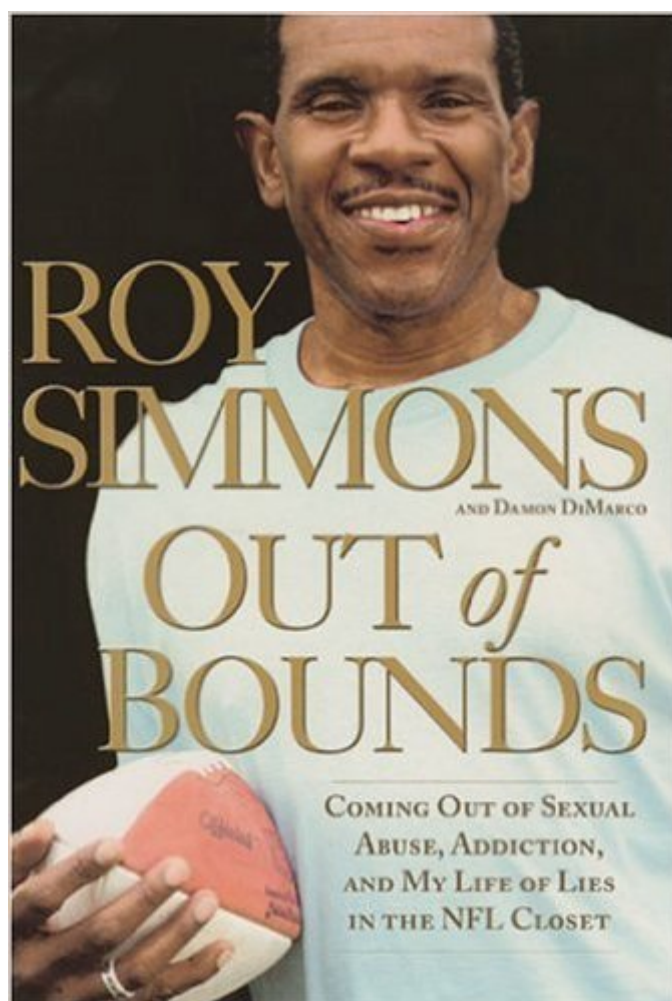


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# Out Of Bounds: Coming Out Of Sexual Abuse, Addiction, And My Life Of Lies In The NFL Closet



## Synopsis

The second NFL player ever to come out as gay and the first ever to come out as HIV-positive, Roy Simmons was an up-and-coming star offensive lineman who quit football after just four years rather than be exposed as gay. *Out of Bounds* tells his compelling story—from his rape at age 10 to being plucked from his poor Southern background to join the NFL, from his first taste of pro football fame and sudden enormous wealth to his fast-paced, no holds barred nightlife of heavy drugs and countless sexual encounters with women and men. Simmons led a roller-coaster life that peaked in the late 1980s with his playing in the Superbowl. Ultimately, however, reckless living left him penniless, friendless, and on the brink of suicide. Finally in 1992, Simmons tapped the courage to come out as gay on national TV—then coming out as HIV-positive 10 years later—leading him to a healthy path of sobriety and self-acceptance.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Audre Lorde said "We need a litany for survival." I sooo appreciate when black gay men and lesbians write about their lives, whether they were successful or unsuccessful in their struggles. Here, Simmons speaks of his life in the NFL, having sex with both genders, contracting HIV, surviving childhood sexual abuse, and battling drug addiction. I think this book will be helpful to many populations of readers. When many people say, "I like doing X", they also mean, "I hate doing Y." or when they say, "I like group X" they let it be known that they "hate group Y." This can be painful for people in Group Y to hear. However, Mr. Simmons is a man who likes everything. Not only does he like men and women, he's cool with blacks and whites. He is proud to do all types of

things in the bedroom. This is a football player who likes to pitch and catch, in addition to playing on both teams. This will make many readers comfortable. My big critique is how he never acknowledges racism or homophobia. Here's a black man who never questions how he easily gets into predominantly white gay spaces. He never once links his jail time to the disproportionate number of brothers who are locked up. Simmons is clearly no Donald Suggs or Keith Boykin, but I wish he spent some time looking at the societal forces that affect him, and others like him. In so many ways, Simmons embodies the "down-low" phenomenon which J.L. King wants to solely represent. Straight women that have loved gay or bisexual men, especially within the African-American community, may appreciate learning more from him. Usually, layperson-y, chatty autobiographies have photo sections. This book did not.

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