







the novel and documentary illustrate that Orthodox Judaism emphasizes heterosexual marriage and procreation within the Orthodox community. The characters in the novel and individuals in the film also display a range of ways they establish coexistence either within their community or outside of their community. Individuals who live outside of an Orthodox community are able to be more open about their sexuality. However, the individuals who establish coexistence within their community typically keep their sexuality a secret. In *Disobedience*, Alderman uses Ronit and Esti, who are two gay Orthodox female characters, to outline how they are able to achieve coexistence. Ronit and Esti demonstrate they are able to achieve coexistence in their Orthodox community by redefining the Orthodox female gender roles that are typically expressed in their community. They also show how they achieve coexistence by either rejecting or accepting the idea that their Orthodox community rejects outside social and cultural influences. Also, these two female characters outline why they believe their Orthodox community can be seen as being male dominant and illustrate how this belief causes them difficulty achieving self-acceptance because they deal with feelings of guilt, self-hatred, and, in Esti's case an eating disorder. The documentary *Trembling Before G-d* also reveals how gay Orthodox Jews are able to achieve coexistence between these two parts of their identity. I believe the documentary suggests some individuals in the film use coexistence as an alternative because they claim their Orthodox communities view Orthodox sexuality as a subject that should be suppressed. Furthermore, since procreation is essential to Orthodoxy, I observe that sexual intercourse within Orthodoxy can be perceived as a tool that is used in order to help the survival of the Jewish community. Also, gay Orthodox Jews in the film use this alternative because they believe their community views their gay identity as a disease, and as something that needs a cure. Due to these perceptions, several individuals in the film are unable to achieve self-acceptance because they are unable to receive acceptance from their family and from their Orthodox community. I believe it is important to examine the coexistence between one's gay identity and Orthodox identities because it demonstrates how coexistence is possible through one's desire to be dedicated to two parts of their identity that may previously have been perceived as unable to coexist.

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