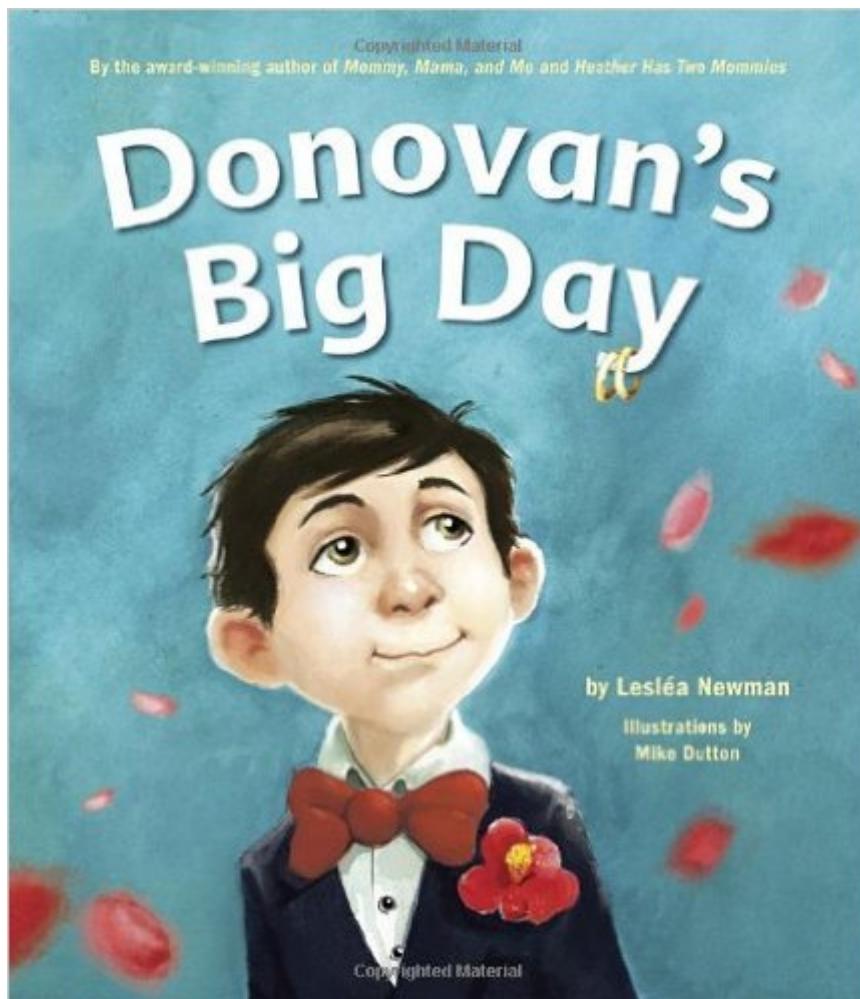


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# Donovan's Big Day



## **Synopsis**

Donovan's two moms are getting married, and he can't wait for the celebration to begin. After all, as ringbearer, he has a very important job to do. Any boy or girl with same-sex parentsâ "or who knows a same-sex coupleâ "will appreciate this picture book about love, family, and marriage.Â The story captures the joy and excitement of a wedding day while the illustrations show the happy occasion from a child's point of view.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 1540L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Tricycle Press (April 26, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1582463328

ISBN-13: 978-1582463322

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.4 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #120,708 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 inÂ Books > Gay & Lesbian > Parenting & Families #81 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Marriage & Divorce #479 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## **Customer Reviews**

Donovan's Big Day is a delightful story about a boy preparing for the wedding of his two moms. Unlike the author's classic Heather Has Two Mommies, which focused rather pedantically on a girl trying to understand why she doesn't have a dad, there are no "issues" here -- other than the problems any child might face while attending a wedding of any sort. He has to dress up, keep clean, and not fidget. Most of all, he has to make sure to hand his moms their rings at the proper moment. There is just enough light tension to keep young readers engaged as Donovan goes through each step of his preparations. Illustrator Mike Dutton's dynamic gouache drawings capture Donovan's earnest spirit with gentle humor. The book is also a celebration of wider family. Donovan stays with his grandparents the night before the wedding. His aunt and uncle drive him to the

ceremony, and he shares the back seat with his cousins. Upon arrival, there are more relatives and friends to kiss and compliment him. Any child participating in a wedding -- of either a same-sex or opposite-sex couple -- should enjoy Donovan's adventure and the spirit of joy it brings.

My two boys are 7 and 10 and both on the Autism Spectrum. Their sister was married last July, to a woman. I was worried for the longest time about how exactly to explain this to them in the best way possible. (They were also ring bearers) This book helped SO much! I highly recommend this book. It was so much help. Remember, just because a child doesn't ask questions doesn't mean they don't have a TON of them in their little heads!!

Donovan is super excited about his big day. I love how it builds up to what readers will finally realize is a family wedding. There's a lot of love and many warm fuzzies in this book that shows a boy excited about the marriage of his Mommy and Mama. I enjoyed the soft illustrations and how much expression is shown through the faces of the wedding participants, family and friends.

From the author of the pioneering children's book "Heather Has Two Mommies" comes a timely storybook for 4-7 year olds whose parent is about to enter a same-sex marriage, civil union or similar event commemorated by a ceremony. Donovan two moms are getting married, and he is made an integral part of the day's festivities as ring-bearer. The book stresses the continuity of Donovan's life before and after the ceremony, and portrays the day as a joyful experience to be shared with his family and friends. Excellent gift idea for gay or lesbian couples with small children, who may not often have the opportunity to see someone in their situation portrayed in a children's storybook. I pronounce it five stars out of five.- Bob Lind, Echo Magazine

I was worried this would be an "issue" book explaining marriage equality. Issue books are important and we've read quite a few of them, but often the stories and writing aren't that compelling outside of the lesson imparted. This book, though? A delight to read. Donovan has SO many responsibilities on the big day, and each step in getting ready is presented with subtle humor. My son shook his head a few times, kind of smiling, saying "I don't think you can do all of those things! Not guaranteed 100%!" He was also pretty pleased with himself that he guessed early on what kind of big day it was. (The child loves attending weddings. Mostly because of the cake.) The art is just beautiful and I teared up during the wedding ceremony... just like I do at real weddings!

My Review: When you start to read this book you wonder why Donovan is getting so excited and what is this BIG job he has to do on this BIG day? He went about his chores by racing down the stairs to feed his dog Sheba, eat breakfast and then rush to clean himself up. He got dressed in his new jacket. He had a little white satin box which he had to look after and don't loose. The minute he heard his uncle Gregory honk the horn he came flying out of the house into the backseat. Donovan was so excited he dash through the crowded room to take his place beside his family. And when it was time he took out the little white satin box and gave the rings to his moms who were getting married. Okay, that was what the excitement was all about. Children get excited when they have a part to play in a wedding, and Donovan was no different. He was excited to see his moms get married even though he didn't have a typical mother and father. The message in this book for me wasn't about the gay marriage but the excitement of a child looking forward to his parents getting married. Love does make a family. As you turn each page you will notice that the illustrator showed the happy occasion of this wedding from a child's point of view.

FTC Disclosure: I received a review copy of this book from the author in exchange for a fair and honest review. I was not monetarily compensated for my opinion in any way.

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