

CHRIS TACKLES FAME AND FRIENDSHIP

Colfer draws from experience to pen an unforgettable adventure for YA readers

Inspiration struck **Chris Colfer** on the *Glee* set. "I thought, this world I'm in is too good not to write about," author of 10 books tells *Us*. He created the witty, coming-of-age novel *Stranger Than Fanfiction* (out February 28), in which 22-year-old TV star Cash accepts an offer to travel cross-country with four die-hard fans. The teens, however, soon realize their idol is not worthy of adoration. The California native, 27, dating actor **Will Sherrod**, shares more.

Q: Did you model Cash on a young Chris Colfer?

All five characters represent something challenging I went through: growing up

the sibling of someone with special needs, being a creative person in a serious world, body-image issues and the struggle of being a gay teen. I tried to write something for everyone.

Q: How did you map out the teens' journey?

I went on a road trip with my boyfriend from L.A. to New Mexico. I'm the worst person in the car because I have to pee every 15 minutes!

Q: Read fan fiction about yourself?

I've never gone looking, but people send me links. Once I saw a story about me giving birth to kittens, I tried to stay away. **JAMIE BLYNN**



"If you want to see the writers of tomorrow," Colfer (in *NYC* July 12) tells *Us*, "take a look at fan fiction."