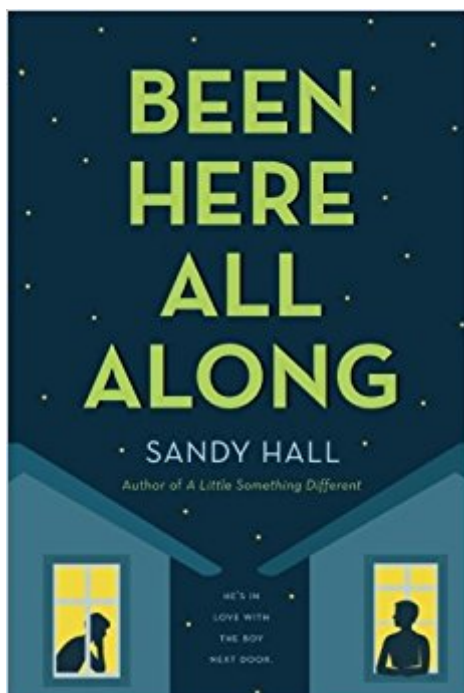


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# Been Here All Along: He's In Love With The Boy Next Door



## Synopsis

From the author of *A Little Something Different* comes a quirky, heartfelt novel about high school, first love, and what happens when the plans you make for yourself go just a little bit awry. Gideon always has a plan. His plans include running for class president, leading the yearbook committee, and having his choice of colleges. They do not include falling head over heels for his best friend and next-door neighbor, Kyle. It's a distraction. It's pointless, as Kyle is already dating the gorgeous and popular head cheerleader, Ruby. And Gideon doesn't know what to do... Kyle finally feels like he has a handle on life. He has a wonderful girlfriend, a best friend willing to debate the finer points of *Lord of the Rings*, and social acceptance as captain of the basketball team. Then both Ruby and Gideon start acting really weird, just as his spot on the team is threatened, and Kyle can't quite figure out what he did wrong | Author Sandy Hall's signature wit and charm is back with *Been Here All Along*, an LGBT young adult romance from Macmillan's young adult imprint Swoon Reads. Praise for *Been Here All Along*: "It really was everything I had hoped it would be. . . If you need a cute romance to end your summer with, read this. It's sweet. It's adorable. It's full of emotions. It's one of the best romances I've ever read, and I'll be reading this one again multiple times." • *Here's to Happy Endings* "This book is sweet and fun and all sorts of adorable. It was a typical, simple high school romance, but it was kind of nice to see one of those with LGBT characters • without a lot of angsty complications. . . If you're a fan of cute YA romance, this book will hit the spot." • *Feed Your Fiction Addiction* "Such a fun, adorable read . . . another fun addition to Hall's repertoire of swoonworthy reads." • *Good Books & Good Wine* "Atmospheric and heart-warming . . . [Kyle and Gideon] have the kind of friendship we all wish we had. They know one another to the core of their beings. I have some real friendship goals right now, because of the two of them." • *Hit Or Miss Books*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up "An endearing and heartwarming narrative that is realistic and reflective. Kyle and Gideon have happily been best friends and next-door neighbors for much of their lives. However, Gideon unexpectedly develops romantic feelings for Kyle but is unsure as to how to proceed because Kyle is currently in a long-term relationship with Ruby. Told from each character's first-person perspective, the novel presents the complicated process of self-discovery, social acceptance, and, ultimately, love. Readers follow Kyle, Gideon, and Ruby as they attempt to navigate unfamiliar terrain that could jeopardize their current relationships. Those who appreciate strong male protagonists who are quirky, queer, or questioning will enjoy this stand-alone title with broad appeal. Hall expertly captures the nuances of LGBTQ life in an authentic and positive manner. Themes such as honesty, trust, logic, and love are explored throughout. The characters are likable, and their emotions are sure to resonate with readers. Read-alikes include Stephen Chbosky's *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, David Levithan and John Green's *Will Grayson, Will Grayson*, and Jaye Robin Brown's *Georgia Peaches and Other Forbidden Fruit*. VERDICT This coming-of-age drama of discovering love in unlikely places is tender, accessible, and recommended for most library collections." —Katie Flynn, Williston Northampton School Library, MA

