

WILL COLE

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Creative nonfiction writer whose memoir essays reckon with layered identity, the embodied cost of self-erasure, and the long arc of queer self-discovery. After a girlhood in a large Mormon family marked by all-consuming religious devotion and marriage at nineteen, the now middle-aged Cole navigates masculinity, family, and dating as a queer, transgender man.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

“The Aspens Quaked Their Whispers in the Wind,” *Portland Review*, February 2026

“Blurred Borders in Goodall’s Footsteps,” *The Science Writer*, Vol. 9, 2025

“Confessions of a Toddler,” *Jarnal*, Mason Jar Press, Vol. 4, 2025

“Relinquishing the Baggage from My First Marriage,” *Open Secrets Magazine*, 2025, Pushcart Prize Nominee 2026

“My Changing Relationship with My Son as I Transitioned: ‘He’s My Mom,’” *Another Jane Pratt Thing*, 2025

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

“Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS” in *Health and Wellbeing: A Report of the 2022 U.S. Transgender Survey*. Advocates for Trans Equality, 2025

“Don’t Say Gay,” *Baltimore Fishbowl*, 2023

“You’re Such a Man,” *Welter Online*, 2020

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Pushcart Prize Nominee (2026)

SELECT WRITING WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Selected for the Yale Writers’ Workshop (Nonfiction), 2026

Nonfiction Writing Master Class with Melissa Petro, 2025

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

Stanford Online — Writing in the Sciences, 2023

SELECT READINGS & STORYTELLING EVENTS

“[He’s My Mom](#),” Spilled Milk: Stories about Motherhood, Columbia, MD (2025)

“[The Shape of Me](#),” Story District & OUT/Spoken, Washington, DC (2025)

“[And It Came to Pass](#),” Mortified, Baltimore, MD & Washington, DC (2024), Monkton, MD (2025)

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

SKILLS

Literary Nonfiction Writing | Science Writing | Memoir | Line Editing | Copyediting