

COMMUNITY

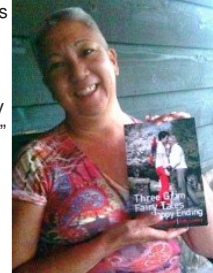
Call her 'Mama.' An ATL mom's 'Fairy Tales'

By Mike Fleming | Jul 6, 2010 | 12:24 PM

Share

Like 27 people like this.

Debi Lowry stands out in gay Atlanta. Not because she's sometimes the only straight woman in a room, but because "Mama Deb" is such an entrenched part of the scene with such a big heart. She gets the spotlight **Wednesday at Outwrite** with her new book for parents and their LGBT children.



Lowry (photo) can be spotted about town at gay events and clubs just as easily as she can be found advocating for LGBT equality with her presence at rallies, parties and fundraisers. Those fortunate enough to meet her also know she's a sweetheart. "Mama Deb" is a moniker she wears proudly.

Now "Three Grim Fairy Tales and a Happy Ending" puts Lowry's mother love and hope for gay children into writing.

"This book celebrates the unconditional love between a parent and child," Lowry says. "As a mother of a gay son, I feel I have a social responsibility to stand up and support GLBT children everywhere."

"Fairy Tales" is meant as a catalyst for an initial—or a renewed—conversation between parents and their children about who they are. While she was an LGBT ally even before her son Ian, now grown, was born, Lowry knows that the coming out process is harder for some families.

"We have always had many friends in the GLBT community, so when our son, Ian, came to the realization that he was gay, he was very comfortable coming out to us," she says. "However, I know that there are many more GLBT sons and daughters who experience the opposite. Many are, if not totally abandoned by their family, without much visible support as they live their authentic lives."

Lowry learned first-hand about lives affected by society's definition of "normal" from her son Ian and his other gay friends. Some have shared their feelings of sadness, disappointment and sometimes anger with "Mama Deb" over their parents' inability or unwillingness to accept their child's sexual orientation or gender identity.

"[The book] is my attempt to encourage parents to take a different look at their gay children," she says, "and in doing so, my message does not just apply to gay children, but to all children who may not quite be what their parents expected."

The book is first and foremost a message to LGBT children who are afraid to lose the love of their parents or feel that they have already lost it. But being an openly accepting parent of a gay child is not easy, so Lowry's book is also for parents who encounter a broad range of reactions from fear to sympathy to disapproval.

The reading and signing at **Outwrite** is not just an opportunity to get the book, but a chance to meet the woman behind it and share in her support of LGBT causes. All of the royalties from the book will be donated to three LGBT causes: the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (**GLAAD**), plus the Atlanta-based **For the Kid in All of Us** and **CHRIS Kids**.

Lowry hopes to write a second book that includes conversations between parents and children that are sparked by reading "Three Grim Fairy Tales and a Happy Ending."

Add New Comment

DISQUS

Type your comment here.

Post as ...

Showing 0 comments

Sort by **Newest first** **Subscribe by email** **Subscribe by RSS**

Reactions

philiprafshoon 1 day ago

From **Twitter** via **BackType**

"Mama Deb" Lowry reads her new book at Outwrite Wednesday night <http://tinyurl.com/2dkoq34>

Trackback URL <http://disqus.com/forums/>

[blog comments powered by DISQUS](#)