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Boy Meets Boy



Synopsis

This is the story of Paul, a sophomore at a high school like no other: The cheerleaders ride Harleys, the homecoming queen used to be a guy named Daryl (she now prefers Infinite Darlene and is also the star quarterback), and the gay-straight alliance was formed to help the straight kids learn how to dance. When Paul meets Noah, he thinks he's found the one his heart is made for. Until he blows it. The school bookie says the odds are 12-to-1 against him getting Noah back, but Paul's not giving up without playing his love really loud. His best friend Joni might be drifting away, his other best friend Tony might be dealing with ultra-religious parents, and his ex-boyfriend Kyle might not be going away anytime soon, but sometimes everything needs to fall apart before it can really fit together right. This is a happy-meaningful romantic comedy about finding love, losing love, and doing what it takes to get love back in a crazy-wonderful world.

Book Information

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Friendship

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

In this delightful young adult novel for readers 12 and up, high school sophomore Paul says, "There isn't really a gay scene or a straight scene in our town. They got all mixed up a while back, which I think is for the best." And, as he observes at the end of the story, "It's a wonderful world." Paul has both gay and straight friends, and they all hang out together at terrific bookstores and

concerts, and advise one another on the sometimes troubled progress of their various romances. Paul is smitten with Noah, and they are beginning a serious relationship when Kyle, Paul's ex, complicates things by deciding that all is forgiven. Joni is going out with Chuck, who dominates her, much to her friends' disapproval. Tony's conservative parents refuse to acknowledge that he is gay, so the others must bone up on Bible verses all week so they can pretend Saturday night is a study group. And then there's Infinite Darlene, football quarterback and Homecoming Queen, who deserves a whole romance novel of her own. Life in their town is gloriously accepting of differences and only occasionally verges on magic realism, in this first novel in which same sex preference is not the problem. --Patty Campbell --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Levithan's groundbreaking novel *Levithan* is set in an idealized high school where kids are free to express themselves without repercussions or embarrassment — whisks listeners into a unique teen scene via the work of this cast of young actors. Though Robideau sometimes sounds melodramatic, and the brief characterization of "young Paul" in flashback is grating, these performers eventually gel into an effortless give-and-take rhythm. As Paul explores his feelings for new crush Noah, listeners meet a crew of memorable characters both gay and straight, wild and wallflower that include the football team's drag queen quarterback (played to comic effect by Joey Panek). Suffused with humor and heart, this recording is bound to get listeners thinking about what it means to just be yourself and truly embrace tolerance. In a bonus track, three of the actors and artistic director Daniel Bostick compare their own high school experience to the one in the book. Ages 12-up. (May) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The beginning didn't feel like a David Levithan novel. His books always have been so grounded and real to me. This started out kind of ridiculous and outrageous. Many of the characters were larger than life. The city it takes place in also seemed nonrealistic. The high school contains a cheerleader biker gang, a high school cover band, and a few drag queens. All of the high school characters seem very sure of themselves. It felt like adult situations just transplanted into a high school and even earlier with stories that go as far back as elementary school. But I think Levithan did this all purposefully. About 80% into the book I finally understood why Levithan created a world like this. With the protagonist "having it easy" it creates a unique lens to look at other gay youth in different situations. The chapter entitled "Tony" had me on the verge of tears. This was David Levithan's first

published book and I think you can tell. Many of his signatures are just beginning to emerge. The wit and charm of his writing are there. Unique, quirky, and random still describes his writing, but his writing has grown in his more recent books. I did enjoy this book and I give it a 4/5. But, if you are looking for a modern gay story you should read "Two Boys Kissing". If you are looking for depth and conversations of sexuality, gender, and individuality you should read "Every Day". I will continue to consume as much of David Levithan's writing as I can.

When I bought this book I didn't read the synopsis, only knew that it was recommended by other people who have purchased the same books as me. My first attempt to read this book came when I was deciding what my next read would be. Looking at the synopsis, I questioned why I bought this book. Motorcycle-riding cheerleaders, drag queen football players. It didn't sound like a story I'd like. So I passed on it. Several months later, my second attempt to read the book took. I didn't read the synopsis, I just went straight to chapter one and started reading. That's when I realized this was that motorcycle cheerleader book. I kept on reading... I met Paul, Kyle, Tony, Joni, Zeke, Ted, Chuck, Infinite Darlene and Noah. I didn't know how to place my bet. I was worried about Tony. And when I finished the last page of the book, I wanted more. 4.5

Paul has it pretty easy. The high school sophomore discovered and accepted his homosexuality at an early age, his parents love him the way he is, and he apparently attends one of the most liberal high schools in America. The football team's star quarterback is a drag queen, who is also elected homecoming queen. Paul has a close circle of friends, which includes his gal-pal Joni and Tony, who in sharp contrast has fundamentalist parents that are trying to pray his gay away. However, while Paul may be free from many of the more unpleasant issues often faced by gay teens, his life is far from uncomplicated. As "Boy Meets Boy" opens, Paul has a chance encounter with Noah, a new kid at school who takes his breath away. Paul has had boyfriends before, but nobody he felt as strongly about as he does for Noah. And, apparently the feelings are mutual, but things don't go smoothly for our hero, as his life gets even more complicated and he has to struggle to win Noah's heart. I usually avoid books labeled "Young Adult" (YA). I'm definitely not young, and I'm not really crazy about the adult part either, but this book came highly recommended so I decided to give it a try. Told in the first person by Paul, the story starts out a little over the top, with the boy discovering he is gay in kindergarten and running as the first openly gay class president of the third grade. By the time you get to the cheer-leading squad on Harleys,

you're most likely at the whatever stage of just going with it. Oddly, it's right about this point that the tone gets a little more restrained. While the writing remains relatively breezy throughout, the tone does get more somber as Paul faces some real challenges in trying to balance the demands of his friends, his budding romance and being in high school. While Paul faces many of the typical issues of being a teen in love, the story is thankfully free of all the angst that usually makes YA books so avoidable. Yes, he has the occasional moment of doubt, but he never sits on the fence for long. The characters may not grab you, but they won't bore you either. That the characters didn't grab me, I put down to the enormous difference between us, both in terms of age and experience. It's been a very, very long time since I was in high school, and that was back in the dark ages when those of us who were gay generally tried to blend in as much as possible. There were no openly gay students in my rather large suburban high school, so Paul's world is something I have a hard time even imagining. Paul's world is so far removed from my own that it almost reads like speculative fiction, rather than simply an exaggerated view of what the world can be like for teenagers today.

One of my favorite, favorite books by David Levithan. From cheerleaders on Harley motorcycles, to Infinite Darlene (a trans woman cheerleader who is still the quarterback of the football team), to a gay Jewish president competing in the presidential election, *Boy Meets Boy* is a dream to read. It revolves around the relationship of two high school boys, but reading about the other characters is just as fun. I recommend this one!

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