

## **Q&A: Dean's castration in 1970 for homosexuality**

*Dean was castrated in North Carolina, like many young men, for being homosexual in an era when homosexuality was not tolerated, especially in the South. His story illustrates an important and mostly forgotten era when so many young men were castrated against their will (or after being convinced to go through with the procedure by parents, doctors and therapists) in the prime of their youth simply for the way they were born. The upside is Dean is content being castrated (and would even go through the procedure again if given the choice) and does not regret receiving treatment for what was considered his serious condition in 1970. Please note: Every single word of this interview is true, as I've been asked. This truly happened to Dean and to hundreds of young boys like him.*

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### ***Can you tell me why you were castrated at such a young age?***

I had my orchiectomy when I was 17. This was a decision made by my psychiatrist, my parents and me. Or more specifically, after I'd been going to therapy for several months, my psychiatrist Dr. Johnson (ironic name) had a discussion with my father about the castration surgery he wanted for me. My father gave his permission, and Dr. Johnson had a discussion with me about the surgery. My mother went along with it, but at home none of us talked about my actual upcoming castration, we called it "my trip to the hospital".

### ***Did your therapist tell you why you were being castrated?***

I had homosexual feelings before my castration, and my therapeutic castration largely eliminated those feelings and desires. My castration was presented to me as one part of my larger ongoing therapy which began months before my surgery and went on for eight months afterwards. I was never told that being castrated would cure my homosexuality, just that it would lesson my impulses and urges. Especially being done at such a young age and before I'd had any actual sexual experience, I think losing my sexuality may have been easier, even though I had fully developed genitals, masturbated daily and fantasized about men constantly.

### ***Do you feel being castrated was your decision, or were you manipulated into it by your parents and doctors?***

After going to therapy for several months, my psychiatrist recommended that I be castrated. I'd been going to him for several months and really built up trust with him, and he was very supportive. He asked me a great deal of questions and gave me tests before determining that I was actually a homosexual and not just going through a phase.

After the doctor gave me the diagnoses of being homosexual and telling me about the castration surgery I found out he had already been discussing the surgery with my father. My parents and I agreed to that "a trip to the hospital" would be the best course of action, and I was not "forced" into submitting to the surgery. Though I strongly suspect that I would have been castrated even without my consent, my father wanted it, and my psychiatrist had a close relationship with the urologist who castrated me and I gathered that they had experience castrating many other young homosexuals. They knew exactly how to ease me into the concept of castration as therapy, to help cure my homosexual urges.

***What were your therapy sessions like after you were informed that a castration would be performed on you?***

About eight weeks before my surgery Dr. Johnson instructed me not to masturbate, and as a 17 year-old this was very hard. He explained to me this was to help build up my strength in resisting homosexual urges and thoughts, and every time one came up he gave me tools to change the focus of my mind.

I looked forward to going to therapy every week and grew to really like Dr. Johnson as he really seemed interested in me. He cared about my future and how I would live my life and the castration was always just part of a bigger plan he had for me and we never really focused on the castration surgery itself, just the fact it would eliminate my homosexual thoughts and urges and bring me great relief. And as the date for the surgery approached, I was eager to get through the surgery and put my sexuality behind me.

***Who actually performed your castration surgery?***

My psychiatrist recommended the urologist who performed the castration surgery on me. He assured me that they "had seen plenty of boys through the procedure" so I gathered that my castration was not rare or unusual. My psychiatrist coached me for months beforehand, and when the topic of orchiectomy came up, I was very nervous about the idea at first but ready to listen to him. And when my father was strongly in favor of it, and he convinced my mother to agree to the surgery too, I felt like I really had no choice and that this probably was the best thing for me.

***How did your surgery go, how long was the healing, and were there any complications? Where you scared or calm before the surgery?***

I was quite nervous before the surgery, but the operation itself was easy. I was awake, but heavily sedated, and couldn't feel anything at all. I had a three-night hospital stay, which was pretty normal for any kind of surgery back then. I was walking again as soon as I got home, though I did have a persistent groin pain for several months. The pain eventually faded away on its own.

***What's the best part of being castrated, and are there any drawbacks?***

At the time it was done it was done, I really was happy to be able to move past my sexual desires, to be able to have a "normal" life. Please try and understand that in the context of the South in 1970.

