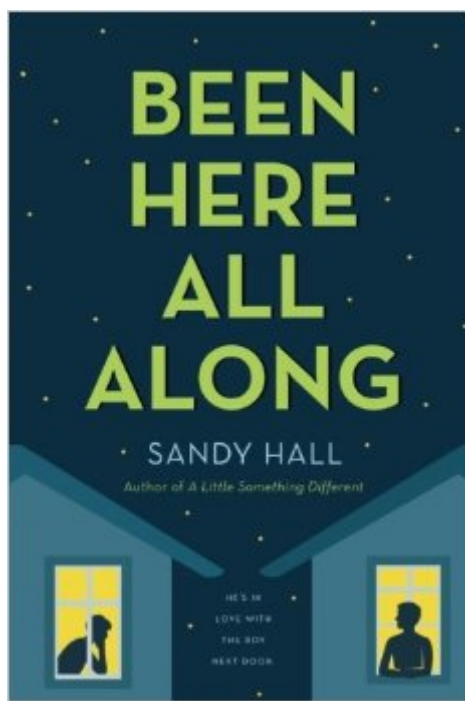


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# Been Here All Along



## Synopsis

Gideon always has a plan. It includes running for class president, becoming head of the yearbook committee, and having his choice of colleges. It does NOT include falling head over heels for his best friend, Kyle. It's a distraction, it's pointless • Kyle is already dating the 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. So when both Ruby and Gideon start acting really weird, just as his spot on the team is threatened, Kyle can't quite figure out what he did wrong. Sandy Hall, the author of *A Little Something Different*, is back with her signature wit in this quirky and heartfelt LGBT YA novel.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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.

Kyle and Gideon have been best friends since they were about the age of five. They have always been next-door neighbors and have created a close bond. Despite their opposite personalities; Kyle: basketball player/jock, Gideon: geek, brainiac they've become best of friends. Their friendship is one you'll be envious of! This book primarily revolves around exploring sexuality and coming to terms with it. Kyle is bisexual and has been out to his family and close friends. However, he hasn't told his girlfriend Ruby because he didn't feel comfortable. He deals with finding ways to finally tell her this big secret. While, Gideon is exploring his sexuality and coming to terms with being gay when he starts developing feelings for Kyle. Sandy Hall is a writer who likes multiple POV. Similar to her sophomore novel, Signs Point to Yes this book focuses on the main characters, a sibling and Ruby - Kyle's girlfriend. We get to know these other characters and see what they're struggling with as well as the boys. I enjoy the way Hall writes because she has fluffy Contemporary with a hint of dark/important topics. Been Here All Along includes a parent losing a job, surviving in the real world/life after college and a learning disability. I enjoyed these topics being implemented into the story because they are real life events and need to be seen in YA more! Adding a learning disability really hit me because it was relatable to my life and rare to see in YA books. Kyle and Ruby have a complicated relationship - there were times when it did feel toxic. Ruby isn't the nicest character and seems careless when it comes to others feelings. She gets jealous very quickly. However, she redeems herself in the end.

Loved this entertaining and fun book. Gideon how adorkable can you get. And Kyle poor guy at least now he knows what is slowing him down and he isn't slow when it comes to school. Ruby what a piece of work she is. Wow. So much hate and anger in her. What she did to Gideon and almost cost him and Kyle was just horrid. Gideon is Kyle's best friend. He is always there for Kyle

no matter what. Kyle is the guy we all love. The goofy sweet guy who is sweet and just loveable where as Gideon is adorkable. That is the only way to describe Gideon. Kyle is now feeling his life is at a good place. He has his girlfriend, Ruby and his best friend but his side what could go wrong? No really what could. Well Kyle decides to tell Ruby he is bi and that kind of sets things a little wonky. From here we have Gideon suddenly feel more for Kyle and lost as to what to do. So in true Gideon fashion he orderly creates a binder to see if he is gay or just Kyle gay and the pros and cons to Kyle. He loves him so much that he has to search really hard to find things to that are cons so he can keep himself from upending Kyle's life. He doesn't want to lose Kyle as a friend so he bottles all this up. Except Ruby-piece of work Ruby-gets nosy and does a not nice veil of threats to Gideon. Over time we see Gideon decide to leaves his comfort zone and say who he is to everyone. This gets Kyle thinking more about him and one thing leads to another. They get together in a totally adorable and precious way. Gideon's mom was too precious for words when she finds out about her son and Kyle when he comes out. Woman wants to throw him a coming out party. How cute is that. Such a supportive family. Except not all are happy. Ruby harbors some ill feelings and some anger. Okay a lot of anger.

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