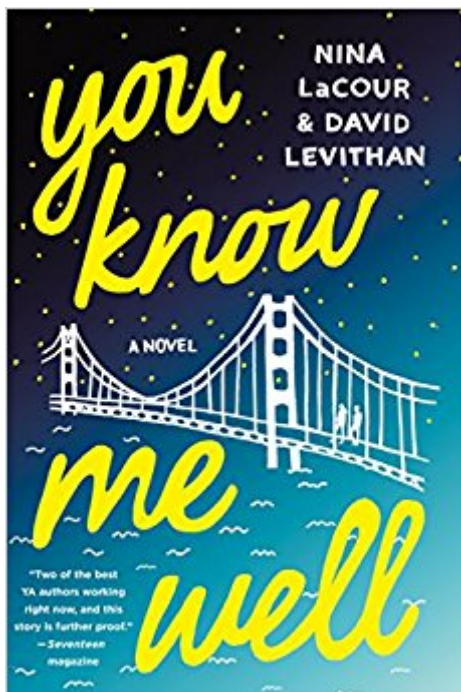


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# You Know Me Well: A Novel



## Synopsis

Who knows you well? Your best friend? Your boyfriend or girlfriend? A stranger you meet on a crazy night? No one, really? Mark and Kate have sat next to each other for an entire year, but have never spoken. For whatever reason, their paths outside of class have never crossed. That is until Kate spots Mark miles away from home, out in the city for a wild, unexpected night. Kate is lost, having just run away from a chance to finally meet the girl she has been in love with from afar. Mark, meanwhile, is in love with his best friend Ryan, who may or may not feel the same way. When Kate and Mark meet up, little do they know how important they will become to each other -- and how, in a very short time, they will know each other better than any of the people who are supposed to know them more. A book told in alternating points of view by Nina LaCour, the award-winning author of *Hold Still* and *The Disenchantments*, and David Levithan, the best-selling author of *Every Day* and co-author of *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist* (with Rachel Cohn) and *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* (with John Green), *You Know Me Well* is a deeply honest story about navigating the joys and heartaches of first love, one truth at a time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up • Accomplished YA authors LaCour and Levithan join forces for this coming-of-age story set during Pride Week in San Francisco. Told in the alternating perspectives of Mark and Kate, the book explores the heartbreak of unrequited love and the necessity of taking chances and doing the right thing for oneself. Mark, a junior, loves his best friend, Ryan, who doesn't reciprocate his feelings. Kate, a senior whose art got her into UCLA, is unsure about college • but she is

sure she loves her best friend's cousin Violet from afar. Mark and Kate, previously not friends, happen upon each other at a bar (Mark thought going to the city with Ryan would be romantic; Kate fled the house party where she was supposed to meet Violet for the first time) and leave together after Mark watches Ryan dance with a stranger. They end up at an incredibly hip party, and while the details aren't initially revealed, this event sets each of them on a course for realizing some of their dreams and confronting things previously left unsaid. Pages flow quickly throughout, and despite the condensed time frame, a fair amount of character growth occurs. Both authors excel at writing smart, funny, and realistic dialogue. These are characters to whom readers will relate and want to get to know. VERDICT Recommended for teens who have enjoyed the authors' previous works and those looking for a hopeful read about friendship, first love, and the choices one faces while on the cusp of adulthood. —Amanda Mastrull, Library Journal --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

A Publishers Weekly Staff Pick for Best Summer Book of 2016! A Bustle Summer 2016 YA Summer Reading Guide Pick! A PopSugar Best Book of June A New York Daily News Summer Pick for Teens A Seventeen Magazine Best YA Book of 2016 "You Know Me Well perfectly encapsulates those fraught, end-all-be-all feelings of high-school romance and graduation. The raw emotion of this novel will delight fans of Rainbow Rowell and John Green." -BookPage "Both authors excel at writing smart, funny, and realistic dialogue. These are characters to whom readers will relate and want to get to know." -School Library Journal "...incisively explore(s) the excitement and costs of change, and the importance of friends in figuring out what to keep and what to jettison." -Publishers Weekly "The pacing and voices of LaCour's and Levithan's alternating points of view are on point, keeping this sweet...tale moving gladly forward." -Kirkus Review — "Often subtle and always absorbing examination of fraught relationships — popular authors LaCour and Levithan tell their heartfelt story seamlessly in chapters that alternate between Mark — and Kate — respective points of view and invite readers — emotional engagement with these two empathetic teens. — • -Booklist — "A perfect read for the bolter in all of us — | LaCour and Levithan join together to give an honest view of the anxious teenage psyche. — • -Romantic Times "Two powerful forces in YA lit team up to tell one unique story in You Know Me Well." -Bustle "Teens, queer or straight, are often dramatic and unsure of themselves, and by moving its characters beyond the coming-out trope and giving them other questions to focus on, this book gives them room to be." -Horn Book Review "LaCour and Levithan are both dab hands at utopian romance." -The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books "Nina LaCour and David