The major drawback was the physical changes, especially the weight gain. I have had to struggle ever since to keep it off. I wasn't too thrilled with the way my hips changed shape either, or the loss of muscle tone in my arms and chest. Thankfully I didn't grow breasts as some do. At my age, osteoporosis is a concern as well, but I had a bone density scan less than two years ago and everything is fine.

***If you could go back in time, would you get castrated again? If you had a son would you have him castrated in the same way you were?***

Yes, actually. I've been quite content to be castrated. I am often curious of how life would have turned out if I hadn't been, but I have no regrets. If I were in my own father's position in 1970, dealing with a homosexual son in a world where he might be attacked or even jailed, I might have put him into therapy as well. As for castration, I understand that at that time they were all doing their best trying to deal with a condition which society feared. Since I will never have a son and we don't live back in the world of the early 70's, I will thankfully never have to face the issue of having him castrated. I know my father, and my mother, were doing the best that they could and as strange as it might seem to people reading this today, they were acting in my own best interest. Many parents of that time would have simply tossed their son out of the house and into the streets, yet I was provided with an option which gave me a path forward in life.

***Would you recommend castration to others?***

I'm not in the habit of giving people medical advice. You can read my story for yourself and make up your own mind. We live in a different world, but one where sexuality still troubles many whether they are gay or straight or anything in between. For me, castration along with therapy allowed me to conquer my desires and accept a life without sex, and its not something I feel like I miss.

***What's your best advice to a guy reading this who wants to be castrated? How should he approach this decision?***

I would say to make sure it's what you really want. Make sure you're doing it for YOU. And it really wouldn't hurt to talk to someone beforehand. I was lucky to have a very kind and nice therapist and urologist who worked together, and after my surgery I continued to get therapy. I think its important for castrated men to have emotional support before, during and after their surgery.

***Has anything unexpected happened after your castration? A new situation, a new job, friendship, a new outlook on life?***

People started telling me I seemed more mature, calmer. I also got lot of "something is different about you, but I can't put my finger on it." I felt like a new chapter on life had started, and I was very pleased to be able to live a "normal" life without my homosexuality always being an issue.

***So can you tell me a little bit about your relationship with your father? Were you close or distant, what sort of man was he? What did he do for a living? Did you ever suspect he might have at one point in his life had a homosexual experience or tendency himself?***

My father and I were not that close, but not truly distant either. He was a bit emotionally detached, but that was true of most American fathers in 1970. It was before the invention of "bonding and quality time" so to speak. He owned a business that sold and leased appliances and equipment to restaurants in the NC/VA region.

***Why do you think your father suspected you? Did you act feminine? Did he catch you doing something?***

He and I never spoke much about why he put me in therapy, other than he suspected me of having "certain tendencies" and "confused feelings" about men. I did not act particularly feminine (or at least I don't think I did), and have often wondered how he recognized the signs. I don't think he himself ever had a homosexual experience, but perhaps some latent feeling that allowed him to see the signs of it in me.... but I'm really just guessing there. Obviously my father felt concerned enough that he got me to a psychiatrist for treatment and had me castrated. I will never know if he pushed for the castration or the psychiatrist did, but in those days castration was just something that was done to homosexuals as it was considered a mental disease.

***Did you ever have an experience with another man before your castration?***

I was and am a virgin. Never did anything more than masturbate. Never got caught doing that either. I often fantasized about men -- how they looked, how they smelled, I admitted to my Dr. Johnson that I wanted a man to "have his way with me". It was just the way my brain was wired -- I tried to avoid having homosexual thoughts even when masturbating, but they would always come up.

***Do you have any early homoerotic memories? Favorite fantasies?***

One day I saw my dad sleeping on the sofa, and his penis was erect. It was sticking out of his shorts, and I just stared at it. I felt an almost irresistible urge to touch it but I knew this was forbidden. When I masturbated sometimes I would picture my dad lying there with his big erection.

Dr. Johnson asked me if my father had ever bathed me, and how that would make me feel. And I told him I didn't remember but that I would have felt very safe and happy if my father had bathed with me in a warm bath. I loved my father and trusted him to take care of me.

