

The background features a network diagram with white nodes and lines on a purple-to-pink gradient. The nodes are connected by thin white lines, forming a complex web. Some nodes are larger than others, and the overall structure is somewhat irregular and organic. The gradient transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom.

I Wish You All the Best

Written by Mason Deaver

Published by sanmarco-sf

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I Wish You All the Best

By Mason Deaver

I Wish You Were Gay

When Ben De Backer comes out to their parents as nonbinary, they're thrown out of their house and forced to move in with their estranged older sister, Hannah, and her husband, Thomas, whom Ben has never even met. Struggling with an anxiety disorder compounded by their parents' rejection, they come out only to Hannah, Thomas, and their therapist and try to keep a low profile in a new school.

I Wish You Were Gay Lyrics

But Ben's attempts to survive the last half of senior year unnoticed are thwarted when Nathan Allan, a funny and charismatic student, decides to take Ben under his wing. As Ben and Nathan's friendship grows, their feelings for each other begin to change, and what started as a disastrous turn of events looks like it might just be a chance to start a happier new life.

I Wish You All The Best

At turns heartbreaking and joyous, *I Wish You All the Best* is both a celebration of life, friendship, and love, and a shining example of hope in the face of adversity.

The beginning of *I Wish You All the Best* jarred me. It kicked up a riot of emotions; each word a lash, wrenching out your breath and dealing blows to your insides. Benjamin De Backer, buoyant with hopes of swift acceptance, is planning on coming out as non-binary to their parents. The reader is spared the immediate fallout—but the imagination conjures up enough horrors. What we see is Benjamin’s life as if held aloft by their own hand, and in an instant, it spun away from them. Benjamin, barefoot, feeling like a stray helium balloon drifting on the currents as they walked to a payphone to call an estranged sister they haven’t seen, or spoken to, in a decade.

Hope roots faintly in Benjamin’s heart when their sister and her husband welcome them to their home. But every hour some new bruise was upon Benjamin, some new ache, always weary, always burdened. The ground beneath them has never felt more precarious, and their life has become a cold sinking tangle of fear and anger and doubt. Their parents’ rejection scratched at them, and they were wearying under the burden of constantly coming out to everyone, and then dreading their reaction. Benjamin seemed to be in a lull, a strange pocket of emptiness into which no one came, and they were never threatened. But with the support of their best friend, who is a non-binary Muslim immigrant, and a burgeoning friendship with their classmate Nathan who was like cheer in a bottle, Benjamin feels the shiver of a new hope forming, a new space opening up wide enough for them to stand in. Maybe some renewed vestige of life was in them yet—the last tatters of Benjamin’s hopes blooming afresh.

Mason Deaver, the debut author of this book, is nonbinary themselves and Benjamin’s story had come crawling out of their own heart. The author’s voice is simultaneously tender and reverent—but it also falls like an axe blade, sharp and severing. The novel’s cold touch is like fingertips slipping beneath your clothes and wrapping around your heart, making turmoil bubble up through the tightness in your chest before it catches you up in a soft, opened warmth. I do not doubt that this story is going to be cathartic for a lot of readers—and I’m glad it exists.

With that being said, my primary critique of Deaver’s single-minded coming-of-age novel is a longing for more—this unnameable thing that slips from my brain like sand held in an open palm. The book’s heart and dazzle does not always help it overcome much of its dryness. I was often threatened by a sense of ennui as, for most of the novel, the plot just plods along, and it isn’t long before

[I Wish You All the Best](#)

Benjamin's voice grows distant, like far-off waves. Deaver builds believable secondary characters, but they beg for more page time. The development of familial attachments alongside romantic and platonic ones could have carried a lot more vivacity, but the author plays it close to the chest. I found myself many times wishing this scene or that conversation more fully played out, because instead of parlaying them, the author often only gives you just a glimpse, and then they're off, running to the next thing. Again, I wanted more, but some moments never come to fruition.

That is not to say of course that there's nothing lovely in *I Wish You All the Best*. The story, which is a gentle but unyielding reminder that the body's need to speak its truth is primal and profound, and that compassion and love can overcome intolerance, warmed the cockles of my heart. Benjamin's journey put so much hope in me and I'm glad I picked up this book. I hope many readers find their way to Deaver's novel for it will doubtless change a lot of lives.

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I Wish You All the Best

I Wish You Were Here

"Don't ignore the problems. Learn from them. But also don't knock what you get right. Every success deserves a celebration."

Oh the feeling of mile-high expectations actually being fulfilled: pure bliss. I have waited so long for this book to be released and it checks every single box. A wonderful, emotional, important and romantic read.

I Wish You All the Best tells the story of Ben, who is nonbinary, who prefers the pronouns they & them, who, after coming out to their parents, is kicked out "Don't ignore the problems. Learn from them. But also don't knock what you get right. Every success deserves a celebration."