Levithan are two of the best YA authors working right now, and this story is further proof. This fun, sweet novel beautifully captures the power of romantic and platonic love alike." -Seventeen Magazine "Top 10 YA Book of 2016" "Few literary titles have been able to portray adult romance as honestly and believably as LaCour and Levithan manage to in this irresistible teenage tale. I can only hope this isn't the last we hear from Kate and Mark." -Edge Media "Levithan and LaCour beautifully capture what it's like to have a romance against the backdrop of the cool grey city of love. There is something about this place that renders everything full of magic." -Forever Young Adult "A sweet, hopeful story about finding the courage to live your truth - whatever it may be. And of course, it's a story about the friends who guide us through it all." -Bustle's Beach Reads

This is by far my favourite book penned by David Levithan to date. I like his novels, they have interesting characters, a gay narrative, build great relationships and end in some poignant positive note. *You Know Me Well* is all that and more. I will be investigating some of Nina LaCour's titles as well and see if they stack up. We get a young teen coming of age, laced with edgy sarcastic humour. But this time the portrayal felt more realistic to me than in many of Levithan's other titles. And just when I was sure the direction the book would take it shot off on a tangent. I wasn't expecting the big Pride fest either. A little cheesy, a little overdone gayness, but had an easy flow and captured my interest from the get go. I could barely put it down. Not that its compelling, rather more engaging and heart-warming. I connected with Mark and Kate more than I have with any of the cast in Levithan's previous novels. And it was great to have a lesbian perspective. Most of his books have been dominated with a gay male perspective it was great to see more than one gender represented. Mark is an all American boy in love with his best friend. I like how he finds his sense of adventure, but never knows his destination. Kate was interesting, sensitive, yet with a strong sense of who she was. She just needed the confidence to say it out loud. To go for what she wants. And their relationship was beautiful. Instead of insta love, it took the shape of insta friends and I have experienced that single moment of attraction to someone who has become a life-long friend. I understand the connection and feeling, and haven't seen it represented so succinctly in a book before. We also get a great supportive cast, each with their own path. Honestly, it was touching to read a depiction of a friendship between gay and lesbian teens it's not something I see represented a lot in literature or in real

life. In the GLBT community there seems to be a segregation and cliques. It's more common to see a gay man and his female best friend in this genre. Overall fantastic tension and angst almost palpable. And a sensible (happy) ending. This kind of light-hearted, pleasant read is what keeps me coming back to YA contemporary when I need a lift and an afternoon in the sunroom reading.

This book is as deep or as shallow as you make it. I would have never bought this, but it was so strongly recommended by someone with wonderful book taste and it was on theme with Pride month. If you like coming of age stories with well developed characters in unbelievable situations you'll love this. I don't think I'm giving away too much, but read the book as though this was retrospective. The characters act and think like adults. I thought there were even some indicators that aged the characters closer to my age than a high school graduate now. This is part of what I found so great about this book, it's a re-imagined high school experience if you knew everything you learn in the five years after. I think that if you are an adult (I'm 24) there are some great take-a-ways and you will not be bored. Also, Tegan and Sara (the band) are central figures in this book and important to understand one of the character's friendships. If you read closely some song lyrics and titles are scattered throughout the book. I thought this was a truly clever detail.

Wonderful! A class of its own and in running with the times. It was an entertaining read. The funny bits will really, truly make you laugh it out (not the mental, soundless lol we've grown accustomed to thanks to the dawn of the technological age) and the realities it held within (quite a lot of reality) will hit you regardless of gender and especially if you've grown out of your youth a bit and is missing that certain tingly part of being so young and so untampered with by the incoming tidal wave of adult responsibilities (internal strained groaning here). P.S. I still think Ryan is a (cuss word here) and I just applaud Mark for being such a manly gay man who is gay. And Violet and Kate are just such beauties. So optimistic. Really, they are - in spite of all the emotional twiddle-dums they spurt out loud and inwardly.

Love, love, love it!

Implausible story line plus unlikable characters. Way too much whining. Pass on this one.

Hard to get through at times.

His books are never a disappointment

David Levithan and Nina LaCour create two lovely lead characters, Mark and Kate, and place them in a time and location of their lives when things happen quickly and dramatically and change their lives forever. As dramatic and intense as it gets, to me it feels convincing and believable every step of the way. Fun, funny, serious, heart-rending, adult in terms of decisions, juvenile in terms of emotions, it's all there in one mind-blowing Pride Parade.

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