WILL COLE – Writer & Educator

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Award-winning author and instructor who leverages the combined power of topical expertise, lived experience, and storytelling into education, writing, and public health practice.

BOOKS UNDER CONTRACT

Cole, Will. *Your Trans Cousin: Science, Stories, and the Joy of Becoming*. Johns Hopkins University Press. Under contract; publication date forthcoming.

PUBLICATIONS

"Like Father, Like Son," in *Queer and Trembling: Stories of LGBTQ+ Religious Trauma*, Lucas F.W. Wilson, ed. Jessica Kingsley Publishers. Publication date forthcoming.

"Bad Decisions Will," in *Bad Sex: Writers on Laying Themselves Bare*, Cathy Alter (ed), Sante Fe Writers Project, forthcoming Sep 2027

"How Does a Recovering People Pleaser Know What They Want in Bed?" *Cosmo*, 2026

"The Aspens Quaked Their Whispers in the Wind," *Portland Review*, 2026

"Blurred Borders in Goodall's Footsteps," *The Science Writer*, Vol. 9, 2025

"Confessions of a Toddler," *Jarnal*, Mason Jar Press, Vol. 4, 2025, Monarch Queer Literary Award Nominee, 2026

"Relinquishing the Baggage from My First Marriage," *Open Secrets Magazine*, Pushcart Prize Nominee, 2025

"After Panic Attacks in Houses of Worship, I Recognize the Extent of My Religious Trauma," *Another Jane Pratt Thing*, 2025

"He's My Mom," *Another Jane Pratt Thing*, 2025

"I'm Trans—And JK Rowling Saved My Life," *Another Jane Pratt Thing*, 2025

"Now that I'm a Man, What Do I Do with This Painting of Me as a Bride?" *Another Jane Pratt Thing*, 2025

"Getting Rid of the Breasts that were Never Really Mine—A Visual Timeline," *Another Jane Pratt Thing*, 2025

"A Tale of Two Trans Princes," The Queer Love Project, 2025

"Don't Say Gay," *Baltimore Fishbowl*, 2023

"You're Such a Man," *Welter Online*, 2020

WRITING AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

David Everett Award for Outstanding Thesis (Nonfiction), 2026

Pushcart Prize Nominee, 2025

Monarch Queer Literary Award Nominee, 2026

EDUCATION

MA in Writing (Nonfiction) — Johns Hopkins University, 2026

PhD in International Health — Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, 2013

MPH in Social & Behavioral Sciences — Yale University, 2009

MA in African Studies — Yale University MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, 2009

BA in International Studies & History — Brigham Young University, 2001

READINGS & STORYTELLING EVENTS

Featured Reader, Wilde Monthly Reading Series, HoCoPoLitSo, Columbia, MD (Nov 2026)

Excerpts from *A Light in Outer Darkness*, Baltimore, MD (Jul 2026)

"The Aspens Quaked Their Whispers in the Wind," AWP JHU Writing Program Reading, Baltimore, MD (Mar 2026)

"Confessions of a Toddler," *Jarnal* launch, Baltimore, MD (Nov 2025)

"And It Came to Pass," Mortified, Baltimore, MD & Washington, DC (Jun 2024), Monkton, MD (Nov 2025), Mortified/Story District Collab, Washington, DC (Jun 2026)

"He's My Mom," Spilled Milk: Stories about Motherhood, Books in Bloom Festival, Columbia, MD (May 2025)

"The Shape of Me," Story District & OUT/Spoken, Washington, DC (May 2025); Joy Collective, Baltimore (Oct 2025)

TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Yale Writers' Workshop (Mary Collins, Nonfiction), 2026

Writer's Digest University, Submission Coaching (Amy Collins, 2026)

Nonfiction Writing Master Classes with Melissa Petro, 2025, 2026

Narratively Academy Workshops (Kavita Das, Kern Carter, Melissa Petro, Lorraine Allen), 2024-2025

Stanford Online, Writing in the Sciences, 2023

Principles and Practices in Curriculum Development (Two-Day Online Intensive), 2020

SELECTED PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP & MEDIA

Your Trans Cousin Newsletter (Substack). Various educational essays on trans health and interpreting scientific evidence. 2025-present. https://substack.com/@transcousin

Gender IQ Podcast. Jun 2025. Part 1 & Part 2.

The Johns Hopkins #100 Alumni Voices Project. Dr. Will Beckham Cole, PhD in International Public Health | Director of Research Projects at The Trevor Project. Apr 21, 2023. Available to read and to listen

LGBTQ+ Narratives in Academia. LGBTQ Life Office. Movie Shorts on YouTube. Jul 14, 2022. Available at Video 1; Video 2 and Video 3

TEACHING AWARDS

Excellence in Teaching Award, JHBSPH, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2024, 2025, 2026

LEADERSHIP

Joy Collective, Storytelling for Community Change. Collaboration between Johns Hopkins, Georgetown, and Morgan State. 2025.

Treasurer, Baltimore Safe Haven, Board of Directors. Baltimore, Maryland. Volunteer. 2024-2026.

Co-Director of Research, Trans Maryland. Baltimore, Maryland. Volunteer. 2026-present.