

**The Children of Room 56 -
Mini Episode: Let's Go Lesbians!**

Written by: Alex Abrahams, Megan Cason and Tam Silverman.

Script editing by: Grey Kilgour and Chloe Peterson.

Directed by: Alex Abrahams and Moira-Juliet Scott.

Audio Editing by: Grey Kilgour.

Featuring:

Chloe Peterson as Headmaster Newton.

Tam Silverman as Sam Moss.

Moira-Juliet Scott as Calliope Morris.

Alex Abrahams as Additional Voices.

ALEX

Hi everyone! This is Alex, your very *gay* writer and director!

Apologies if my voice sounds weird, I'm a little bit ill.

Just a little note before we start this bonus episode - happy pride! As a podcast with a predominantly LGBTQ+ cast, we really wanted to put something out for pride month (even though we haven't actually released any actual episodes yet.)

So we're using this episode as an opportunity to introduce you to two of our main characters, Sam Moss and Calliope Morris, who are both part of the LGBTQ+ community.

Bear in mind that this episode takes place about seven months before the events of the podcast, so don't expect Episode 1 to follow on directly from this!

Now, with all of that out of the way, we hope you enjoy this episode and we hope you enjoy the rest of pride month!

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[THEME MUSIC]

[INT. SPIRITSFORD SECONDARY SCHOOL - MAIN HALL]

[CLICK]

[A LITTLE BIT OF CHATTER FROM THE CROWD, AND MURMURING. HEADMASTER NEWTON TAPS THE MICROPHONE, WHICH FEEDBACKS WITH A HIGH PITCHED RINGING. HE CLEARS HIS THROAT LOUDLY]

HEADMASTER NEWTON

Good morning, students. *[Beat. He waits for the crowd to go GOOD MORNING HEADMASTER NEWTON, but there's just an awkward silence.]* I said good m- *[Awkward cough.]* Anyway, as you know, I have been Headmaster of Spiritsford Secondary School for many, many, many, many years now; longer than most of you have been alive, possibly double. I always *[checks cue cards]* try my best to make sure that every single one of my students is, uh, comfortable.

Spiritsford has always been home to a *[painfully:]* large amount of *[derogatory:]* minority groups, and that is reflected in the student population. Many have found this town provides a *[reading the bullet points]* safe space, a haven, a home, for them, where most other places do not. So in this month of *[derogatory:]* gay

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fivrolity, I am required to invite one of our *[derogatory:]* BLTGQ+ students to perform an assembly for you today.

May I welcome to the stage Samantha Moss, founder of the *[derogatory:]* Spiritsford Supernatural Investigation Squad.

[SAM WALKS UP TO THE STAGE]

SAM

Hi. *[Awkward beat.]* First of all, a little correction. It's Spiritsford *Paranormal* Investigation Squad. Paranormal. Not supernatural, thank you very much.

[BEAT.]

SAM (CONT.)

Right! *[Small cough.]* Anyway, thank you for having me today to speak for the greater *[very pointedly, correcting Newton:]* LGBTQ+ community here at Spiritsford Secondary. Most of you may know me as the girl who runs around with a tape recorder, constantly shoving it in your face asking for your stories of the strange and unusual. Many of you likely don't even know that I'm a lesbian.

STUDENT

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[From the crowd:] LESBIAN RIGHTS!

[MURMURING FROM THE CROWD. HEADMASTER NEWTON
COUGHS POINTEDLY.]

SAM

Okay, maybe you *did* know. *[Beat.]* Look, the point is, many of you
may not know me, or know that when I speak about the community,
I'm speaking *from* the community.

Most people close to me have always sensed somewhere deep down
inside that they identified somewhere on the LGBTQ+ spectrum.
My friend Chip, realized he was trans when he hit puberty. He just
knew something felt off. And my good pal Nicky, y'know he-

[AUDIENCE CHEERS AT THE MENTION OF NICKY.]

SAM (CONT.)

[Laughing:] Yes, we all love Nicky.

[THE AUDIENCE CONTINUES TO CHEER ABOUT NICKY.
HEADMASTER NEWTON COUGHS UNCOMFORTABLY.]

SAM (CONT.)

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He never really *had* to come out. It was never a question of whether or not he was attracted to men, and it was never a big deal to him. Both his parents were bisexual, and he grew up with that being the norm, so he never really felt the need to come out in the traditional sense.

Like many others, I didn't realize it until I fell in love with a close friend at the age of thirteen. We've all been there, and of course it never leads anywhere, and when it does, it never lasts long. But ever since I've been able to see the world in a whole new light. Although our community here in Spiritsford is a welcoming one, it was still a shocking realization, and coming out was a terrifying thought for a really long time. I worried that my friends would judge me, that my mum would be disappointed in me. It felt like my world was falling apart.

But that was a long time ago, and funnily enough it's coming up to the fourth anniversary of my coming out. It felt right coming out during pride month. Y'know, the world was celebrating the liberation of queer people. Never before has there been a time where we can live our lives, without hiding a part of ourselves away, so *freely*. Without judgement.

