



On the Right Track

Sam Kadence

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Ryunoski “Ru” Nakimura knows all about the trappings of fame. Expelled from a boy band for coming out as gay, he still wants to continue his career in music. Too bad his ex finds nothing better to do than exploit their relationship in the press, so Ru leaves California behind to lie low in Minnesota for a while.

Adam Corbin attends a Minnesota high school and wants to coast through as a typical student. He’s friends with an openly gay student, Bas Axelrod, but while Adam plays football, he also stays away from much socializing. Blending in and not outing himself has been easy because he’s never really been seriously interested in any of the guys he’s encountered.

When Adam meets Ru in a library, Adam begins to think he’s found that special young man who might make it worthwhile to just be himself. And for Ru, Adam looks like someone he might trade his fame for, if they could be together. Ru and Adam will both come to realize that courage and love must go hand in hand if they are to have a future.

On the Right Track Details

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From Reader Review On the Right Track for online ebook

Christy says

4.5 Stars ~ Sam Kadence is the alter-ego, and dear friend of mine, Lissa Kasey. Sam writes young adult, a genre I've told her I'm not particularly fond of, although, somehow, I keep getting them, and I've read some real great ones this past year. However, in order to read book two in this series, which has such a wonderful title, I needed to read 'On The Right Track'. So, here I am, jumping into Ru and Adam's world.

Ru was a member of a pop, boy band, until his then-boyfriend, outed him publicly. The ex needed a little fame for himself, not giving a crap what that meant to Ru. Between the jealous lead singer, and the record company, Ru was "released" from his contract with Vocal Growth.

After months of being stalked by the media, Ru moves to the Twin Cities in Minnesota, where his best friend, and former band mate, Tommy, has a condo. Personally, I would've chosen Fiji, but, hey, to each his own. *grins* As luck, and fate, would have it, Ru meets Adam, who doesn't seem to recognize him, in the library, and, maybe, just maybe, there's more life for Ru to live at seventeen.

Adam is sixteen, and a junior. He's not out. In fact, he has definitely fallen into the trap of hiding who you are. For starters, he's on the football team, even though he hates it. He doesn't date, and sometimes he wonders if there's something wrong with him, since he doesn't ever think about sex. I mean, he's sixteen, shouldn't he be obsessed with it? Adam's closest friend is Bas, a very out and proud young man, but Adam backed away from Bas, a little, when he came out, for fear of being lumped in with him. Bas was, actually, severely beaten right after coming out, and Adam's had a hard time forgetting that. Although, the more he gets to know Ru, and start to accept what's inside him, the closer he gets to Bas, and the more confident he becomes in himself.

I adored getting to know Ru and Adam. They may be young, chronologically, but, in many ways, they are both far too mature, and grown up, than they should be. The author has written a heartwarming story about acceptance, in all of its many forms, and I truly enjoyed it. Why, then, didn't I give it the full five stars? Well, mostly because, at their young ages, there were times when they really did behave much older, and, for me, it came across as slightly unrealistic. The secondary characters of Tommy, Bas, and, even, Adam's parents, were wonderful, and I'm looking forward to seeing more of them.

Thank you, Sam, a worthy story that I highly recommend!

NOTE: This book was provided by the author for the purpose of a review on Christy Loves 2 Read.

LiveYourLife BuyTheBook says

4 Stars

A "Live Your Life, Buy The Book" Review

I have been reading quite a few young adult books lately and I admit I had to sit back and think about my teen years and how my own child, who is a teen, sees the world. In some ways it is very different but some things are the same. Everything is larger than life, every new experience is as if you are the first to have ever

experienced it, fear of being who you are and if you will be accepted, finding that place where you fit in, experiencing love.

On the Right Track takes us into that world but also adds to it a young man who has not had a “normal” childhood, practically no childhood at all. Ryunoski Nakimura is seventeen and has recently gone from being on top of the world as part of a very popular boy band, Vocal Growth, to being scandalized when he was outed by his boyfriend, Kris, whom he had trusted. Being “released” from his contract with the band and ending up the focus of some very negative publicity has taken its toll on him. Although his father had prepared him for stardom from a very young age with music lessons and private tutoring, Ru has been on his own for a while now. His father had abandoned him when, at eleven years old, Ru told his father that he was gay. As he grows and strives to become a bigger star than even his father had imagined, he still has no family support. His mother is more interested in jetsetting with her new boyfriend than being there for Ru. He had thought Kris had loved him but realized it was just his fame that he loved.