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I Wish You All the Best tells the story of Ben, who is nonbinary, who prefers the pronouns they & them, who, after coming out to their parents, is kicked out of the house and has to take refuge at his sister's, whom they haven't seen in 10 years. At their new school, they meet Nathan, a captivating boy who may or may not be the cutest human the world has ever seen (chances are high, though). But Ben struggles with anxiety, panic attacks and depression. This definitely translated onto the pages of the book. I often felt hopeless, was frustrated with the absence of feelings, with Ben not being able to say anything but "Yeah", with the plot not going anywhere because the world stops moving when anxiety overwhelms you. At least that's what I felt like reading it. Luckily, Ben slowly opened up to the people around them, to their therapist and eventually to Nathan and their sister. It was a heartfelt book with an easygoing writing style and a slow-burning romance. The kind of romance where it couldn't be more obvious that the attraction is mutual but still these stupid dorks wait till the very last minute to confess their feelings.

The only criticism I have is that I wished the side characters had received more of a backstory. They all had depth and felt real enough, but I was curious about them. About Ben's sister and their brother-in-law, about Maleika and Sophie, about Nathan. I wouldn't have minded an additional 100 pages if this meant that we'd get to see more of them.

I want to stress how important it is that queer writers write queer stories. No cis or straight person would have been able to write such a complex and truthful book about life, coming-out, falling in love as a nonbinary person. I always say that representation and inclusion matter, not only because people might recognise parts of themselves in the characters, but also because it teaches kids and teenagers compassion, acceptance, and empathy early on. If every teenager read this book, the world would be much kinder and tolerant. Stories have so much power and influence, and that's why it's important to

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promote and support queer voices that have mostly gone unheard until now. I Wish You All the Best was my first novel with a nonbinary character that was at the centre of the story instead of the sidelines. I hope we will get to see more of that in the future.

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Well I wrote this book, so my review is probably biased?

Either way... this is the book of my heart, I never thought people would believe in this story, but I've never been happier to be so, so, so wrong. This book may be the closest I get to writing myself. It deals with anxiety, depression, coming out and identity, and first love, and it's absolutely so important to me.

I hope you all enjoy it when you get the chance to read it.

I Wish You All the Best

I Wish You More

A soft, sweet, and incredibly important story about a non-binary teen finding their voice. This book is going to be so important to so many people.

I am finally going to be able to read Mason's book. CAN YOU BELIEVE??!

Update after reading - December 3rd, 2018

*4.5/5

This book has not been undersold in the least. It is heartfelt, loving, difficult, and wonderful in every way. Becky's blurb isn't lying - it is indeed quietly groundbreaking and will, without a doubt, save lives. Prepare yourselves for an incredible, beautiful debut in 2019, friends.

I Wish You Love Lyrics

This was suUuUuUuch a great read. I learned so much and also just fell head over heels for these characters. What an important book!

TW: misgendering, homophobia, anxiety, depression

Yes, yes, YES. I loved this book so much!

Ben De Backer has finally decided it's time they come out to their parents as nonbinary. While Ben knows their parents, particularly their father, are difficult and have strong religious beliefs, in the end Ben thinks that their parents should be okay with their coming out. Ben is their child after all, right?

Ben couldn't have been more wrong. Their parents kick Ben out of the house and with nowhere to turn, not even shoes on their feet, Ben turns to thei Yes, yes, YES. I loved this book so much!

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Ben couldn't have been more wrong. Their parents kick Ben out of the house and with nowhere to turn, not even shoes on their feet, Ben turns to their estranged sister, Hannah, who left home 10 years ago and never looked back.

Although it takes a moment for Hannah and her husband, Thomas, to understand what nonbinary even means, there's no question that they will take Ben into their home. Hannah feels so much guilt about leaving Ben behind with their parents all those years ago, and Ben only knew she was married via social media. But Hannah is determined to help Ben deal with the stress of accepting their identity coupled with their parents' rejection.

"Like, what do you do when your parents kick you out of your house? When your entire life is upheaved, all because you wanted to come out, to be respected and seen, to be called the right pronouns?"

As Ben tries to settle into a new high school for one last semester before graduation, they hope to keep a low profile. But that plan is quickly thwarted when Ben meets Nathan Allan, whose charm and humor make him seem almost larger than life. Nathan wants to be Ben's friend and doesn't understand why they keep pushing him away, so little by little Ben's defenses come down and they open up to the idea of Nathan's friendship, and in turn, Nathan's best friends as well. It's difficult, though, to be close with people from whom you're keeping your true self secret, but Ben isn't interested in the possibility of rejection again.

I Wish You All the Best

While Ben tries to reconcile their conflicted feelings toward Hannah and deal with panic attacks and anxiety, they're also frightened by how much Nathan is starting to mean to them. Can Ben find the courage to let Nathan know the truth about them? Would Nathan push them away? And even if Nathan were interested in them, is it worth exploring when Nathan is set to leave North Carolina for college in just three months?

