

# how to deal when your guy is bi

He likes women – and men. Two women tell us what it's like to date a guy who is attracted to both sexes.

**veronica\*, 22, knew her boyfriend was bisexual before they started their three-year relationship.**

“Ben\* was the guitarist in a metal band and I thought he was gorgeous. I went to watch his gigs and we bonded over our shared love of heavy metal. We started hanging out and got to know each other as friends before we began a relationship. I think this friendship enabled him to trust me and he let me in on his bisexuality. He had never been in a relationship with a guy but had experimented sexually with one. I have gay family members and was brought up to accept everybody, so I had no problem with it. I said to him, ‘We can both rate guys now, this is so fun.’ A few of my friends were concerned when I first told them that Ben was bisexual, but their comments didn't faze me.

We started our relationship soon after, and things got serious quickly. We loved each other's company and decided to move in together. I never worried that Ben wouldn't be faithful

just because he liked men too, but I did feel that our relationship was different in some ways. When I'd check out a hot guy and realise that Ben had also been checking him out, it was hard not to feel jealous at times. But he told me that it doesn't matter what gender someone is, you love them because of the person they are, and I believed him.

Ben and I had been going out for two years when I came home from work one night and caught him having sex with one of our close guy friends. I was so shocked. It didn't matter that he'd had sex with a guy instead of a girl; it still hurt just as much. He thought that because it was with a man I wouldn't consider it cheating, but I did.

We'd never discussed boundaries or what his bisexuality meant for us at the beginning of our relationship but, looking back, I wish we had. He felt terrible and embarrassed about what he'd done and we managed to reconcile, but things were never the same. I didn't trust him and became worried every time he was out without me. I broke up with him, and although he was devastated for a long time, it was for the best.”



**caiti\*, 24, found out her boyfriend james\* was bisexual two months into their 10-month relationship.**

“The first thing I loved about James was how open and honest he was. I’d just come out of a long-term relationship and wasn’t looking for anything serious but James convinced me to be his girlfriend. He was so loving and I felt I could tell him anything. I assumed he felt the same way.

About two months in, he moved back home to Western Australia and we did the long distance thing. It was hard being apart, I really missed him. He called me one night and said he needed to tell me something - he was bisexual. I had gone to a Catholic school and was raised in an environment where being bisexual or gay is seen as wrong, so I wasn’t sure how to take it. We had a huge talk and I decided I was completely okay with it. I did feel betrayed that he felt he couldn’t tell me about his sexuality from the start, but I was glad he opened up to me.

I moved to WA to spend a couple of months with him. A few weeks after I came home, I found out he’d cheated on me with a girl. He was a highly sexual person and I knew that he struggled with the physical aspect of us being apart. It wasn’t his sexuality that broke us up, it was the distance. Dating James taught me a lot and I know I’d be accepting if I ever dated a bisexual guy again.” □

*\*Names have been changed.*

## so your boyfriend is bisexual

Relationship counsellor Christina Spaccavento ([sstherapy.com.au](http://sstherapy.com.au)) is here to help.

### DON'T. FREAK. OUT.

“A bisexual boyfriend means he’s attracted to both sexes: that’s it. It doesn’t say anything about how he conducts his relationships or his value systems.”

### SET BOUNDARIES FROM THE GET-GO

“It’s crucial to negotiate the boundaries within which each partner functions. Will the relationship be open? Will he be having sex

with other men or women? Will you be having sex with other men or women? If these boundaries are respected, the relationship dynamic shouldn’t change.”

### TALK, TALK, TALK

“Talk about your partner’s sexuality with him. Be open. No matter what comes up, you’ll be more motivated to work through it if you’ve got a good foundation of love and trust.”