Tommy, Ru’s best friend and fellow band member, convinces him to spend some time out of the limelight at Tommy’s apartment in Minnesota. Ru is depressed and has not been able to write any songs since Kris’s betrayal. One afternoon, Ru goes to a local library on a small college campus. This campus is next to a high school that also shares the library. While reading in a quiet area of the library, Ru notices a young man with pale blonde hair and large dark brown eyes has come to work at a computer in his area. He is drawn to him and they share shy glances. When the young man leaves to go to the circulation desk, Ru leaves his name and phone number in the young man’s folder. He is hopeful that maybe he will call.

Adam Corbin is a junior in high school. He is sixteen, athletic, shy and just trying to fit in and stay unnoticed until he can graduate. Adam is also gay. He decided it is safer to not come out after seeing one of his friends, Sebastian Axelrod, or “Bas” as everyone calls him, severely beaten in one of the school bathrooms. Adam found him and called for help. Sebastian is openly gay and has had to take a lot of abuse for just being himself. Adam remains friends with Bas but keeps a certain amount of distance for fear of what could happen to him.

After Tommy sets things in motion with a text to Adam from Ru’s phone, the young men agree to meet for dinner. Ru decides not to tell Adam who he is for fear he will turn Ru away.

The connection is quick and emotions intense and very reminiscent of how it feels to fall in love for the first time. Adam is innocent and has never had a date or even been kissed. Until now there has never been anyone that has held his interest. He is also pretty level-headed for his age and lets Ru know that he is not ready to move quickly. Ru is more experienced and sometimes behaves as if he is much older; though there are times his reactions to situations and his insecurities remind us that he is still just seventeen. Adam’s parents are very strict with his internet access and by not having access to this we are led to believe that Adam has never seen or heard of Vocal Growth. Ru wants to tell Adam who he is, but he keeps waiting for the right time. He is enjoying being with someone who likes him for himself, not his fame. Adam is also not sharing this new relationship with anyone for fear he will be outed at school and face the repercussions like his friend, Bas, did.

Adam’s parents are those parents that, when we were teens, we wish we had. They love Adam unconditionally; they are accepting that he is gay and willing to compromise with Adam on the limits of his and Ru’s relationship. Adam has an open and honest relationship with his parents and the communication makes it work.

When a situation leads to Adam being outed on a social media network, he and Ru must make some

decisions regarding their relationship and how they want the world to see them and what it means to stand up for yourself.

I enjoyed *On the Right Track* very much. It addresses bullying, friendship, first love, what society puts children through every day and how hard it is to deal with it, especially if you have people telling you that there is something wrong with you and, in Sebastian's case, taking it to a physical level of violence. There really is a minimal amount of angst and a mix of supportive and non supportive characters surrounding the main characters. Real life might not always work out like it did for Ru and Adam, but I enjoyed feeling like it could and sharing the hopefulness of youth.

Lucy says

Reviewed for Hearts On Fire Reviews

Ru was the talented one in a boy band until a photo of him kissing his boyfriend was made public and he was not only tossed from the band but the boyfriend who orchestrated the outing was then photographed cheating on him. A rich man at 17 and old beyond his years, Ru has gone to a friend's condo in Minnesota, a town where he has an uncle, to lick his wounds and regroup for a solo effort. He has the skills and the talent but he is just so lonely. His father, the force that pushed Ru to go further, more, never enough, abruptly left when Ru (at age 11) announced he was gay. Mom stayed around long enough to get the money but that's about it. Ru doesn't have anyone and it's hard for him to trust now. Ru thought he had a family in his friends but realizes they weren't real. He does a lot of work for LGBT causes now, appearances, songs and such. It is here that he begins to find how much he contributes. I liked the hope that is here, that every bullied kid can find inspiration from somewhere.

