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Maurice's Love

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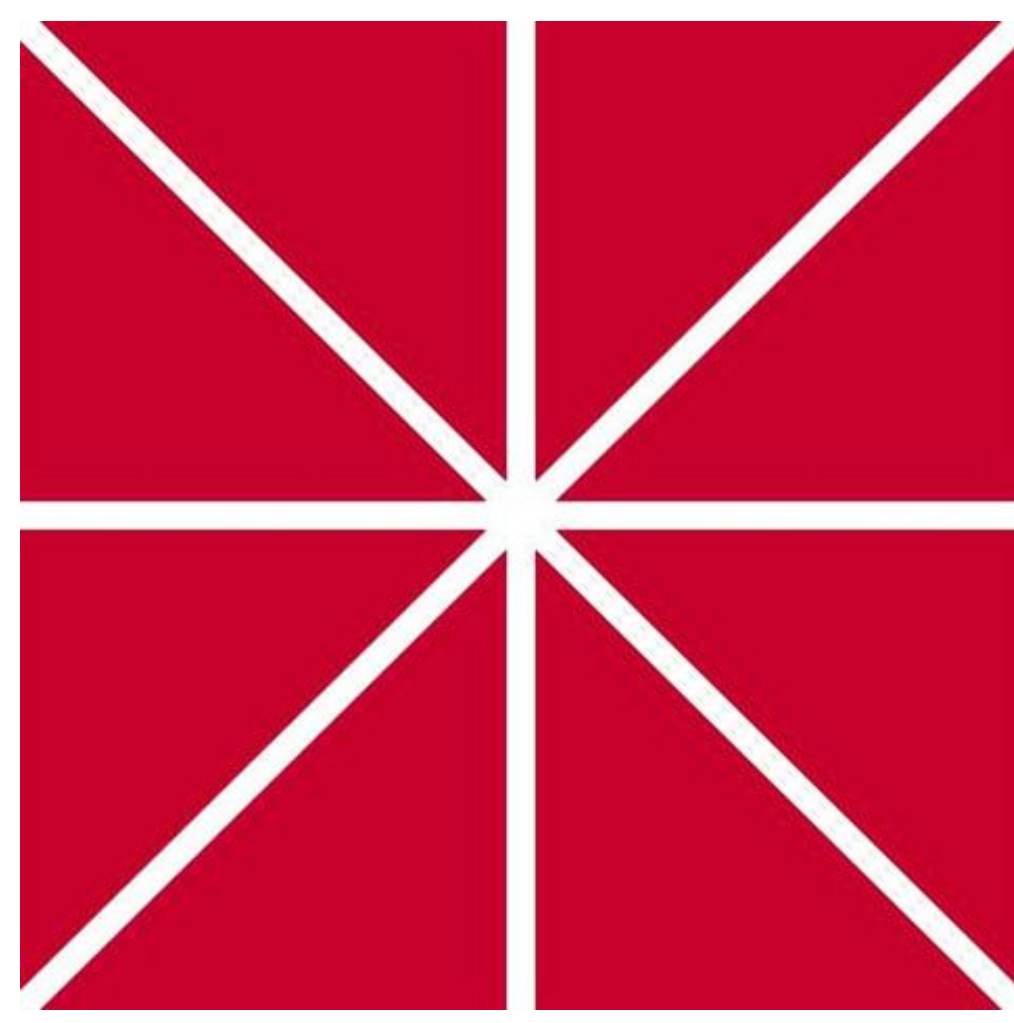


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Maurice's Love

Peggy Wood

Dr. Myron Yeager, Faculty Advisor

Wilkinson College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Part 1: Developing Sexuality

