

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: Magical Realism

"You've Reached Sam" by Dustin Thao is a book revolving around a couple, Julie and Sam. Julie and Sam are the classic, cute, teenage relationship and have planned the rest of their lives together. They want to escape their small town and go to college in the big cities. However, tragically, Sam passes away due to a car accident which leaves Julie in a depression. To hear Sam's voice again, Julie desperately calls his number to listen to his voicemail, except unexpectedly... Sam actually answers the phone. The rest of the story follows Julie and Sam as he tries to guide her through her grief and help her move on through phone calls.

I absolutely loved the first moment that Julie was able to talk to Sam again, it was my favorite part of the book. It was very sad to see Julie not have the motivation to do anything, even go to Sam's funeral, due to her grief. I felt a lot of happiness and relief for her when she finally heard his voice again. I think the concept of communicating with the dead through phone calls is unique, if not a little silly. The book definitely is a tear jerker, but it isn't overwhelmingly sad. I can't say that I completely enjoyed Julie as a character, she can be very annoying at times. Everyone's grieving process is different, so it is understandable for Julie to act irritating at times, but it doesn't really make her any less frustrating. It's not frustrating enough to ruin the book completely though.

I think that this book would be good for people who want to start reading more sad books and a good cry. It's full of raw emotions and deals with grief in a realistic way. It all feels bittersweet. The phone call idea is creative, the plots flows at a nice speed, and the emotions portrayed can cause you to shed tears too. It's an all around decent book, nothing really special to it, but good nonetheless.

By Ngan N, 12th grade, enjoys reading romance, mystery, contemporary, and fantasy