Adam is a football player in Minnesota who would rather run than tackle. He is quiet and just wants to blend in and be unnoticed. He's gay and he knows it but is not willing to commit the "social suicide" of coming out at school. He has a friend who is out and proud, Bas (oh man, did I love the character of Bas, "all glitter and smiles"), and knows what Bas has gone through. He even distanced himself from Bas, afraid of what others would do to him. When he catches a glimpse of Ru at the library, he is interested but shy, not sure what even to do.

And so begins the story of Adam and Ru. It's a lovely story. Adam's parents are truly involved, caring parents and they monitor Adam's internet usage. This means Adam has no idea who Ru is as they get to know each other.

Ru does have an amazing friend in Tommy, one of his former bandmates (and the owner of the condo Ru is staying at). Tommy is a seriously loyal person and he's always there for Ru. He's a little older and he cares for Ru as a big brother would, including making him get out there.

There is conflict in the form of Adam's teammate, Nate, and of course the fact that Ru isn't forthcoming as to who he really is. You just know this is going to come back and slap him and of course it does. You have to keep remembering that no matter how long Ru has been working and traveling, how much money he has, he really is only 17. He hasn't attended regular school since he was a small child and he has been betrayed by nearly everyone he knows. It makes it difficult for him.

There is an assembly, with a speech made by Bas. This was so sad, hopeful and touching because despite

being beaten on, Bas definitely isn't beaten down. He is proud of who he is and he has been almost broken. He knows how hard it is. He appreciates the difference just one kind person can make. He's a great friend for Adam. I want him to have his story (hint) .

The story is the story of Adam and Ru but more importantly for me, it was the story of Adam and the story of Ru. They seemed like individuals, which made it even better.

The greatest sentence in this book for me personally is something I wish every teen would understand. "Baby boy, you are exactly as you are supposed to be. Don't let anyone else tell you otherwise." A message so important and so hard to grasp sometimes.

Lisa The Novel Approach says

This book is a must read for any LGBTQ youth you know. I would recommend this book for many reasons. There is a theme throughout the story of acceptance. I believe that Sebastian is one of the strongest characters in the book. This boy has his stuff TOGETHER. He is out and proud and he won't let anyone scare him back into the closet. Near the end of the book, Sebastian gives a speech at the school that made me bawl like a baby. As much as Adam thought he was invisible, he was at least one person's hero. The thing I really loved was the simple idea that just being nice to someone that everyone else shuns could save a life. Accepting someone for who they are, no strings attached, can make you shine and can make someone else feel like a million bucks. It can pull them back from the edge you didn't know they were teetering on.

You can read the rest of Jackie's review at [The Novel Approach](#)

Riina Y.T. says

This was just soo lovely! a complete joy to read ♥ from the first to the last page! It's probably one of the sweetest YA reads I have read ♥

Both boys are just oh-my-god-i-cant-believe it sweet!

On the Right Track is a bit an unusual story and reminds me of something you most definitely find in Manga. Even though Ru is obviously part Japanese there is absolutely nothing Japanese about the book. It's pretty much about all American boy band stuff and the horrors of being popular especially at a very young age where you just can't be yourself and do whatever the hell you like. Because someone is always keeping track, especially those who want something from you.

It starts with Ru trying to figure out how to continue "living" after a bunch of terrible events that practically ruined everything he had, or so he thought.

It's like fate's little sweet plan when Adam and Ru meet in a library where neither really "belong" ♥ Both are shy and insecure for different reasons but nevertheless Ru leaves his phone number on Adam's table while

he's gone and hopes he will get in touch...

After spending a wonderful time together the awaited "Oh no they didn't!" went down and without a lot of fussing, everyone works out their "issues" and things work out perfectly fine! I really enjoyed that. Sometimes the MC's tend to overdo their anger or whatever it is that arises.

Sometimes I think you just know whether you can trust one certain person and it's stupid to make a huge fuss when it isn't really necessary. So yeah, that was definitely a wonderful and sweet, drama-free and educational story - highly recommended ♥ especially to young people :)

Sam Kadence says

I wrote it.

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

I'm not a huge YA fan, but I like it on occasion. I've enjoyed this authors non-YA books and a friend who had read this one said she really enjoyed it, so I bought it.