***Can you describe what you mostly talked about with your therapist? Did he want to really become your friend or gain your trust before bringing up the subject of your castration? And did he personally ever want to see your genitals after or before your surgery? Was he an affectionate or cold person?***

I saw my therapist twice a week for several months both before and after my surgery. He was a warm and friendly man, he was actually like a grandfather to me. I came to look forward to our sessions. We talked about a million different things. Sometimes we would talk about what I saw in men, what I wanted to do. Sometimes we would talk about childhood experiences and memories I had. A lot of the time we just talked about the mundane day-to-day things that had happened since the last session. I felt like I became his friend and I trusted him.

***Were you ever asked to do anything during therapy or talk about anything during your sessions that made you uncomfortable?***

There were two sessions that were somewhat uncomfortable for me. Once he observed me while I was fully naked, watching erotic films and photos on a projector. And another time he asked me to strip naked while I watched a series of abstract drawings and talked about my erotic homosexual fantasies. There were also a couple of other times where I was asked to

disrobe for our regular session of talking, I didn't mind that at all. I would say that most of our sessions just felt like friendly conversation.

I felt very comfortable and trusting around Dr. Johnson and I know that his naked observations were part of his process for determining that I was a homosexual. Even though they made me uncomfortable, I understand why he had to see for himself that my sexual urges were homosexual in nature.

***Immediately after your surgery, in the recovery room, who was with you, your father or your mother? Do you remember your emotional state, were you sedated and out of it? Where you crying at any point? How did your father, mother and sister treat you, any differently?***

Nobody was in the recovery room immediately after my surgery, hospital were very strict about visitors back then. I was extremely groggy and out of it, so I didn't really care. My father and mother were waiting in my regular hospital room when I arrived though. It was a little strange having just gone through surgery and nobody talking about or acknowledging what had just been done to me. I supposed they were relieved I got through the surgery ok, and probably wondering what the effects of the procedure would be on me going forward.

Nobody treated me differently right away, but there were some imperceptible changes in their attitudes toward me in the months that followed. It's very hard to describe. I will say that my sister seemed to treat me less as a brother and more of a sister in a way after the surgery. I felt like more of a man after the surgery because it was going to eliminate my homosexual urges, but in their eyes maybe I was something different now, not quite the same son and brother they had before the surgery. Though we didn't talk about it, we all knew that surgery was something that would change me forever, something we had no choice but to have done, something that was going to cure me. To this day I still feel my parents had the right to make the decision they did to have me castrated, and I can't imagine my life any other way.

***Before your surgery, did you masturbate frequently? Did you think about men? And after your surgery, what was your first clue that your castration was taking effect, do you recall how it felt to lose your ability to get erections and masturbate? Did that diminish quickly, or over time?***

Before I started therapy I woke up with erections, had wet dreams and masturbated almost daily, as I recall. I was a young man of 17 and my hormones were in full force. I was starting to grow a small mustache, my armpit hair was growing thicker, my pubic hair was filling out and my testicles had gotten much larger. I was fully developed and had a full sex drive.

I dreamed and fantasized about men, about how they looked, about their muscles, about how they smelled. I remember looking forward to the Montgomery Ward catalog and its pages and pages of mens underwear ads and would take this up to my room and masturbate to it. I often had sexual dreams about men, which continued for a little while after the surgery as well. It took me several weeks to stop having erections in the morning, they faded away and over a period of a couple months my sexual urges really began to diminish. The urologist checked me with followup appointments and blood work to make sure that everything was going according to plan and make sure that the surgery was successful.

***Do you remember a point at when your body started to change, that you really looked not very masculine, or maybe wonder if people could tell you were castrated? How did you deal with situations where you might have had to be naked around other men?***

I am fortunate that I am tall and my facial features are somewhat angular, so I still appear masculine, at least with my clothes on. My naked body, however, took on a more androgynous appearance, especially around the hips, belly, buttocks. I learned to dress in a boxy sort of manner to conceal that.

Dr. Johnston worked with me to develop a diet and exercise program to help keep the weight gain to a minimum. I started running and twice a week, which I still keep up all these years later. I had started to develop a little belly shortly after the surgery, and Dr. Johnson had me strip down to my underwear so he could see the changes that were happening. It was all very gradual, but my hips slowly grew bigger, my belly grew and my formerly well developed body began to get softer, and my well developed chest began to soften. Dr. Johnson was very pleased with my progress and told me how proud he was of how far I had come, especially how well I was able to avoid homosexual thoughts.