"It really was everything I had hoped it would be. . . If you need a cute romance to end your summer with, read this. It's sweet. It's adorable. It's full of emotions. It's one of the best romances I've ever read, and I'll be reading this one again multiple times." —Here's to Happy Endings "This book is sweet and fun and all sorts of adorable. It was a typical, simple high school romance, but it was kind of nice to see one of those with LGBT characters — without a lot of angsty complications. . . If you're a fan of cute YA romance, this book will hit the spot." —Feed Your Fiction Addiction "Such a fun, adorable read . . . another fun addition to Hall's repertoire of swoonworthy reads." —Good Books & Good Wine "Atmospheric and heart-warming . . . [Kyle and Gideon] have the kind of friendship we all wish we had. They know one another to the core of their beings. I have some real friendship goals right now, because of the two of them." —Hit Or Miss Books

Sandy Hall is one of those authors whose book's I happened to stumble upon in the store and impulse buy. I've been hooked ever since and *Been Here All Along* didn't disappoint. It was exactly what I needed to read to take a break from all the serious reads I've devoured this year. *Been Here All Along* can be summed up in five words; light, quick, cute, sweet, and heartwarming. But it also has undertones of a few things we all encounter in our lives; figuring out who we are, accepting who we are, and learning from our mistakes. I loved it. I'm in love with this author's writing style, the simplicity of it is beautiful. I love how she conveys so much with so little. It's refreshing and extremely different from what I usually read. The simplicity of the writing makes her books very character driven. *Been Here All Along* is told in the alternate perspectives of four different characters, which is something this author is known for doing in her books. I'm not usually a fan of books that have more than two perspectives but her books are always an exception to that. Gideon and Kyle. They've been best friends since they were five. In a way, they're complete opposites; Gideon is very organized and goal oriented while Kyle is very disorganized and forgetful, but they have an incredible friendship and a lot in common. That friendship slowly starts to morph into something more... And well you'll have to read it for yourself to find out what happens next. I loved their friendship. I loved the fact that they were both giant nerds. They were absolutely adorable together. I seriously can't get over how adorable they were!! Ruby, I didn't like. There is always that one character I don't care for and Ruby was that character in this. She was self-centered and had a bad attitude. I felt terrible for how her life was at home, I could relate to those struggles so much. However, I didn't feel that it excused her behavior. Toward the end, she seemed on the path to redemption but I couldn't get over how she acted for 90% of the book. Ezra, Gideon's older brother. He was there and extremely supportive of his brother, but I didn't feel like we really got to know him. I didn't form much of an opinion about him. I wish we had gotten to know him a bit better, but the fact that the main focus of the story was Gideon's and Kyle's journey it made sense that we didn't. Overall this was an enjoyable read. I did have a few moments where I found things a bit too perfect, thus unrealistic, and found certain dramas very eye roll worthy so it wasn't without small flaws. However, if you're looking for a quick, cute, and light contemporary then this book is perfect. If you've never read any of Sandy Hall's books but want to give them a chance then I highly recommend *Been Here All Along*! I can't wait to see what this author has in store for us with her future books. I, for one, will definitely be reading every book that is published.

I'm a sucker for Sandy Hall and her books. I had misplaced this one while on vacation and I was halfway through...I was dying to find out what would become of Gideon, Kyle and Ruby. I enjoyed

the sweet romanticism of this book, and even though it was predictable, it was like watching your favorite ABC Family drama...it goes down like dessert...sweet and satisfying. My only regrets are that I felt Ruby's story could have been a bit more finished and I want to know more about Ezra, too. I feel like there was more depth there to be explored. Overall, it's a fast, cute book.

I really liked this story of Gideon and Kyle, trying to figure themselves and each other out. It's a good YA coming of age tale told in a heartfelt manner, with good characterization, which is so important. You believe in and love the characters. My one complaint is the rather abrupt ending. It felt like getting cut off in the middle of a sentence it was so abrupt. I think a good denouement would have been very helpful. But other than that, a very good gay YA tale. Recommended.

Gideon and Kyle have known each other since elementary school. They are best friends but as different as two guys can be. One is a nerd, the other a jock. Neither will admit his feelings for the other. The environment of their school and family lives, of girlfriends, friends, teachers, and things that should and shouldn't have happened, is realistically described. Highly recommended.

In so many gay first love stories the book ends with the characters coming together. This book ends with the characters staying together. It would have been nice to know what Gideon and Kyle do next in their relationship. Nice book.

I have loved each of Sandy Hall's novels. This one is just as charming as the previous two and I love that she went out of the norm and wrote about 2 boys in high school. The characters were lovable and flawed and her writing style is so easy and familiar, you feel like you right there experiencing it all. Can't wait for her next book.

love it

I loved this book! I am a huge fan of Sandy Hall and was so excited to read this! I love how Sandy Hall writes from the perspective of every character, it makes me feel way more engaged and involved with every character and their view point. I will definitely continue to read her books- so keep them coming!

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