The Play Years

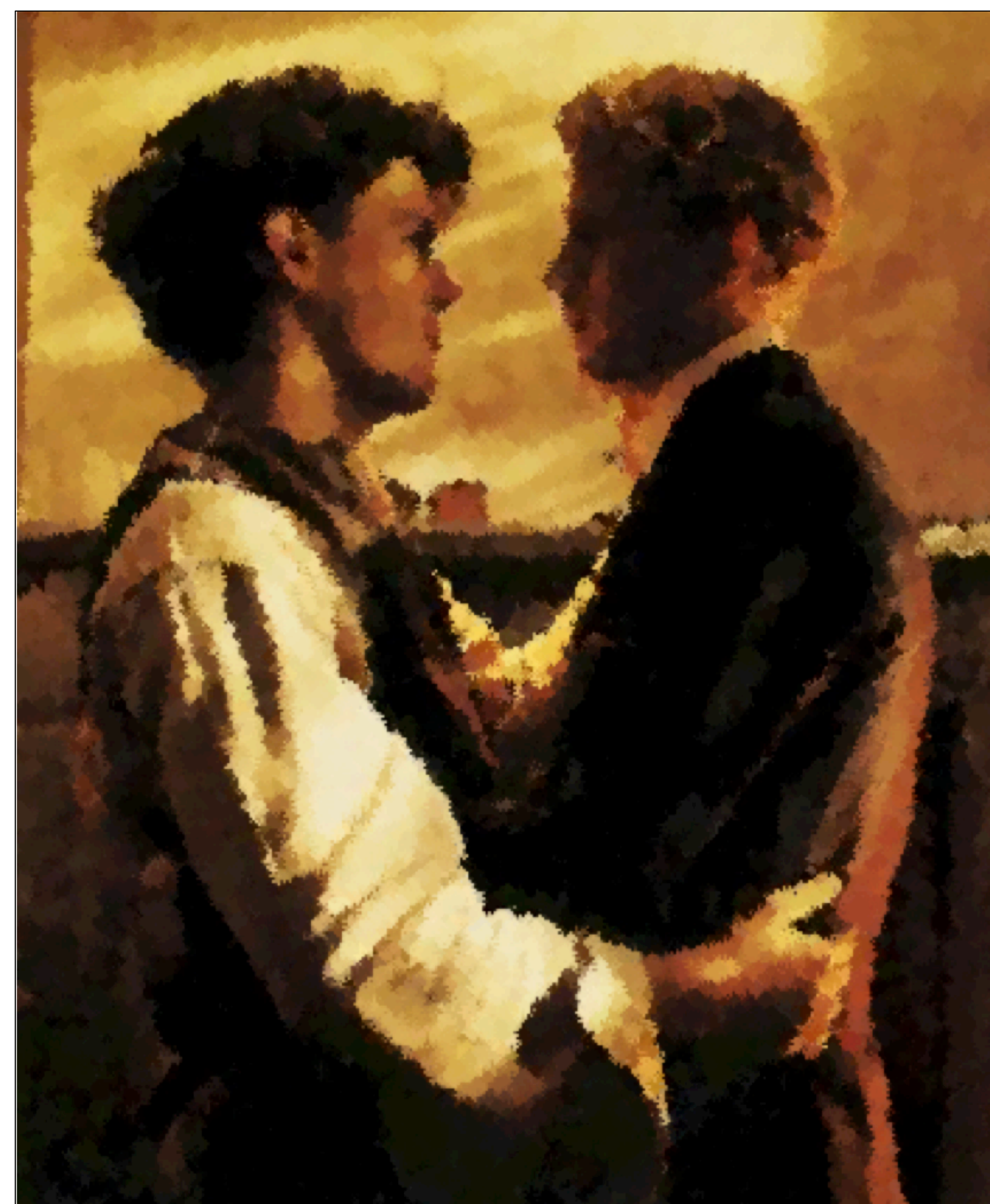
- ✎ Ages between 2 and 6 – develop the Self-Concept (Berger 274-277).
- ✎ Maurice, despite being too young to know about sex or sexual attraction has developed a preference for other boys; after Mr. Ducie gives him a speech on puberty and sex, he thinks that the man has not told him anything relevant.

Adolescence

- ✎ Ages between 8 and 19 – Self-Concept matures – Sexual identity takes shape (Lamana, Riedmann, and Strahm; Ridge and Ziebland; Rasmussen; Berger).
- ✎ Maurice struggles with his developing sexuality; he has dreams that he hides for fear of social rejection and can only show affection through bullying due to the culture.