***Did you feel after your surgery you were no longer a man?***

I would say at the time of my surgery I was mostly developed, puberty was mostly finished. My genital appeared as an adult's... but of course my view of my own genitals might not be the most dependable. But when they castrated me they were definitely castrating a man, not a boy. But no, I never felt like I wasn't a man anymore, on the contrary I felt like the surgery finally made me a man. I was able to live a "normal" life and no longer had the homosexual urges which one day would have gotten me in trouble.

***I'd also like to know about your relationship to your mother -- was it close and loving before your castration? How about afterwards? Did your castration bring you closer to your mother or father, or was it always the elephant in the room, something perhaps they were ashamed of and you could tell?***

I think my mother had the most difficult time of all of us with my castration. She was in denial about the whole thing. We never did have a good talk about it, which I regret to this day. After my surgery, she went on pretending like nothing happened. She acted if I had my tonsils or appendix out. Maybe she felt guilty she let the doctors asexualize her son, change her little man into a boy? Perhaps a mother, having given birth to me and made my body, could more acutely feel or identify with me having to have surgery to remove a part of my body, and my sexual being. Maybe she knew on some level just how much was going to change after my castration.

My father on the other hand, seemed to have a more respect for me after the surgery. He talked to me more like an adult, less like a child. We started talking more in general, not about anything personal, but science, politics, news, that sort of thing. Perhaps it was his way of saying he respected me and was proud or at least understanding that I went along with my castration surgery. Maybe he felt a little guilt he agreed to the castration? I don't think so, but our relationship definitely changed, and I feel for the better.

***What did you end up doing with your life? Did you go to college and have a career?***

I got a degree in education, but I have never worked as a teacher. After college, I invested my inheritance (from my grandmother) in a souvenir store with my brother-in-law. My sister and I own that store and own another one to this day. They keeps us afloat, but I don't see being able to retire any time soon. It's very busy work in the summer, but winters are quiet.

***Can you tell me your memories of the day of your castration surgery? Did you have to wait long for the doctor to arrive and your surgery to start?***

The day of the surgery is very much a blur in my mind. It was all very dream-like. My father drove me to the hospital and we didn't talk much in the car ride there, at least not about anything of consequence. I wonder what was going on in his mind, but probably he felt relief his was going to solve his son's problem.

I didn't have to wait very long before the surgery prep began. We checked me in to the hospital and I was taken to a room to disrobe. An orderly came and gave me a sponge bath and shaved me from navel to knee. The nurse took my temperature, blood pressure, height and weight, then I put on a gown and slippers and one of those poofy surgical caps and and was taken to the OR. The nurse gave me a shot of something WONDERFUL and I felt like i was on cloud nine after that.

The doctor did take some time to arrive, but got right down to business when he did. I was given a local anesthetic in my genital region, couldn't feel anything at all. There was a surgical curtain put up over my belly, so I could not see anything and couldn't see him removing my testicles. The surgery was much faster than I expected it to be ... though that might have been my perception because of the heavy sedation.

I had a short time in the recovery room, and then three boring days of reading the same four magazines and one novel over and over.

***Did Dr. Johnson your psychiatrist ever want to see you naked after your surgery? Was there sexual questioning, was he concerned that the operation was a "success" and you had been asexualized?***

Dr. Johnston did evaluate my physically several times in the month after my surgery. Nothing too invasive, he just looked me over. It was part of his helping me deal with the physical changes and weight gain. I had actually willingly stopped masturbating at the Dr.'s instruction a couple month BEFORE the procedure. It was part of my therapy, and I was more than happy to have that behind me. He did continue to ask about my erections, about dreams and fantasies. He mentioned almost every visit how proud he was of the progress I was making and this made me feel good about my decision to go along with the castration.

***How about at the urologist? Was there ever a sense of humiliation or shame having your castrated genitals examined by him? Was he concerned about the effects of castration on you, that you were becoming asexualized?***

Yes, there WAS a sense of humiliation when I visited the urologist, but I don't think that was his fault. Just a natural response to being seen naked especially as a young male having been castrated. The urologist only seemed concerned with the physical results of the castration, nothing mental or emotional. He did not ask a lot of questions, but assured me at both followups that everything was proceeding as planned. There were blood tests too, but he

never discussed any results with me other than "everything's fine." I do know he talked with my psychiatrist, I got the sense the two of them worked closely together, not just with me, but with others who had been castrated as well.

