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Riding With Brighton



Synopsis

Yesterday, Jay was convinced his life was damaged beyond repair. Yesterday, Brighton was sure his life was perfect. Then today happened. Realizing he's wasted his life in the meaningless pursuit of popularity and athleticism, Jay Hall knows he has nothing in common with alternative, free-thinking artist Brighton Bello-Adler. But he's determined to change that. Brighton's managed to fill his life with an eclectic mix of people and interests that keep him satisfied. As the only gay guy in his small town, the one thing that's missing is a man, but Jay's not gay, so Brighton's not sure what he'll gain by letting him into his life. Still, he's willing to find out. Heading off on an impromptu road trip, the boys chart a course connecting their worlds, and along the way discover pieces of themselves they didn't know were missing. As the sun rises on a new day, Jay and Brighton know their lives have changed. Now they just have to figure out how to live in them. In a fresh and clever romance that turns stereotypes upside down, the journey to coming out and coming of age is full of challenges and surprises, but ultimately, acceptance and love.

Book Information

File Size: 1054 KB

Print Length: 220 pages

Publisher: Harmony Ink Press (June 27, 2017)

Publication Date: June 27, 2017

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B073BHXSCB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #259,929 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #148

in Books > Teens > Romance > LGBT #196 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen &

Young Adult > LGBT > Fiction #384 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult >

Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Dating & Sex

Customer Reviews

This is probably the best gay YA coming-out book I have read, and believe me, I go back a while. The fact that it takes place basically over the course of one day, and that the two characters--Brighton and Jay--are developed so deeply in alternating third-person chapters during that short time span, and that so much happens, should have exhausted me. Nope. What exhausted me was the constant thrill of watching Jay come to terms with his sexuality and Brighton standing by and ushering him along in a completely unique and exceptionally romantic (if off the wall) way. The conflicts between them, which are few, and with their friends--most of whom are pretty much stereotyped--are handled smoothly, as are the relationships both of them have with their respective families. It is the latter slice of this incredible lifetime in 24 hours that is always the elephant in the room here, and it plays out totally different than one might expect in a book which sails along so sweetly for 75% of the journey. No spoilers here, and no hint from me about how it ends except to say that if author Haven Francis wants to pursue things, (which might not be necessary) I will be the first on line to lead the charge to buy the sequel.

Ahhh.... Jay and Brighton!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I thought going into this that it would be like the coming out/ coming of age books I've read before but it wasn't. It was fresh and young and felt so real. The story takes place over only a few days but the evolution of Jay and Brighton is never forced or unbelievable. And my lord they are just so amazing together. Reading that Jay is the popular one, I assumed he'd be a certain way and that Brighton would be almost like a sidekick but they were both such diverse and strong characters and I appreciated the dual POV. Even all the minor characters in the book were so well developed in such a short time it was a beautiful, hilarious inspiring story, I really did smile my way through this whole book. I just, really really loved this book and for sure it will be read again.

Change your life now. Find your happiness now. Be yourself now. Speak your mind now. If not, you gonna have regret. And regret totally sucks. Wow! Haven Francis I adore you and your writing always speaks too me. This was a eye opening book about life. It's about being true to yourself and finding what makes you happy. This story follows Jay and Brighton on their journey together. The characters were a joy to read. Brighton...I want a friend like him. He was a special character in my eyes. He lived for the now and owned who he was. Yes, he has some insecurities, but he doesn't dwell on them. His family life is 100% supportive and I adored them. It hurts to hold so much s*#+ in. To have to lie to yourself and the people you love. It's physically painful. Jay I liked that he was able

to find his true self. He opened his eyes and saw the truth to his life. He wanted to not conform any longer, but was scared. He took the steps needed and found the support he needed in Brighton. I felt for him at times and I can't imagine what it must feel like denying who you are for so long to appease everyone else. Jay's dad...adored him. He showed what family and love truly is. The chemistry between them is undeniable and it unfolded beautifully. They balance each other and I loved every minute of it. Haven gave these characters real traits and you feel the struggle that Jay feels with his choices. Told from dual POV's, which I love. You get perspectives on each characters truths and insecurities. Does this have some steam? Yes, it's tastefully done and you feel the burning they have for each one another. Haven nails every book. She makes you smile, opens your eyes and heart to her characters. I found this to be a truthful story and I couldn't put it down. This is a book for anyone to read and I highly recommend it! Completely stunning!

Speechless! Absolutely wonderfully written, emotional, funny. You sometimes wonder if kids 18 years old can connect and love each other. Comments are often made "it's puppy love" or "you're too young to be in real love." That's not true. Brighton and Jay know each other from history class. Jay is a popular high school jock and has realized that he's been living a lie all his life and decides to do something about it. I can't imagine being 18 years old and realizing that my whole life has been fabricated. Jay is beyond brave. I like the author's spin on Jay and his feelings about being gay and his feelings for Brighton. Takes a lot of those conversations about GFY and OFY and puts them in perspective. But after a few paragraphs, you recognize that Jay and Brighton belong together. I stopped reading ya and new adult. Too much angst and drama. But the blurb for this book intrigued me and when I started reading it, I was hooked. Even more surprised to find that I think this is the author's first MM. There is definitely a John Hughes vibe to this and at one point, I thought everything would be hunky dory, everyone would be accepting, and we'd end in one rainbow colored happy bubble. But everything is not ok and it's handled well. Like with most ya, this is an HFN and would love to revisit Jay and Brighton in a few years. Love the writing so much that I am tempted to read the author's M/F books, but let's not go crazy - lol!!

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