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"Josh's journey is one of perseverance and a beacon to so many other young people. Putting those feelings into words is a gift of youth."

-Roy Wood Jr.- Former 'The

"What a wonderful, sweet story. It's a must-read for all."

-Thom Hartmann, American Idol

"Josh's account of his journey is so different while recognizing the importance of being true to oneself. It recognizes queer people and not the shadows."

-Olivia Hill, Councilmember

"Something so relatable and inspiring starts at home. This is a book that we all are!"

-Stacy Layne Matthews

Media Kit!

www.colemanjosh.com/findingmyrainbow

Hello
I'm Josh



ABOUT JOSH

Josh Coleman is a distinguished advocate for social justice and LGBTQ+ rights, serving as the Deputy Director of the Division of Social Justice and Racial Equity in Birmingham's Mayor's Office. His pioneering role as the city's first LGBTQ+ Liaison and leadership in Central Alabama Pride highlight his commitment to inclusivity.

Notably, Josh also contributes his expertise as a member of the Democratic National Committee, amplifying his impact on democratic values and advocacy. His academic pursuits in political science and public administration further underscore his dedication to public service and community engagement.

He lives in Birmingham, Alabama with his fiancé and their two Yorkies.

New Children's Book "Finding My Rainbow: A Journey of Courage, Acceptance, and Pride" Shines a Light on LGBTQ+ Acceptance

Birmingham, AL - In an inspiring addition to children's literature, "Finding My Rainbow: A Journey of Courage, Acceptance, and Pride" by debut author Josh Coleman offers a heartfelt story of a young boy's journey to self-acceptance. Set against the backdrop of Cullman, Alabama, this poignant narrative invites readers into the life of Josh, a boy grappling with his identity in a community where his truth is not widely accepted.

Through Josh's eyes, readers will experience the emotional rollercoaster of realizing one's true self, the fear of rejection, and the power of acceptance. Josh's story is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, the importance of being true to oneself, and the transformative power of love and support.

Drawing from personal experiences, Coleman crafts a narrative that is both unique and universal, touching on the challenges faced by those in the LGBTQ+ community, particularly in regions known for their conservative values. This book not only aims to offer solace and understanding to children navigating their own paths of self-discovery but also serves as a crucial conversation starter about diversity, acceptance, and the beauty of being who you are.

"Finding My Rainbow" is not just a story about coming out but a celebration of life, love, and the pursuit of happiness. It highlights the importance of community, the value of supportive family and friends, and the courage it takes to live openly and authentically.

Josh Coleman, an advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and President of Central Alabama Pride, brings authenticity and passion to the story. With his deep commitment to fostering understanding and acceptance, Coleman's narrative is a beacon of hope for young readers and a reminder of the vibrant spectrum of humanity.

"Finding My Rainbow" is a must-read for families, educators, and allies, offering a powerful message of courage, acceptance, and pride. It is a vibrant contribution to LGBTQ+ literature and a meaningful tool in the ongoing fight for equality and understanding.

Available now at bookstores and online, "Finding My Rainbow" is poised to become a cherished resource for sparking discussions on identity, love, and acceptance in homes and classrooms across the country.

For more information, to request a review copy, or to schedule an interview with Josh Coleman, please contact:

info@ironcitycommunications.com

BOOK PRAISE

“This book seized my heart with its deeply inspirational nature, making it ideal for individuals at the dawn of new journeys. It shines as a guiding light, offering direction and encouragement to those charting their own courses.”

-Willam, RuPaul’s Drag Race Star, Actor, and Author

“Josh’s journey is one of perseverance & resilience that eventually became a testament and beacon to so many other people who came up being treated as outcasts themselves. Putting those feelings into words is always essential in helping the next generation of youth.”

-Roy Wood Jr.- Former ‘The Daily Show’ Correspondent and Birmingham native.

“What a wonderful, sweet story! Share it widely!”

-Thom Hartmann, America’s #1 progressive talk show host and New York Times bestselling author.

“Josh’s account of his journey is not unlike my own. At an early age, he knew he was different while recognizing it might not be safe for him to share his truth. This is an important book for kids who just want to live their lives happily and healthily. It recognizes queer people are valid, valuable humans who deserve to live in the light, not the shadows.”

-Olivia Hill, Councilmember At-Large, Nashville City Council, and first out transgender person elected to office in Tennessee

"Something so relatable. From a small town or even a big city. Josh's experience is something we all need to hear, never knowing whose heart it could touch. Acceptance starts at home. Then everything will fall into place. Like a beautiful rainbow that we all are!"

-Stacy Layne Matthews- RuPaul’s Drag Race Star

“Finding My Rainbow by Josh Coleman can be a wonderful tool to give a young person who is coming of age and questioning their gender identity. It’s written with honesty and deep awareness of his journey to acceptance through difficult times.”

-Ann Walker- Actress, Activist, and Advocate

AUTHOR Q&A

Q1: What inspired you to write "Finding My Rainbow"?

A1: I was inspired by the real-life stories of young people grappling with their identity in small towns across America. My journey is a composite of courage, acceptance, and the universal search for belonging. It's a tribute to anyone who has ever felt different and a reminder that there's a place for everyone in this world.

Q2: Josh's character is incredibly relatable. Is he based on a real person?

A2: While the story is classified as fiction, Josh and his emotions, struggles, and triumphs are drawn from my real experiences. He embodies the spirit of many young individuals facing the challenge of coming out in less accepting environments. Josh represents the bravery it takes to live authentically.

Q3: The setting of Cullman, Alabama, is quite specific. How did your personal connection to this place shape the narrative?

