Preface

This memoir chronicles my experiences from around age ten, when I first realized I was gay. Growing up wasn't always easy, but looking back now, it has made me the person I am today.

I'm Rex Malik, and I identify as a gay man using he/him pronouns. By age fourteen, I knew my sexual orientation, although I didn't come out to friends and family until sixteen.

Everything in this book is true to the best of my recollection. To protect people's privacy, I've changed all names to nicknames.

I started writing this memoir while traveling through Miami, Florida and have continued updating it every three to six months over the years. It was initially available online, but after that platform shut down, I began looking for new publishing options.

This year, I found a self-publishing company and did multiple rounds of editing to get the book ready for print. Although I had tried writing parts of this story before, this time the words flowed easily as I recounted my memories.

The few people who have read early drafts have responded positively. I hope that by sharing my experiences, this book provides insight into growing up gay and inspires others with similar stories. Join me as I reflect on the challenges and triumphs of discovering my true self.