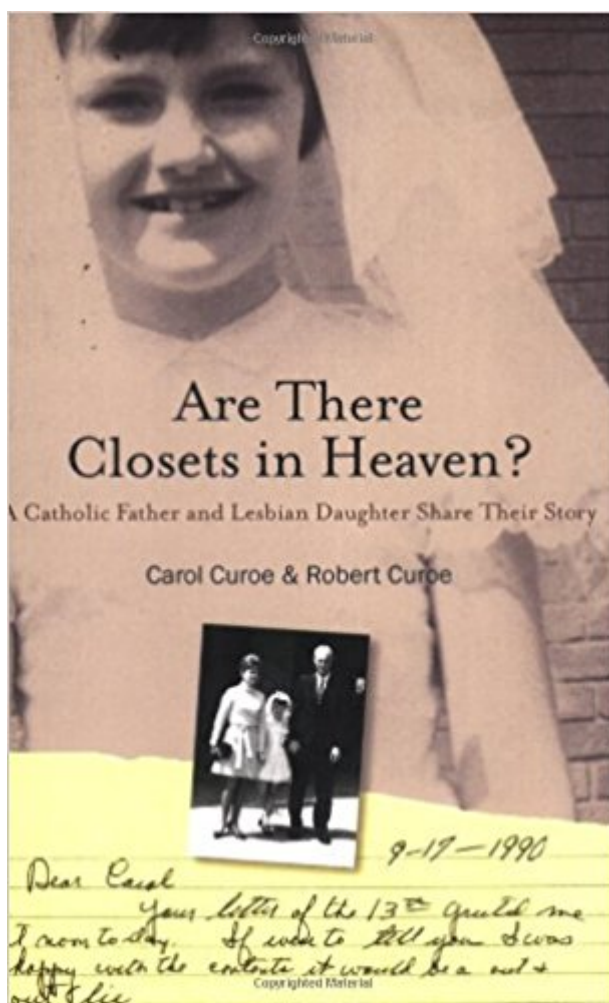


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# Are There Closets In Heaven?; A Catholic Father And Lesbian Daughter Share Their Story



## Synopsis

It's always difficult for a child to tell her parents she is gay, regardless of how liberal or conservative her family might be. When the daughter is part of a devout Catholic family living in a small rural community, the parent-child relationship is exposed to even greater risk, often beyond repair. *Are There Closets in Heaven?* is a revealing first-person dialogue between a lesbian daughter, who had always dutifully tried to please her parents, and her Catholic father, an eighty-one-year-old farmer from Iowa. Through their letters and reflections, we see how courage and love made it possible for Bob and Carol Curoe to navigate the twists and turns of such a dramatic shift in their lives. This highly personal and often emotional exchange offers a gift of hope and inspiration to families who struggle with learning their child is not what they expected. *Are There Closets in Heaven?* Lets us experience the real lives behind debates taking place in today's media on same-sex marriage, constitutional amendments, gays and lesbians raising children, and religion.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"From within the context of a traditional Catholic family, Bob Curoe and his daughter, Carol, share their journey together from denial and suffering to full rejoicing in the gifted life of Carol as one of the Moms in a two-Mom family. Their willingness to share their journey will help to break down many barriers of prejudice and discrimination facing the homosexual community." --Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton  
*Are there closets in heaven?* draws the reader in with its engaging dialogue between daughter and father through letters that are often as heart-wrenching as they are heart-warming. This book is an inspirational must-read for people who find themselves on the journey to

understanding their gay loved one. --Jody M. Huckaby, Executive Director PFLAG National (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)

The landscapes of family, religion, and society intersect in this charming and tender story about the influence of sexuality on the lives of a father and daughter. I was inspired by the daughter's courage to acknowledge and affirm her own lesbian life and the father's trust as his beloved daughter gently leads him in an elegant dance of gradual understanding. Because lesbian and gay persons are a part of every extended family, you'll want to circulate this book among all your relatives--a sure way to bring about a truce, and ultimate peace, in our culture wars about homosexuality. --Jeannine Gramick, Sisters of Loretto, National Coalition of American Nuns, Executive Co-Director

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I appreciated this family's courage in sharing their experience, but I longed for much more detail of her coming out, of how local church clergy and congregation responded at the time, and how the family relates to the Catholic church now. It definitely left me feeling like they were holding back a lot.

I think the product itself was great but the novel was required for a class so that's why I ended up buying it. I'm not usually one for non-fiction, but the story was pretty good considering. I would

recommend this product to everyone :)

A goob to read for everyone. It will open your eyes to what families go through when a member comes out.

this was a great book...a very easy read. brought up lots of good ideas and good topics for conversation with others.

more of a story about family and parenting. Beautifully written.

When Robert Curoe was sixty-five, he came home for lunch one day to a most unwelcome surprise. His wife Joyce was in tears and handed him a letter from their daughter Carol: "Mom and Dad," she wrote, "I'm gay." Curoe was an Irish-Catholic farmer from Iowa. Catholic to the core, he didn't even know any non-Catholics, he sent all his children to parochial schools, he had sisters who were nuns, and in his mind homosexuality was a grievous sin. To say that he was shocked, he says, would have been a gross understatement. Confusion, dread, and fear filled their lives. Four years later this initial shock was "eclipsed" by Carol's announcement that she and her partner Susan were expecting a child by artificial insemination. The latter announcement forced their family to come out among their deeply conservative farming community. Curoe was a loving father who wrote all six of his children a letter every week when they were in college. He sent his daughters roses for Valentine's Day. Somehow, we're not surprised that by the end of the story he's become a staunch advocate of Carol and Susan, and of the greater gay cause. Father and daughter take turns writing alternate chapters in this memoir, beginning with early years on their Iowa farm. Each chapter rehearses the same experiences from their own perspectives. The story they tell operates at four overlapping levels-- their extended family, their culturally conservative farm community, the greater arena of legal parity (health insurance, finances, housing, employment, etc.), and, of course, their religious perspectives as deeply committed Catholics. The memoir doesn't candy-coat the anguish and tears that their family experienced, and father Curoe is forthright about his regrets, failures, and baseless stereotypes in the early going. But many families with a similar story are not so lucky. They might improve their chances for a similar healing journey by reading this book. The book concludes with a list of ten resources for gay families, and a list of ten questions for group discussion.

Carole & Bob, Thank you for writing this wonderful book! I know too well the fears, worries and

sleepless nights this journey has brought you. I too traveled Carol's path. Kevin and I grew up together, and long before Carol realized where she would find her soulmate, lifemate, and lovemate your family especially Bob & Joyce taught me that being Gay was acceptable, loveable and I could be one of your own. Your family accepted me, back then, as one of your own. And that has carried me through many dark days back into the light that we all live in today. Your words, your passion, your love will bring hope, faith and love to many in our family today and each day that one mother, father, brother, sister, or child reads the profound, painful, fearful and loving story you have had the courage to share with us today. Many of our brothers and sisters will now have the courage to live the life that God has asked of them. Thank You! Love, John

Carol's unwavering honesty and openness in describing her sometimes conflicted relationships with her family, parents, and partner--Susan was extremely moving and thought provoking. Her commitment to direct dialogue and to share the truth must have been a tremendous inspiration to her parents, that ultimately led to her father co-authoring this book with Carol. As a reader Carol will inspire you to communicate openly, but with patience, persistence, and kindness to overcome the paradigms that can limit the potential fulfillment of our life's potential. Because of this, I found the book fascinating and couldn't put this down until I finished it!

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