A3: My connection to Cullman is deep—it's where I grew up and where I faced many of the challenges Josh encounters. The town, with its beauty and its complexities, is almost another character in the story. It represents both the comfort of home and the fear of rejection. Using Cullman as the backdrop was my way of acknowledging that our environments play a significant role in our journeys to acceptance and pride.

Q4: "Finding My Rainbow" addresses heavy themes with optimism. How did you balance this?

A4: It was important to convey hope and the possibility of acceptance, even in the face of adversity. By focusing on Josh's growth, the support he finds, and the changes he inspires, the story celebrates the positive impact of love and courage over fear and prejudice.

Q5: Was there a specific moment from your life that inspired Josh's journey, and how did you decide to include it in the book?

A5: Yes, the moment Josh decides to come out to his cousin Stacey was directly inspired by my own experience. It was a turning point for me, filled with vulnerability and the fear of the unknown. Deciding to include this in the book felt crucial—it was the moment Josh (and I) chose courage over fear, which I believe is a significant step in anyone's journey toward self-acceptance.

Q6: The book concludes with Josh becoming a beacon of hope. How does this reflect your aspirations or accomplishments in real life?

A6: Josh's evolution into an advocate and role model mirrors my own aspirations and, to some extent, my real-life efforts to make a difference. It's a reminder to myself and others that our stories have the power to inspire change and foster a more accepting society.

SAMPLE INTERVIEW

Interviewer: Writing such a personal story must have been an emotional process. What helped you through it?

Josh: It was indeed emotional, but also healing in many ways. What helped me through was knowing the potential impact Josh's story could have. I leaned on my own experiences of finding support in unexpected places and the strength that comes from living authentically. I also drew inspiration from the LGBTQ+ community's resilience and the allies who stand with us.

Interviewer: Were there moments when you hesitated to share certain parts of your story through Josh?

Josh: Absolutely. There were parts that felt like reopening old wounds. I questioned how much of my vulnerability I was ready to expose. Ultimately, the desire to offer a story that could resonate with others facing similar struggles gave me the courage to be as open and honest as possible.

Interviewer: How has the reaction to "Finding My Rainbow" influenced your view of your own journey?

Josh: The reaction has been overwhelmingly positive, which has been incredibly affirming. It's helped me see my journey not just as a series of personal obstacles, but as a narrative that can inspire and comfort others. It's a powerful reminder that sharing our stories can connect us in profound ways, encouraging others to embrace their own rainbows.

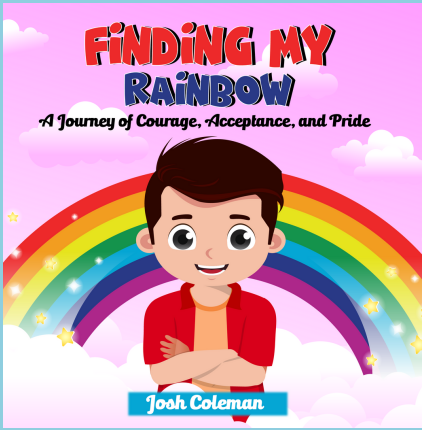
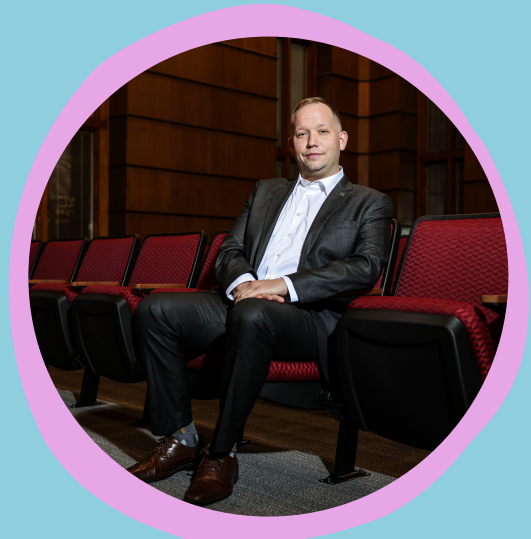
Interviewer: In sharing your story, what's the main message you hope readers will take away?

Josh: I hope readers, especially those who see themselves in Josh, take away a sense of hope and the understanding that they're not alone. My main message is one of courage, acceptance, and pride—not just in who we love, but in who we are. I want readers to know that it's possible to find or create a supportive community and that their personal rainbow is something to celebrate and cherish.

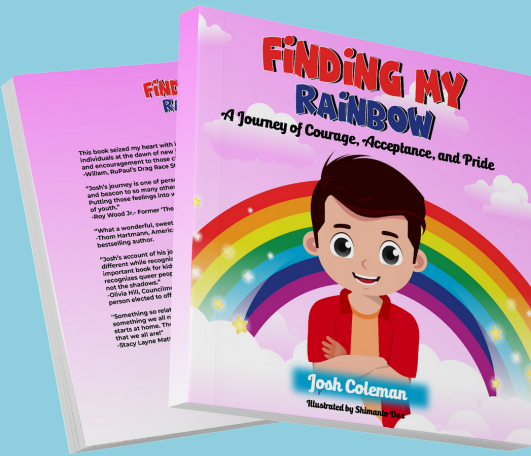
Interviewer: Finally, what advice would you give to someone who's struggling to find their own rainbow?

Josh: My advice would be to take it one day at a time and to remember that your journey is yours alone—no one else's timeline matters. Seek out stories that resonate with you, find safe spaces where you can be authentic, and surround yourself with people who support you unconditionally. Know that it's okay to be scared, but also know that there's a community waiting to welcome you with open arms. Your rainbow is out there, and it's beautiful.

ASSETS AND CONTACT



NOW AVAILABLE FOR PREORDER
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FROM AUTHOR JOSH COLEMAN



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