

# **Wrestling with Desire**

*by D. H. Starr*

*Featherweight Press*

This book is primarily targeted for young adult gay males. It is written to appeal to teenagers; while I am not a teenager, I hope that many young people will read it.

In spite of the increasing awareness of gays, acceptance is still slow in coming in some venues. There is still a very strong assumption that jocks – especially high school jocks – are homophobic. As a result, young gay athletes are reluctant to disclose to their peers.

“Wrestling with Desire” is about Derek Thompson’s senior year of high school. He has learned to lock his real self away inside – he is deeply closeted, except for Beck, a senior girl who has been his best friend since they were children. When Scott Thayer shows up as a new senior student, Derek immediately takes close notice. Like Derek, Scott is a wrestler; both are varsity wrestlers for their high school, albeit in different weight classes. Through their senior year, they struggle with aspects of their desire for each other and their perceived need to be secret about their relationship.

Some things are universal. Mental “what if” scenarios often convince a person that they have made a mistake, that someone no longer likes them, or that their secret will be discovered. Derek’s and Scott’s inhibitions lead toward misunderstandings and heartbreak, while they each change and grow as individuals.