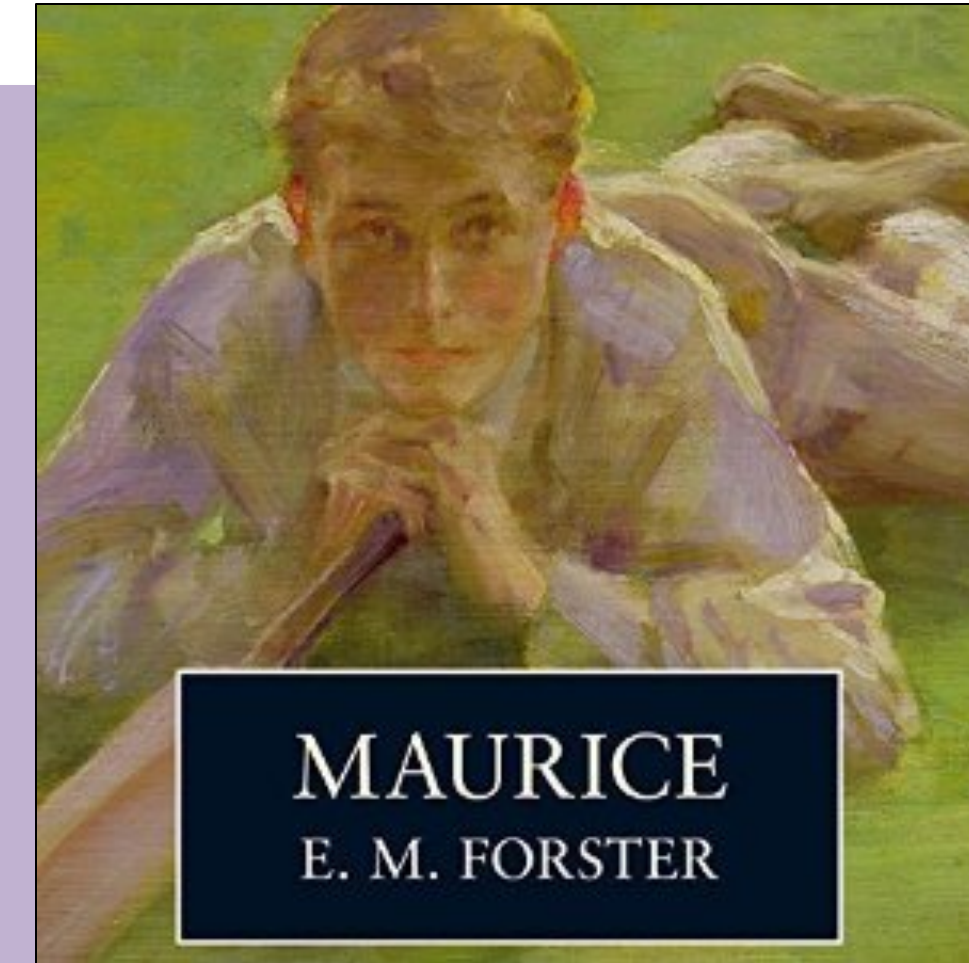
Young Adulthood

- ✎ Ages between 19 and 27 (some sources say 18-24) – Sexual identity is understood and developed (Berger; Ridge and Ziebland).
- ✎ Maurice struggles to fit in with the hegemony; he fully develops his sexual identity and begins a relationship with Clive.



(Maurice and Clive)

"I'm an unspeakable of the Oscar Wilde sort" (Forster Kindle Location 1667).



(Audible Cover)

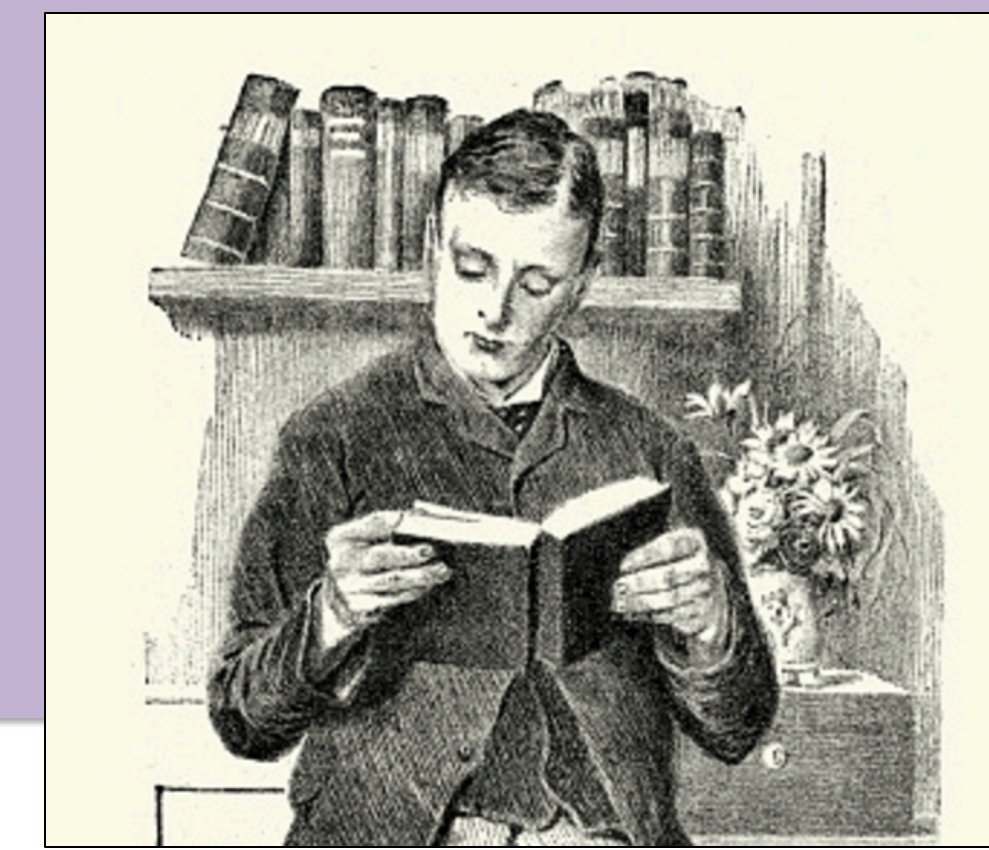
Context:

- ✎ *Maurice*, by E. M. Forster, is a widely read and taught text that features homosexuality in Edwardian England.
- ✎ "Written during 1913 and 1914, immediately after *Howards End*, and not published until 1971, *Maurice* was ahead of its time" in showing how difficult and frightening the coming out experience can be, but also shows that "love between men can be happy" ("Maurice").

"By linking their love to the past he linked it to the present" (Forster Kindle Location 745).

Thesis:

By examining the work in modern terms and a contemporary understanding of the human psychology behind the developing main character, for the purpose of understanding that the coming out experience has not changed much in the last hundred years, *Maurice* offers an analysis of what is an almost universal experience for many queer and homosexual youths that struggle with their sexuality.



(Young Victorian man reading a book, 1894)

Part 2: Coming Out

Pressures:

- ✎ **Society**
 - ❖ Then: Homosexuality was a punishable crime (Dohrenwend; BBC News).
 - ❖ Now: While it is no longer a crime in England, there are still many countries where it is (BBC News).
- ✎ **Family and Friends**
 - ❖ Then: Homosexual individuals could be institutionalized by their family, as it was considered a form of mental illness (Dohrenwend).
 - ❖ Now: Homosexuality is no longer considered a mental illness; but fear of being seen differently, rejected, or disregarded by those around individuals that want to come out is still prevalent; this fear of reject is more often felt toward friends, peers, and family then toward society as a whole, which often leads the individual to distance themselves from other people.

Maurice's Coming Out Experience:

- ✎ **Society**
 - ❖ Maurice does not come out to the society as a whole but does reveal himself to Dr. Barry, an old family friend, and Mr. Lasker Jones, a therapist, in hopes of finding a cure for his sexuality.
- ✎ **Family and Friends**
 - ❖ The only son of an upper-middle class family, Maurice was under pressure to conform to society's standards; "Get married quickly and forget" (Forster Kindle Location 678).
 - ❖ Maurice does not come out to his family, but there is suspect that his mother knows.
 - ❖ Maurice comes out to Clive twice, both times after accepting his sexual identity.
 - ❖ Maurice comes out to Alec Scudder.



(Maurice and Clive)

Part 3: Parallels

Part 1 and Part 3: Maurice's Sexual Identity

- ✎ Part 1: Developing Sexuality
 - ❖ Maurice transitions through the early stages of life and then develops and accepts his sexual identity, which is revealed by his confession to Clive.
- ✎ Part 3: Struggling with Developed Sexuality
 - ❖ Maurice struggles with his sexuality: he seeks to change it; fails in doing so; then accepts his sexual identity once more, as seen with his final confession to Clive.



(Maurice and Clive)



(Maurice and Scudder)

Part 2 and Part 4: Maurice's Love

- ✎ Part 2: Clive Durham
 - ❖ Due to Clive's confession, Maurice is able to examine and fully develop his sexual identity.
- ✎ Part 4: Alec Scudder
 - ❖ Due to Alec's confrontation, Maurice is able to examine his struggles and fully accept his sexual identity.

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