***Did you ever sign any permission papers or releases prior to your castration? Did you have to give your written permission for the doctor to castrate you?***

I don't recall signing or filling out any paperwork. My father dealt with all that stuff.

***Nice speaking with you again Dean. Given how well your castration turned out for you, I consider you lucky to have had parents that cared enough about you to get you the right treatment, and especially the therapy that helped you successfully navigate your castration at such a young age. I know that many young homosexuals of that era were either kicked out of their homes or committed to mental institutions.***

Yes, as I've said before I think my father and the therapist and the doctors all were doing what they believed was best for me — providing me with a way to live my life free from the forbidden sexual urges I was born with. I am not angry or resentful this happened to me, if anything I am unhappy the way nature created me.

***Well, for many men castration is a fetish and a fantasy, and I will admit that as a young man the fantasy of being castrated was very strong with me. Being gay still wasn't fully accepted when I was growing up, and you had to be secretive about it, even though it was the 1980's.***

***You told me your therapist Dr. Johnson and your father had discussed the possibility of your surgical castration before you were informed of the procedure yourself. I bet your father was pretty worried how you would react to the news that he was going to have you castrated.***

Yes, I imagine he was worried if I'd accept the procedure being done to me, and about the effects it would have on my life and on my body. Dr. Johnson gave him a book (which I wasn't allowed to read) and my father and mother read it before my surgery. I assume it explained the effects of castration, and what it would do to me. And obviously they were confident it would be for my best, especially my father was very enthusiastic about me getting castrated."

***So you never talked with your parents directly about your castration surgery before it happened? Were you even aware of the concept of castration before Dr. Johnson brought it up with you?***

No, it was quite strange, my father only told me he was "pleased" i was agreeable with Dr. Johnson's recommendation that I be castrated. I will never really know why my father recommended me for therapy to begin with — but I was happy to go as I knew on some level that homosexual thoughts and behavior were not tolerated or allowed in the deep South in 1970. It was something nobody spoke of, but everyone knew was forbidden.

***Do you remember your first reaction when Dr. Johnson brought up the topic of you being castrated? Did you accept it or were you scared?***



When Dr. Johnson told me he wanted to get me castrated (and the word “castration” was never actually used — he always referred to it as “orchietomy”) I was nervous and afraid, but I immediately knew it was something I had to have done. I understood that in the context of the world of 1970 I had a disease, and it was treatable. And the way Dr. Johnson described the procedure it was quite routine, standard and had been done to many other boys.

***What if you hadn't already been in therapy and were told by your father he wanted to get you castrated?***

I would probably have jumped on the first train out of town. Dr. Johnson and I really had a great relationship before the topic of castration was brought up, I considered him a sort of father figure, and I trusted him. He was really interested in my life, and he counseled me through the plan going forward. He said I would live the life of a bachelor and would have a good life, and after my castration he worked with me on a diet and exercise program to get rid of the weight I gained after the surgery.

***I know this might be difficult to think about, but what do you think would have happened if you had resisted the idea of being castrated? What if you said no to either your parents or to Dr. Johnson? Do you think they had a back up plan in this case? Surely there must have been boys who were not willing to be castrated, especially at such a young age during their sexual peak.***

I don't really like to think about this. I have talked to another man in my circumstance and his parents had him committed to a mental institution at the age of 16, and he eventually agreed to being castrated while a patient at the facility. But I am sure this wasn't a choice made on his own, there must have been huge pressure to accept castration surgery as treatment (or perhaps punishment) for being homosexual.

***Yes, I've heard of many young men up until the 70's being forced into mental institutions if they were caught engaging in homosexual activity. And some were even given lobotomies if they didn't cooperate or accept being castrated. And I think this was a terrible way to “help” these young men, so different than how it turned out for you.***

Yes, after my castration procedure I finally felt like I was a man. I felt like I could tame the desires that were liable to get me imprisoned or in trouble or live a life in the shadows. My castration set me free, and ironically made me the man I am today. I have no regrets, as crazy as that might sound to people reading this interview today.

***Did you have any idea of how profoundly castration would change your your life, your body, your sexuality, your mind and desires?***

I was told the surgery would make me better. I was sick and wanted to get better. That's very difficult to understand in 2018 but back then homosexuality was considered a serious illness.