Dealing with just one of these issues is tough for anyone, but all of them compounded prove immensely challenging for Ben. They find themselves turning more and more to their therapist and Mariam, their only nonbinary friend, with whom Ben speaks via Skype and text. Mariam has made a career from their experiences accepting their identity and living their life openly, and they want Ben to do the same.

I Wish You All the Best is a beautiful, moving book about everyone's right to be happy with who they are, and their need to be surrounded by love and friendship. It's such an amazing story about how you can't tackle all of your problems on your own—only by letting people in can you start to achieve happiness and self-acceptance.

At times it's a difficult book to read, because of the emotions and challenges Ben has to deal with, and how difficult it is for them to communicate how they feel, but it seemed immensely realistic, and I found myself hoping that Ben would find their way through this.

Mason Deaver brought so much humor, emotion, and hope to this book. These characters were amazing. I read the entire thing in just a few hours and loved it so much. I really found it a tremendous learning experience for me, because I'll admit I don't know nearly enough about nonbinary people. I hope this book gets into the hands of those who need it most.

If you follow my reviews you know how much I marvel at the tremendous amount of talent in the YA genre in particular. I love the courage and boldness with which these authors tackle difficult subjects, and I am so thankful that there are so many authors like Deaver willing to share their own struggles with readers in the hope they can reach those who need to hear, and see, that progress and happiness and acceptance may seem impossible to fathom, but it truly is possible.

See all of my reviews at itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com.

Check out my list of the best books I read in 2018 at <https://itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com/2019/01/the-best-books-i-read-in-2018.html>.

You can follow me on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/the.bookishworld.of.yrralh/>. ...more

I Wish You The Best

This is the kind of story that could change your life.

"whatever happens, I wish you all the best, Ben De Backer

THIS WAS EVERYTHING. This is such a groundbreaking YA book following a non-binary teen that is genuinely going to change lives. It was sadder than I expected, with more of a family focus rather than romance, but I really loved what it was doing and how it covered so much in such a short time.

Ben was a great main character, I liked that their reactions seemed realistic for the situation, and I felt they were a character that 'existed' rather than was necessarily designed to be liked or a teaching mechanism.

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Nathan was a huge angel and I loved him. I just wish there were more interactions between Ben and Nathan to build their chemistry and relationship more, though I do love their romance.

Overall this is a wonderful, and necessary book that tackled a lot of issues around homophobia, transphobia, living as a non-binary person and queer experiences. big recommendation and maybe bigger review to come ...more

I Wish You Were Gay Chords

"Sometimes the world is too loud."

I loved this book so, so, so, so, SO much. Knowing this book will mean so much to non-binary folks (teens especially!) fills my heart with so much happiness. Thank you for this beautiful story, Mason! <3

The ARC of this book was provided by Scholastic via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

[Full review here](#)

I think this book is going to mean so much for so many people.

First of all, I think it's important to say that this book is own voices so the author surely knows what they are talking about.

This book tells the story of Ben, a teenager who identifies as non-binary. After coming out to their parents Ben is kicked out of their home. Thankfully their sister Hannah takes them in and help The ARC of this book was provided by Scholastic via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

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This book tells the story of Ben, a teenager who identifies as non-binary. After coming out to their parents Ben is kicked out of their home. Thankfully their sister Hannah takes them in and helps them go through some major things. She helps them get into a new school and offers to financially help them, something that Ben obviously needs since they are only a high schooler. I liked how this book was all about Ben and their journey that brought them to forgiveness, to acceptance and in the end to happiness. This story was very character-driven, something I very much appreciated.

I loved the fact that the characters talked about pronouns and misgendering and also how they said sorry when they made mistakes. Every time they did that it felt like a small victory in Ben's favour and I was so happy for them because it meant that people were listening to them and were accepting them for who they really are. Because that's the feeling throughout all the book, Ben just wants to be accepted for who they are and I'm happy they found people who do.

The other characters were great. Hannah and Thomas are two of the most supportive people I've ever encountered in books. They really are good for Ben, especially considering the parents they were living with before all this.

The friends Ben makes are very nice, especially Nathan (my little sunshine). I don't know how the author did it, but I could definitely feel Nathan's happiness and good spirits radiating from the

I Wish You All the Best

pages. When Ben was painting Nathan's portrait and decided to go with yellow I was like: "Well yes of course, what other colour could you use to describe him?" It just felt so obvious to me. I'm so glad Ben and Nathan found each other and wherever they are I just want to wish them all the best. ...more

I Wish You All the Best

I Wish You The Best Of Luck

THIS WAS SO WHOLESOME OMG. such good non-binary rep, but also a super cute romance and a really emotional family story

4.5 stars.

