



## AUTHOR'S NOTE

Writing this book took me, a two-spirit person, back to my childhood. It was a time when I didn't understand what was going on inside me and didn't have anyone I could talk to about my feelings. There were no role models in my family, and I never saw myself reflected in any books or TV shows. I wanted Molly to have a different experience. *Circle of Love* is what I would have loved my childhood to have been like and what I hope it is like today for children and young people who identify as LGBTQ2S+.

The idea for this book initially came from the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, which was looking for a way to share the two-spirit teaching with children. I revere those initial visionaries who wanted a book for young people so that children could see their family members in a story. I am grateful to Morgan Thomas and Alessandra Angelino for their shepherding of this project from the very beginning. Much gratitude to the Elders, Marlon Fixico and Sadé Heart of the Hawk Ali, who helped guide the initial discussions and concept exploration.