***How about the potential feminizing effects of castration? Did Dr. Johnson mention any of those, such as your hips growing more feminine, possible breast growth or muscle loss?***

No, Dr. Johnson really glossed over the side effects, though he said I might lose my mustache. And I was trying really hard to grow a mustache at the time but it was more like peach fuzz. After the surgery my hips did grow larger and more feminine in shape, I lost

muscle mass in my upper body, my body hair thinned out, my pubic hair took on a triangular feminine shape. My peach fuzz mustache and armpit hair never really went away, but I was never able to grow a real beard or mustache so Dr. Johnson was right.

***Did he mention possible mental effects such as depression or lethargy?***

No, Dr. Johnson only talked about the elimination of my sexual thoughts and desires, at least as I can recall. He may have mentioned something about mood, but the elimination of sexual desire was his main point. There was a period of time after my castration surgery where I gained 40 lbs and had very low energy, but Dr. Johnson worked with me to develop a rigorous exercise and diet program, and I overcame these, even though keeping weight off has been a lifelong struggle for me.

***What happened to your penis and scrotum after your surgery? Did you look at your genitals once the bandages were taken off, did you look into the mirror at your new body? Did you ever feel mutilated in any sense once you returned home from the hospital?***

The bandages were removed in the hospital as I was there for three days, the nurse removed them. I never looked at or touched my genitals, I really just focused on the results of the surgery on curing me of my sexual desire. I never felt mutilated, in fact I felt like the surgery turned me into a real man and rid me of my troubling sexuality.

My scrotum shrunk gradually at first, and now its just a tiny fold, perhaps big enough to contain one small testicle. My penis is really just a “button” now and I sit down to pee, its hard to aim when I urinate. After the surgery I went through what I describe as “reverse puberty” and the length of my penis was greatly diminished, down to perhaps one third of its size. And over the years, really all thats left of it is the glans which rests against my body. And yes, I am circumcized.

***Did you ever feel the stumps of your spermatic cords in your scrotum?***

No, I think the urologist really quite aggressively removed most of my spermatic cord as I never felt any remnants in my scrotum. I felt an aching high in my groin area for several months after the surgery but this faded away.

***Can you tell me a little bit more about the day of your surgery? I’m always curious about the psychology of a 17 year old boy at the peak of his sexuality being castrated, and how he was treated before and after, and how the actual surgery took place.***

As I’ve said previously, my father drove me to the hospital in his car, we left very early in the morning. He had on the A.M. radio listening to sports and I stared out the window, worrying and nervous about my upcoming operation. I wasn’t allowed to have breakfast that morning, and my mom was still asleep when we left, so I have no memories of the last time I saw here before I was castrated.

We walked into the hospital, I was in a white T-shirt and jeans and my father was dressed in a casual jacket and tie. He told me to wait in the lobby, we were the only ones in there. My father filled out and signed some papers and after a bit a kind nurse, in her 40s, came and got me. My father said he’d see me later in the afternoon, and the nurse led me away down a long hallway to an area with medical cots.

She brought me a surgical gown, closed the curtain around my cot and told me to strip naked and put on the gown. I did this and lay down in the cot and after a while she came back to take my vital signs. She was very nice and professional and never mentioned the surgery, everything was just as if I were in to get my tonsils or appendix removed.

She left me alone in the cot and after a while an orderly came to get me. He was about 25 years old as I recall, and he was very quiet. He wore a light blue medical outfit and asked me to follow him, and we walked through the hospital until we came to a shower area. It consisted of four stalls, two on one side and two on the other. I couldn't understand why the hospital needed so many showers, maybe it was where the employees showered?

I was told to take my cloths off so I did, then the orderly told me to stand in the middle of the stall. He had a sprayer which was attached to the shower wall and he held it in his hand, and he sat down in front of me on an upside down bucket. He sprayed me from head to toe with the lukewarm water, and I remember how embarrassing and awkward it was just his orderly and me alone in a big empty shower area, him spraying my body and shaving me from my belly all the way down past my knees.

It wasn't erotic, but I remember him holding my penis and testicles as he ran the razor blade across my genitals and the whole region, spraying my body occasionally with the sprayer. I felt a little like an animal being prepared for slaughter as he didn't speak to me at all, just gave me instructions, and he was only focused on getting my body as clean and hairless as possible.

