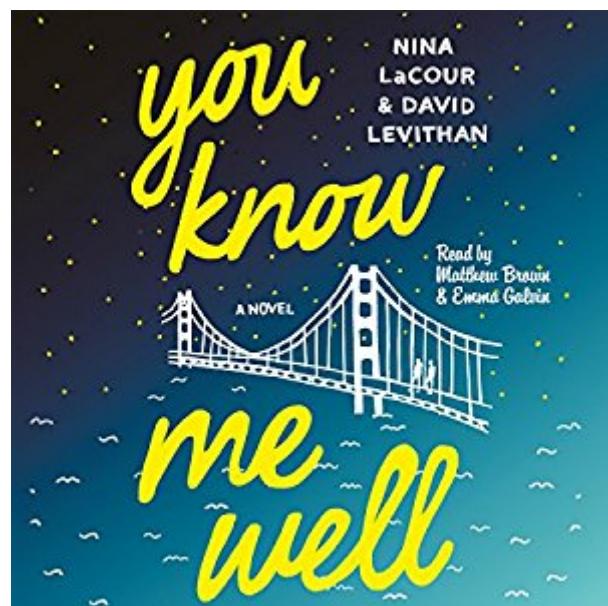


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# You Know Me Well: A Novel



## 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. An audiobook 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 coauthor 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

I would like to thank Net Galley, St. Martin's Press, and the authors for an advanced copy of this book in exchange for an unbiased review. Why didn't they have books like this when I needed them decades ago? *You Know Me Well* is a YA novel exploring the angst of young LGBT love. Back in the day there was nothing, I repeat nothing, nada, zilch out there for us who were realizing we

were different and not understanding why we were *not* normal. • Thanks to the changing times, there is now plenty of literature available to help young LGBT people come to terms with their sexuality and understand that yes, they *ARE* normal. Granted, a minority, but normal indeed. You Know Me Well is told from two POVs, those of Mark and Kate. Mark is a junior in high school and a star baseball player. He and his BFF Ryan, a poet and high school classmate, are dating, sort of, but they do not talk about it, not even to each other. Kate has had her eyes on Violet, cousin to her best friend Lehna, for a few years. Kate thinks she is in love with Violet though she really doesn't know her. One of my early criticisms of the story was that Kate and Violet seemingly fall in love within two seconds of getting together without the reader knowing what this is based on. No foreplay whatsoever! As I read on, however, it dawned on me that their story is not about what drew them together, but about their reactions to their feelings and to the prospect of a long lasting relationship. I thought this was really well done. My only other quibble with the Kate-Violet arc is that these 18 year olds seemed terribly insightful for their age and level of experience. Mark and Ryan's story has at its center the issue of the lines between platonic and romantic love. There are some very touching scenes in this arc.

It's the San Francisco Pride Week. Mark and Kate are both trying to have a good kickoff night, but they aren't succeeding very well. Kate escapes before actually meeting the girl she was supposed to spend the evening with. She loves her from a distance, but has never had a real conversation with her and she's scared. She ends up at a bar and is surprised when she meets Mark, the guy who sits next to her in Math class. They have never spoken to each other and obviously don't know anything about one another, but things can change. They quickly and suddenly become close friends at a time when they need someone to look out for them the most. You Know Me Well is a book about two gay teenagers who are struggling with love. Mark is deeply in love and is heartbroken because of it. Kate is talented and has a lot of potential, but she isn't ready to meet people's expectations yet. Mark and Kate both have best friends who are also gay. They shouldn't feel alone, but they do and they need someone to lean on, a person who understands them. There's plenty of beauty in that subject and I really liked it. Love, friendship and plans for the future aren't the most easy things to figure out. There's much to be learned and discovered. The friendship between Mark and Kate is special. They intuitively feel what the other one needs. What they have in common is that they're having problems with their best friends. Life isn't easy and the last days of high school are strange. A new start will have to be made soon, but before that can happen there's still some time to get through. I loved that the authors chose that vulnerable and exciting emotional

period. Even though there is quite a bit of sadness, there's also hope and genuine warmth.

You Know Me Well by David Levithan and Nina LaCour is a touching story of first love, both found and lost. Mark and Kate have never been friends but on one crazy night at San Francisco Pride, they become an intrinsic part of the other's life. Kate is running from the girl she has loved from afar and Mark is trying to tell his best friend he loves him. From dance clubs to crazy parties to school and dealing with parents, Mark and Kate become each other's life raft through a few crazy days. I really enjoyed the plot of You Know Me Well. Young love is hard to handle and it was treated with care and consideration. Yes, at times it was very obvious what was going to happen, but it all made sense in the telling. The writing of David Levithan and Nina LaCour was very well matched. Sometimes with co-authors it is very easy to tell where one author starts and the other one begins, but here, they were one cohesive voice telling two distinct but intertwining stories. The pacing had a few issues in the transitions, but nothing that affected my reading experience. The world built was great. Bright and detailed I could picture every scene. The emotions ran high in this story. Young love is always fraught with many feelings and they were on display here in a great way. I loved most of the characters. Mark and Kate were fantastic and they really played well off of each other. Kate's school friends left me a little cold as they were only concerned with themselves, but they were also teenagers so it fit. You Know Me Well is a sweet look at teen love that I really enjoyed. David Levithan and Nina LaCour wrote a touching story that made me smile throughout my reading.

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