

Living your life as something different is hard. You look around and you see nothing but people holding hands and whispering sweet nothings. But you? You're alone, an outcast. It's not by choice, it's not by staying single because you want to, it's because you literally cannot experience romantic or sexual attraction.

You feel stuck, staring across a big gap, watching those in relationships that you would never feel comfortable in. It breaks you down and slowly, you pretend. Instead of struggling to understand, you force yourself to understand, to try to imagine what it's like. You try to make others happy, because hey? You're physically attractive, people think so, and they want you, carnally. But your distaste for all things romantic or sexual destroys every chance of making someone happy.

Eventually, someone comes along, makes you happy, and you mistake your stronger than average feelings for romance, so you get into a relationship with them. Things start off alright, how other relationships go, until they start opening up about how they don't fully experience love like other people in the world do. You're finally not alone when it comes to this. You feel safe to express your feelings on romance, or sexual feelings. But you're still stuck in a mindset of trying to make others happy, and ruin the relationship by making it one of those things.

Slowly, you begin to gain your confidence back, you almost make a mistake, before realising you still want to be with the person all along. You decide to try again, and after your first anniversary after combining the time you had, they explain what a Queer Platonic Relationship is. It sounds wonderful, so you change to fit it, and it's the best you've ever felt. You no longer feel compressed to the idea of things being romantic, and slowly ease yourself into letting yourself identify how you've always felt. Aromantic Asexual.

Written by Nick Howard