I'm glad I did.

Adam is 16 and he's a bit 'perfect', he's a good student, a really nice guy, has a good heart and he's naive in a lot of ways. He's also a great son, his parents restrict his Internet access a lot and he's not allowed FB, which honestly is admirable and but shocking that he's totally ok with that. He also has never (view spoiler)

I like him, a lot.

Ru is 17 and a big star, being hounded by the press since his ex sold him to the paparazzi and he lost his place in the boy band.

He's got it all, if you don't look closely, but he's all alone except for his friend Tommy, he has no family, no support. He's lonely and he is still so young and is being eaten alive by the press.

They meet and fall for each other. It's sweet, it really is. Is it realistic? Probably not, but who cares?

There is some drama with an ex and there are some homophobes, But the moral of the story is told well and it's an uplifting, happy and feel good read that ended far too soon for me.

I'd love more of these two and I really really want Bas to get his HEA!

Lauren says

3.5 stars - This was a sweet YA read. It's pretty low on angst and there is very little drama. I liked the message of the book and how it dealt with issue of homophobic bullying, which many of its young readers might be facing. It's a good read for teens, although I did think it was a bit too fluffy and sweet in places. Still, I enjoyed it for what it was and I'd love to read more by this author.

Pixie Mmgoodbookreviews says

5 Hearts

Review written for MM Good Book Reviews

Ru is seventeen and already knows the pitfalls of fame, as a member of a boy band he was dumped by his band and his record company when his then lover outed him. Ru is in Minnesota to lay low while he writes songs for his solo career and comes across a beautiful young man in a library, a young man who doesn't know who he is and makes him feel like a teenager he really is. Adam is sixteen and is perfectly happy to keep his head down and coast through school, when he meets a gorgeous young man in the library he is both scared and excited and finally seizes the chance to be his true self with another person. Both young men come to realize that to be together they need courage and love.

This story is amazing, it isn't the usual rock-star story but a story of two teenagers who have grown up in different surroundings and finding a youthful love. Ru has been through some difficult times since he was outed, hounded by the media his ex living off the fame and the only friend he really has is Tommy his ex-band mate. When he meets Adam he falls for the wonderful boy and try's to spend as much time getting to know him, but keeps hidden his fame. Adam knows the truth of being gay where he lives, he has seen his friend Bas badly beaten after he came out and Adam is scared to death of the same thing if anyone found out about him. Meeting Ru has him being himself, he discovers more confidence in himself and when he is outed himself he confronts his bullies head on.

I was so impressed with this story that I re-read it immediately after I finished it, and I still loved every word in it. This story is so much more than just two young men meeting and falling in love, it's about the family and support you have and the friends who are true friends. It's about finding the courage to hold your head up high in spite of the insults and abuse, and that no matter what your position in life bullies are still bullies. We feel drawn to the boys in this story as we get to know them and their fears, we see how they become confident and how they rely on each other for support. The supporting characters are wonderful with Tommy being the big brother that Ru desperately needs and Bas being an incredible role model and friend to Adam.

There are many things in this story that will tug at your heart, not least of which is Bas' speech that will hit you in the heart and bring tears to your eyes. The story is wonderfully written, the storyline is interesting and holds your attention, but, it is the characters and what they are going through that makes you love this book. The fear, depression, anger, hope, love, joy, understanding and confidence are just some of the emotions that Ru and Adam experience and you experience it with them.

I have absolutely no choice but to recommend that everyone read this, and if you know a young gay man or a support group then donate a copy because this story might just give them hope that they are not alone.

Pjm12 says

I pretty much devoured this. Yep, it's YA, and so the smexy is very much non-existent and just plain adorably sweet (and very innocent), but the two main characters are really well developed and grow considerably over the course of the novel.

Ru is the more experienced cynical one. He's been hurt, and constantly living in the public eye has drained him of his youthful optimism.

On the other hand, Adam is a total innocent. He's never been interested in anything romantic or sexual, and his parents' guidance of his access to the internet has meant he is unaware of Ru's fame and fortune.

I liked the dual narratives. Their voices are quite different, and although they fall madly in love too quickly, too intensely, it does feel right, given how young they are.

