Tales from the (Softball) Field (Chapter 3 of the book Between Gay and Straight: Understanding Friendship Across Sexual Orientation)

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Abstract
"Tales from the (Softball) Field" is chapter 3 of the book Between Gay and Straight: Understanding Friendship Across Sexual Orientation (AltaMira Press, 2001). "Tales" marks the beginning of my academic journey into this community. It's the fall of 1995, and I'm taking a graduate class on qualitative methods. Unexpectedly, the softball field emerges as a fieldwork site. As I become immersed in team members' lives and stories, I begin exploring how to "work the hyphen" (Fine, 1994) between gay and straight, to practice research (and friendship) with and for my friends/participants.

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She authored the book, Between Gay and Straight: Understanding Friendship across Sexual Orientation, produced the film Weight Problem: Cultural Narratives of Fat and "Obesity," and co-produced the films Off the Menu: Challenging the Politics and Economics of Body and Food and Remembering a Cool September. About the Series. Innovative Ethnographies. The purpose of this series is to use the new digital technology to capture a richer, more multidimensional view of social life than was otherwise done in the classic, print tradition of ethnography, while maintaining the traditional strength Between Gay and Straight: Understanding Friendship Across Sexual Orientation. Sarah Redshaw. Abstract. Lisa TILLMANN-HEALY provides a journey into a world that is foreign to many people and looks at the elements that make it foreign. The book is an account and discussion of getting to know a group of gay men from her perspective as a heterosexual woman. It is predominantly conversational, with accounts of interviews, casual encounters, social gatherings and outings. TILLMANN-HEALY takes friendship as the paradigm for her study, allowing the meanings operating within and between sexual categori