

AGING AS LGBT



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TINA

JACKIE

TWO STORIES

Imagine that Tina and Jackie were born in the same Virginia town in 1947. This timeline starkly illustrates how different Jackie's life is, growing up as an LGBT person in the later 20th century.

		1947 Tina and Jackie are both born in Virginia.
		1953 NATIONAL: President Dwight Eisenhower signs executive order prohibiting "homosexuals" from working in the federal government.
		1959 At school, Jackie is bullied for being gender non-conforming, is frequently disciplined by teachers, and decides not to go to college.
		1962 Jackie's family sends her to her church pastor for harmful conversion therapy.
		1966 Tina goes to college to study history. Jackie starts work at a factory because she lacks other education or job training.
		1967 Tina meets Frank. Jackie meets Frances.
		1969 Tina and Frank get married. Tina puts the photo on her desk at the library where she works. Jackie doesn't talk about Frances at work and can't put up a photo.
		1969 NATIONAL: LGBT people protest police raids of bars and clubs, including the Stonewall bar in New York City. This becomes the movement known as Pride.
		1973 Tina and Frank have a baby. Tina takes a short time off. Frances' family stops talking to her when they learn that she and Jackie are a couple.
		1973 NATIONAL: Homosexuality no longer considered a psychological disorder by the American Psychological Association. Maryland becomes the first state to ban the freedom to marry for same-sex couples.
		1974 Frank gets a raise. Tina and Frank buy a house.
		1976 Jackie applies for a managerial position and is fired when a coworker sees her out with Frances and tells the boss. She takes a lower wage job at another factory.
		1981 Jackie and Frances are evicted from their apartment for living together. They have no savings to buy a house, so Frances rents another apartment alone, and Jackie moves in later.
		1981 NATIONAL: The AIDS crisis reaches desperate measures as groups form to demand support from state and federal governments.
		1985 Frances adopts her brother's child when he dies. Jackie cannot adopt the child, so she has no legal parenting rights although she co-parents.
		1993 NATIONAL: President Bill Clinton enacts "Don't Ask Don't Tell".
		1993 Frank and Frances are each briefly hospitalized. Tina can visit Frank and make medical decisions for him. When Jackie tries to visit Frances, the hospital tells her that only family is allowed in the room.
		1996 NATIONAL: President Bill Clinton passes the federal Defense of Marriage Act.
		2000 NATIONAL: Vermont becomes first state to permit civil unions for same-sex couples.
		2003 NATIONAL: The U.S. Supreme Court overturns state laws criminalizing same-sex sexual conduct in Lawrence v Texas.
		2004 NATIONAL: Massachusetts becomes first state to permit marriages for same-sex couples.
		2013 Frank and Frances retire. Tina elects to take Social Security spousal benefits and knows she will have access to Frank's pension should he die. Jackie is denied Social Security spousal benefits and cannot be listed as a spouse for Frances' pension.
		2013 NATIONAL: The U.S. Supreme Court overturns the federal Defense of Marriage Act, allowing the federal government to recognize the marriages from states that permit same-sex marriages.
		2015 Frank and Frances die. Tina makes funeral arrangements and gets the Social Security death benefit. She inherits the house, no problem. Jackie is not legally allowed to make funeral arrangements for Frances and watches as Frances' distant cousin steps in. Since she also cannot receive Social Security death or survivor benefits or Frances' pension, Jackie now struggles to make ends meet.
		2015 NATIONAL: The U.S. Supreme Court rules that state bans against the freedom to marry are unconstitutional, permitting same-sex couples to get married in any U.S. state.
		2016 Tina receives caretaking support from her children and pays for in-home care with her Social Security survivor benefits and funds from Frank's pension. Jackie is denied Social Security survivor benefits and Frances' pension. The apartment was rented in Frances' name, and Virginia lacks nondiscrimination protections in housing, so she is evicted when she tries to change the lease into her name. Ailing, and without an extended family or the funds for in-home care, Jackie moves into a nursing home. She cannot afford much, so she relies on her Medicaid to pay for it. She fears discrimination if she shares stories about her past, so she doesn't bring any photos of Frances. Her son visits, but cannot make medical decisions for her because they lack a legal relationship.