What I really loved was the way the two boys had such great support mechanisms around them - Tommy is crucial for Ru's self-esteem and Adam's parents are completely perfect (too unrealistic? I really hope not). Bas is a doll and we are introduced to Michelle late in the story, and I wish we could have met her sooner.

Interestingly, there are big bads on both sides - a nasty piece of work on Adam's side who is nicely flagged, so when he flips, it's not unexpected and ups the tension, since prior to this, it's all a bit lovely between the boys.

On Ru's side, AJ & Kris are positioned as horrible right from the beginning, and their efforts to hinder Ru's both professional and personal happiness ensures everything doesn't always work out.

I didn't really like the boys being referenced as 'the younger man', and 'the older boy', but that's just nit-picking.

Sweet, but nicely controlled. Not too overly sentimental or cheesy, I can see me rereading this.

Amy says

I loved Ru and Adam!! And I must not forget Tommy and Bas! I was very disappointed when it ended :(can I get a sequel?!!

BWT (Belen) says

Michael Stellman delivers another terrific performance. I loved the narration, and was kept engaged and interested throughout the story and a maybe even a little sad to see it end.

I like Young Adult stories...the hormones and the craziness of that time in our lives when everything was SO MUCH! I can't say I *loved* the story because, frankly, the story was just a smidgeon too over the top. **This is like Romeo and Juliet without the crazy feud and suicide.** Or the marriage, or the...

Okay, so it's not like Romeo and Juliet except they're both super young and fall instantly in love upon seeing each other and become way too dependent on each other.

Anyway...it's a sweet story overall, though there were some parts that bothered me...(view spoiler)

The story glosses over quite a bit, and then gives what I found to be a rather abrupt ending. I would have liked to have found out what happened with quite a few points...(view spoiler)

On the whole the excellent narration keeps it from becoming too saccharine sweet *and* kept me from thinking too long on the spoiler points, and overall it has a good, if heavy-handed, anti-bullying message.

Copy generously provided by Dreamspinner Press in exchange for an honest review.

This review has been cross-posted at Reviews by Jessewave

Melyna says

I have been reading quite a few young adult books lately and I admit I had to sit back and think about my teen years and how my own child, who is a teen, sees the world. In some ways it is very different but some things are the same. Everything is larger than life, every new experience is as if you are the first to have ever experienced it, fear of being who you are and if you will be accepted, finding that place where you fit in, experiencing love.

On the Right Track takes us into that world. It is different in that the characters may not be ones we can personally relate to on all levels but those things we all feel and experience as young adults is very much the same.

To read the full review please go to:

<http://liveyourlifebuythebook.wordpress...>

❀~Amy~❀ says

3.5 stars

I enjoyed this book. Adam and Ru we're adorably sweet and it's very low-angst. There was some minor drama from an ex-boyfriend, an ex-bandmate, and a school bully. There's a great overall message here, even though I feel like it was a bit unrealistic and heavy-handed at the end. I liked Bas and Tommy and Adam's parents were wonderful. I'm really looking forward to continuing the series.

Jilrene ♥ says

This is very painful to write. Ok, I **loved** this book and could not put it down until page 165. Adam's wrist was broken on Friday night at the high school football game. Somehow, he's able to write and edit two articles for the school newspaper even though he's on drugs and wearing a cast on his dominant hand. Oh, and spending a considerable amount of time with his boyfriend, Ru. That's pushing it, but still I might have only docked one star for that. Then, Monday morning when he goes back to school,

“Adam opened his locker and pulled out just a folder and some paper, since he’d be going to an assembly

right away. Maybe he could do some writing in Advisory.”

“He opened his folder and began to write about Bas, his odd humor, and how uplifting it could be. His pen moved with little coaxing, and soon he had nearly two pages, and the classroom was starting to fill up.”

Writing. Two pages. With a cast on his writing hand. No. Just. No.

I had to go into what I call my very own type of sub space. You know the book is totally out there in fantasy land, but it’s well written and the fluffy cheesy goodness is calling to you. Neither the insta love nor the other parts of the plot that were less than real bothered me like the writing with a cast on your hand. I probably shouldn’t be so offended, but I was. I really loved it to that point. So sad.