I was so incredibly privileged that I could do so without persecution here in Spiritsford; I knew that deep down nothing

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bad would happen to me if I came out. Unfortunately, not everyone can say the same. The outside world is a scary place. Most places out there aren't as accepting as we are in our little town. We are lucky, here in Spiritsford, to be able to express ourselves freely. We know that we can live every day as our authentic selves and no one here will bat an eye. And so we do.

And so I did.

This month is for whoever is struggling with who they are. If you can't call your family home anymore. If you've been taught that your feelings are unnatural or wrong, or if you feel like your identity has you fumbling in the dark, with your hands outstretched and waiting for something to grasp onto. If you love labeling every part of yourself or if you feel trapped by categories and specialized terms. If you're still in the closet, because that's exactly where you want or need to be for your safety; Pride Month is a celebration of you. Even if you haven't told anyone just yet.

I came out as a lesbian four years ago, after months and months of debating with myself. And I never regretted it for a moment.

Thank you.

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[SAM'S FOOTSTEPS AS SHE WALKS OFFSTAGE, AND
APPLAUSE.]

HEADMASTER NEWTON

Thank you, Ms. Moss. Now, students, I would like to talk to you
about... [HEADMASTER NEWTON'S VOICE FADES AWAY INTO
BACKGROUND NOISE.]

HEADMASTER NEWTON (BACKGROUND)

... a cougar that has been spotted on school grounds. No need to be
alarmed as we are all inside the building - oh, oh, one second
[Cough. He listens to someone whisper in his ear.] What was that?
[Cough. Half stuttering:] Um, I am informed that that is in fact
not a cougar, but Ms. Wright, who is here to pick up Aster Ross
for a dentist appointment. [Coughing.] Uh, um, sorry, excuse me?
What was that? [AUDIO IS CUT OFF.]

SAM

[Whispering:] Did you get it recorded?

CALLIOPE

[Whispering:] I did!

SAM

[Whispering:] You're brilliant.

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CALLIOPE

[Whispering:] No, I think you'll find you are! I mean... you were great up there! Wonderful speech! It really screamed... lesbian.

SAM

[Soft, through laughter:] Shut up. You ready to go?

CALLIOPE

[Whispering:] Am I ready to skip school to go to pride?
Absolutely.

[SAM OPENS THE DOOR.]

SAM

Ladies first.

CALLIOPE

Very gentlemanly of you. Gentlewomanly. Oh, you know what I mean: gender's weird.

[SAM LAUGHS. DOOR CLOSES, AND ALL SOUNDS FROM THE HALL BEHIND THEM ARE SILENCED. SAM AND CALLIOPE BEGIN WALKING OUTSIDE.]

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SAM

Where are the others?

CALLIOPE

Oh, they couldn't stay. They're trying to find a massive fish tank so they can safely transport Morgan to the pride parade.

SAM

Morgan?

CALLIOPE

Sam, you remember Morgan, right? Chip introduced us to them last week!

SAM

Morgan... oh, the nonbinary sea monster?

CALLIOPE

Do you know any *other* Morgans in Spiritsford?

SAM

I mean, fair enough! And you didn't go with them?

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CALLIOPE

Well, *someone* needed to stay for your speech! Which was *bloody brilliant* by the way.

SAM

So I've been told.

CALLIOPE

Hey! Are you really going to condemn me for speaking the truth?

SAM

Well, no, but, I mean -

CALLIOPE

What?

SAM

I... Um...

CALLIOPE

Spit it out.

SAM

Uh... But... [Beat.] But whoever gets to the pride parade last gets thrown into the Tooth Lake!

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[SAM RUNS OFF, LAUGHING.]

CALLIOPE

[Shouting after her:] OH, SAM! Sam, stop it! Oh, stop it with your empty threats! You wouldn't throw me into Tooth Lake and you know it! You're not even strong enough to do that! I'm *at least* five inches taller than you! You ridiculously tiny, tiny ridiculous woman!

[BEAT. SAM RUNS. SHE SIGHS.]

CALLIOPE (CONT.)

Fine! Fine, I'm coming!

[SHE STARTS RUNNING AFTER SAM, WHO LAUGHS.]

CALLIOPE (CONT.)

Hey, wait up! I said wait up! Don't get *faster* -

[CLICK]

[THEME MUSIC]

ALEX

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It was edited by Grey Kilgour with theme music composed by Jordan Hendrickson and art by Samantha Cooke.

The script editors for this episode were Grey Kilgour and Chloe Peterson.

In today's bonus episode, you heard the voices of Chloe Peterson as Headmaster Newton, Tam Silverman as Sam Moss and Moira-Juliet Scott as Calliope Morris.

You can find us on Instagram, Twitter, TikTok and Tumblr @room56pod and you can email us at thechildrenofroom56@gmail.com.

Thank you so much for listening. We really appreciate it.