



Two Spirits, One Heart

*A Mother, Her Transgender Son,
and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance*

by MARSHA AIZUMI with AIDEN AIZUMI

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In *Two Spirits, One Heart*, Marsha Aizumi shares her compelling story of parenting a young woman who came out as a lesbian, then transitioned to male. This inspiring memoir chronicles Marsha's personal journey from fear, uncertainty, and sadness to eventual unconditional love, acceptance, and support of her child who struggled to reconcile his gender identity. Told with honesty and warmth, this book is a must-read for parents and loved ones of LGBT individuals everywhere. *Two Spirits, One Heart* will be released September 18, 2012.

About Marsha



Marsha is an educator and advocate for the LGBT community, a cause she embraced due in large part to the harassment and bullying her son experienced throughout high school. Marsha partnered with the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center's LifeWorks program and Opportunities for Learning Public Charter Schools in order to help bring a safe and nurturing high school diploma program to students who face bullying at their local high schools. Marsha also serves on the Parents, Families, and Friends for Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) National Board of Directors. In this role, she hopes to change school culture to be more accepting of all students, as well as bring greater resources to the Asian Pacific Islander and transgender communities.

About Aiden



Aiden Takeo Aizumi was born in Japan on May 24, 1988. Adopted by Tad and Marsha Aizumi, who named their baby Ashley Akemi Aizumi, he lived as a female for the first twenty years of his life. Coming out as a lesbian in high school, he experienced bullying and harassment almost daily and was diagnosed agoraphobic with panic attacks. Unable to attend school due to his agoraphobia, Aiden barely finished high school. Transitioning to male, however, Aiden blossomed into a committed activist. In 2010, he was honored as a youth leader with the Paul A. Anderson award from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. He has served on The Trevor Project Youth Advisory Council. Aiden currently attends college and is interested in pursuing a bachelor's degree in social work or education.

Endorsements

"Marsha and Aiden's moving story of confronting and overcoming fear – and of the love and deeper bond that emerge between a mother and her son because of that profound journey – shows how all families can accept each other's humanity. I was deeply inspired by the honesty, awareness, and healing found in these pages."

— **Rea Carey, Executive Director, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force**

"It will make you feel empowered to be yourself, to be an ally, and to be a supportive mother, father, parent, or guardian to your transgender child who is, most importantly, still your child."

— **Phoenix Schneider, MSW, Mentor, Activist, Program Director with The Trevor Project**

"*Two Spirits, One Heart* is a beautiful story of love, discovery, and acceptance from a courageous and dedicated mother."

— **Steven Krantz, Director, Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)
Southern Pacific Region and National Board Member**

"I wish this were required reading for every parent as it is a roadmap to acceptance, compassion, and unconditional love for one's child no matter who or what they turn out to be."

— **Michael Ferrera, Director of LifeWorks at the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center**

Endorsements

"Two Spirits, One Heart is an honest and open look into a mother's heart and mind on the journey with her child's transition from female to male. Marsha and Aiden's story is one of struggle, compassion, and the real meaning of unconditional love."

— **Terry Stone, Executive Director, Centerlink: The Community of LGBT Centers**

"Her story poignantly illustrates the spiritual wisdom that beyond the labels "lesbian," "FTM," and "Asian" lies a child that longs for the unconditional love of a mother."

— **Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong, Pastor of First Unitarian Church of Honolulu, HI**

"A must read for any loving parent who is struggling with the gender identity or sexual orientation of their own child."

— **Darrin Wilstead, Mentoring & Alumni Program Director, Point Foundation**

"As a physician, I was so deeply moved by Aiden's "coming out" letter to his family and friends that I asked his permission to share it with another patient unable to express himself so elegantly. . . This is an inspirational book that should be mandatory reading for all high school, college, and medical students."

— **M. Kathleen Jones, M.D. Internal Medicine, Arcadia, CA**



VIDEO INTERVIEW WITH MARSHA

<http://www.leewind.org/2012/05/pflag-mom-marsha-aizumi-is-changing.html>

THE HUFFINGTON POST

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/marsha-aizumi/ally-week-2011_b_1016615.html

GLAAD

<http://www.glaad.org/blog/marsha-and-aiden-aizumi-speak-about-family-and-lgbt-youth-advocacy>

PFLAG – GUEST BLOG

<http://blog.pflag.org/2012/05/she-brings-honor-to-our-family-and-that.html>

WINDY CITY TIMES

<http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/ARTICLE.php?AID=30654>

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

<http://articles.latimes.com/2010/feb/01/local/la-me-newschool2-2010feb02>

Marsha Online

For more information about Marsha and
Two Spirits, One Heart please visit
www.marshaaizumi.com

Read the first chapter of *Two Spirits, One Heart*
www.scribd.com/maizumi/d/96491343-Two-Spirits-One-Heart-Chapter-1



www.marshaaizumi.blogspot.com



www.facebook.com/pages/Two-Spirits-One-Heart/150369528331213

Two Spirits, One Heart will be released September 18, 2012 at booksellers everywhere.

Booking & Contact



*To book an event or interview, contact
Marsha Aizumi.*

Non-Profit Organizations:
\$300 minimum honorarium, excluding
travel expenses. Rate is negotiable.

For-Profit Organizations:
Rate is negotiable.

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We hope to hear from you soon!

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