***What happened after the orderly was done showering you up and cleaning you in the final preparation for your castration?***

I was really getting nervous now, knowing that my castration would be happening in probably less than an hour. It was all very out of body, and when he was done he patted and dried my body with a towel and instructed me to put back on my surgical gown. Then he placed a large surgical cap on my head and some slippers. He led me back down the cold hallway back to the room with the cots, and it felt strange to be shaved and in a loose gown with a big surgical cap on and I was glad nobody saw me.

I rested on the cot again, and grew increasingly nervous about my castration. The nurse came in with a hypodermic syringe and inserted the needle in my arm. "Just relax this won't hurt, I'm just going to give you something to help you relax before your surgery," she said and as she slowly plunged the contents of the syringe into my vein I could feel a warmth spreading up my chest, neck and head. I felt like I was on cloud nine, and pretty soon I wasn't nervous any more, in fact I was feeling like I was in heaven. Whatever she gave me it was very, very strong.

Even though I was very out of it, the wait felt like forever. I probably waited about an hour before the nurse finally came back and I was wheeled in a chair into the surgery room. Everything gets very fuzzy and blurry at this point, I just remember laying back on the operating table and enjoying the blissful feeling of the drug.

***Do you remember the final moments before your castration? What were you thinking and feeling?***

I was aware of the urologist entering the surgery room, and it seemed like he got to work right away, and there was one other nurse in the operating room with him. It was very dream-like and with the strong sedative I don't remember having a care in the world. The urologist proceeded with my bilateral orchiectomy, making small incisions on either side of my scrotum, removing my left and right testicles through the openings. The only clue I had when my testicles were finally removed is when I caught something in the corner of my eye, a surgical pan with a towel over it, the nurse was carrying it out of the room and I assume it contained my severed testicles.

***What did you think seeing your testicles carried away, your male organs being removed from your body?***

I recall feeling, "it's done, I'm castrated I got through the surgery..." and I knew that my parents and my doctors would be very proud of me for going through with the surgery.

***Do you consider yourself "cured" of homosexuality, how do you think about yourself? Do you still think about men or have any sexual thoughts or desires whatsoever?***

I am not homosexual or gay, I am asexual plain and simple. I still admire men and occasionally think about them, how they look and how they smell. I was born with homosexual desires, but without testosterone I have never had the desire to act upon my desires physically, nor do I have the capacity. My castration eliminated my erections, erotic thoughts, dreams, morning erections and masturbation completely within the first few months to a year.

***Do you ever have any romantic feelings towards men?***

I make no distinctions between friendship and romance — I want to be around people that I like, and I enjoy male companionship. I think it's OK for two men to have companionship, but I think actual homosexual activity, especially sodomy, is abhorrent. I pay for frequent massages from both men and women, so I suppose on some level this addresses my need for intimacy and physical contact.

***Have you ever had to go to therapy in your adult years to deal with feelings of isolation or loneliness?***

Those feelings were much tougher in my 30s and 40s, but I've always had plenty of friends and stayed active. I have no sexual feelings or desires, my castration pretty much eliminated that 100%. But as I said I still admire men for their appearance and how they smell, and I've felt that since as early as I can remember. And somehow my father must have sensed this, otherwise he wouldn't have gotten me into therapy and eventually have me castrated.

I've never really talked about this part of my castration with anybody except you, and I think it's important for men to understand how castration will change them physically and emotionally. It can eliminate your sex drive, but it doesn't change who you are. Dr. Johnson never told me my castration would "cure" my homosexuality, only help me control my sexual urges. And judging from the effect it had on me, I would call the procedure a success.

***Did you ever attempt to masturbate after your castration, either out of need or curiosity?***

No, not at all. Dr. Johnson had instructed me to stop masturbating a few months before my castration, so I never masturbated before or after my surgery. I was given techniques to block sexual thoughts out of my mind, such as playing a game or reading a book or solving a math problem.

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*I really enjoyed learning about Deans' castration and life story, and while I expected to find an embittered victim of abusive parents and doctors and therapists, I actually found the story of a young man who faced his situation bravely, accepted the treatment offered him, and never looked back. In the context of the era in which Dean's castration was performed I do think it was a viable (but lamentable) choice in the face of and many hundreds of other boys had to make this same choice or be forced into castration as well. This dark history is now mostly lost, and lives on only in the rare sharing of stories like Deans.*

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