

# **Alone in the Trenches**

*My Life as a Gay Man In The NFL*

*by Esera Tuaolo*

This is Esera Tuaolo's own searing story of his nine years playing in the NFL. A Samoan born to poverty on a Hawaiian banana plantation, he had a natural talent for football. He went on to play for five NFL teams, in the 1999 Super Bowl, and often sang "The Star Spangled Banner" before his games.

Yet during those nine euphoric years, he also lived in terror that when his face flashed on the TV screen, someone would expose his deepest secret. Esera Tuaolo is gay.

He divulges the inner world of NFL football with unflinching honesty, as only an insider can. He describes the fears that almost drove him to suicide and the strength he found in his Christian faith. Free of the secrets that nearly destroyed him, Tuaolo gives us a candid and intimate account of his years entrenched in the homophobic world of the NFL.

His story is both painful and hopeful, as Tuaolo emerges in this book as a complex, intellectually curious and fascinating individual defined neither by his choice of career nor by his sexual orientation.