I LOVED this. Great representation, pacing, and I haven't shipped two people together in such a long time!

This is 4.5 for me though because for some reason, while the writing is great, I felt myself not feeling as emotionally attached to the characters as I'd like to be, but I'm positive that the very minor problem will be fixed in Mason's second novel.

This is SUCH an important novel (it being the first own voices non-binary experience I've ever read), and Deaver will soon be an even bigger name. 4.5 stars.

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I Wish You All the Best

I Wish You Love

disclaimer: i received an ARC in exchange for an honest review, this in no way impacted my review.

trigger warnings: rejection from parents after coming out (challenged), panic attacks

Finally, after my third time reading this brilliant gift to the young-adult world, I can share my review of I Wish You All the Best by Mason Deaver.

I Wish You All the Best is a young-adult contemporary about Ben De Backer, a non-binary teen who is thrown out of their house after coming out to their parents, who disclaimer: i received an ARC in exchange for an honest review, this in no way impacted my review.

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Finally, after my third time reading this brilliant gift to the young-adult world, I can share my review of I Wish You All the Best by Mason Deaver.

I Wish You All the Best is a young-adult contemporary about Ben De Backer, a non-binary teen who is thrown out of their house after coming out to their parents, who then goes and lives with their sister and has to overcome the after-effects of this trauma, struggling with an anxiety disorder, depression, and feelings of loneliness, but whose days are brightened by an annoying classmate, Nathan, who just might become more than that. ;)

Benjamin De Backer may be the closest I have ever written about myself...This book is what I needed when I was fifteen, when I was eighteen, and it's still the story I need in my twenties. This is how a lot of stories are born: out of necessity.

I first read this novel in 2017, and then again later in 2017, and now I've read an actual ARC of it I've held an actual copy of the book as opposed to reading a Google Doc and that is almost surreal in the best way possible.

I Wish You All the Best is a love letter to non-binary teens everywhere it is a love letter to the kids who don't know where they fall in the gender binary, to the kids who know they fall outside the binary but who need a little help understanding just how valued and loved that is.

It is one of the only novels with a non-binary teen who uses they/them pronouns as the main character, and that is groundbreaking.

But it is also a novel about overcoming anxiety, depression, rejection, and trauma and those are messages that can resonate with almost anyone regardless of gender identity.

I Wish You All the Best

The kind of pain Ben feels for a lot of the novel, it's the kind of pain I think anyone has the ability to experience no matter how they identify, and because of that, anyone can see the power of this novel.

I didn't say you shouldn't feel sad. I'm just saying you need to prove them wrong...Be sad, hell, sit in bed all weekend and just watch Netflix. I've had those times too. But don't stop living your life for them.

This quote truly gave me chills.

Deaver explores themes of anxiety and depression in a way that is absolutely exquisite, that I have rarely seen explored in many young-adult novels. They represent these very real struggles in such an authentic and truthful manner that I just wanted to hug Ben (though I wouldn't have because we respect boundaries in this house) for how I felt for them, and I wanted to cry because of how much I could relate to them.

And more than all of this, Deaver also just wrote a brilliant novel.

They wrote their debut novel in such an exquisite manner that it never felt like a debut, it felt the work of an expert writer who has been honing this craft for decades.

They wrote a novel with a brilliant cast of characters, all of whom I would die for especially Ben and Nathan, who are my children don't even try me.

They wrote an intriguing and moving plot. And, most importantly (in my lil' queer opinion), they wrote an astoundingly beautiful romance.

Whatever happens, I wish you all the best, Benjamin De Backer. You deserve it.

The connection between Ben and Nathan is moving and adorable and beautiful all at once.

Nathan is a shining ray of hope and brightness in a world of dark. He is filled with a heart of love and happiness, and despite his unforgivable cereal habits, he is the perfect love interest.

And similarly, I Wish You All the Best is a source of hope in a world of darkness. I Wish You All the Best is hope when hope feels unachievable.

And for that reason alone, I believe it is a read for everyone and their mother and their dog.

I am so touched to have been a part of Mason's process, no matter how small a part I played. I am so honored to have been trusted with giving my opinions on this much-needed story. And I am so touched by Mason's bravery in representing a side of me I never thought would be represented so

I Wish You All the Best

well.

Thank you, Mason Deaver, for writing one of the best novels of all-time. For this and so many reasons, I love you and your work.

- - -

I have had the honor of reading this book not once, but twice. Let me just tell you, this is one of the greatest pieces of art I have ever consumed and everyone, EVERYONE, needs to put it on their TBR. I'll write a proper review closer to when it comes out because it's being published and that's what the book and Mason deserve!!!! ...more

This book was... wow. I don't even have words for this book. It was fantastic. It was beautiful and heartbreaking and so so so important. I cannot recommend it enough.