

YOU'VE REACHED SAM

by Dustin Thao

Published in 2021

Rating (0 stars is the absolute worst, 10 stars is the BEST BOOK EVER)



Genre(s):

Contemporary

Action/adventure

Science Fiction

Fantasy

Romance

Horror

Mystery

Nonfiction

Historical fiction

Other:

Julie had her whole future planned out to the T, but when her boyfriend Sam died in a car accident her life stopped. Her life changed instantly. Julie is grieving and trying to let go but has a hard time. She keeps on blaming herself for the tragic accident her boyfriend died in. She does everything she could think about that would help her forget all about Sam, but nothing works. One day Julie had this desire to hear his voice one more time, so she sat down and listened to Sam's last voicemail he sent to her. Unexpectedly someone picked up the phone, and guess who it was, Sam Obayshi. Just like that he was entering her life again. Slowly they started connecting like they used to, and Julie started recovering from her mourning era. But Julie's inner voice goes against keeping the dark secret from Sam's family that he was alive however, her selfish side doesn't want her to spread the secret, knowing it would most likely risk her relationship with Sam. Follow Julie's struggle in real-life situations and grow into a young adult woman with new and old problems.

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This book is beautifully written and has beautiful main characters with a strong, unbreakable connection. I loved Sam even though we didn't learn a lot about him, but he always shows his kindness and thoughtfulness towards everyone. The novel is about love and loss and what it means to say goodbye. How sometimes when you say goodbye to one of your loved ones you probably won't be seeing them again. I liked they showed this theme throughout the book which gives readers the opportunity to connect with the book and its characters. Luckily Julie got a second chance to talk to the person she lost. The book started slow which I like most of the time, but I did find myself not liking how Julie would act and drag everything out. But also I understand that's just how she copes with her grief. It also had times when it was hard to continue the book. Altogether the ending was cute and pleasing. I give this book a 4.5 just because I found myself having a hard time continuing, and having difficulty connecting or relating with the characters sometimes.

Now should people read this book? I would say if you like teen romance that starts slow and catches peace towards the middle, then yes. But if you like books that go fast, then no. Also, If you like to try to connect with the characters then, no. So, this book could be a good quick read depending on how you like your characters and plot lines. If you enjoyed books like XOXO by Axie Oh and Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry by Joya Goffney you'll differently like this novel. Overall I think if anyone wants a quick warm-hearted book to read for a couple of hours then you should definitely pick You've Reached Sam by Dustin Thao.

By Sophie C, 8th grade, enjoys reading mystery, horror, romance, and action/adventure books