



The Decisions We Make

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Daniel Keyes is an orphan, fostered by the Walkers. The product of a lonely childhood, he is thrown into the chaos of the Walker family and into the life of his new foster brother Jamie.

This story is the journey of Daniel and Jamie finding their place in the world. Through Jamie being a victim of hate crime to coming out to family and friends, there are many decisions the boys have to make before they become men.

The Decisions We Make Details

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From Reader Review The Decisions We Make for online ebook

V says

I don't normally read books with teenagers characters, because the stories are not my cup of tea. I'm so glad I kept an eye on the reviews and decide to read it, if you are like me, not very keen to read about immature teens, I advice you to read this story, it is Fantastic, and you won't be disappointed.

The 2 MC are charming, the whole family is just perfect.

I really hope RJ is already sitting down writing a sequel.

She could not possible leave us with such a wonderful characters and not knowing what will happen next.

Lauraadriana says

See.Laura.Pimp.Book.

Ok first off all I have to say that I know that this book was supposed to be based on the two dudes from that show Supernatural and that is supposed to make me love it so much more, because they are so awesome. Well, I think I saw about an episode and a half of that on a plane once, and I still LOVED THE HELL OF THIS STORY!

Oh man I loved these boys, this family, their love, their journey, the way it was told...I even loved the author's super cute and TOTALLY Brit expressions that somehow are supposed to pass as slang from Southern California :O)

So, Daniel Keyes is an orphan, at nine years old he is all alone in the world. All he has is his piano, and himself. His dad died from cancer, and his mom took her own life not long after. He is a scared, lonely little boy. He does not know what to expect the day that he arrives at this new foster home. He will be living with the Walkers now, until some other family wants to keep him permanently. He is frightened of what he will find in that home. He only wants a safe place where he can just STAY.

From the first moment he arrives, he gets mauled and taken over by Jamie, his new foster brother and some kind of insane force of nature. Jamie doesn't know much about Daniel other than that he wants to be friends...So he just lets Jamie take over...And that is where they begin. They become inseparable, always together. Simply. Jamie and Daniel.

Then sixteen comes around, and things are not so simple anymore...Daniel is still with the Walkers the people that have become his family. He has a mom, a dad, a little sister, and older brother and Jamie, he's his brother too. But he's MORE. He's everything. Daniel is scared of what that means.

He talks to his family about who he is and they accept him and support him unconditionally, he just can't bring himself to reveal the other part of what he feels. The part about Jamie. But once Jamie hears the news from Daniel, things with him change as well. He finally sees and begins to understand that what he feels for Daniel is not as simple as he thought. That love they have for each other is still powerful, but somewhere

along the line it has changed. Deciding to acknowledge that will change everything, it will change THEM. But Jamie has never been one to shy away from getting what he wants, and Daniel, he just really wants Jamie.

This love story was just gorgeous. There were hard moments, and there were beautiful moments between the family, between Jamie and Daniel. The love was stubborn and strong between all of them, and that strong love got its victory in the end.

Loved it. For sure, one of my favorite Young Adult stories. What sweetness.

I highly recommend.

Ami says

"Mark, I think I'm gay. Kind of gay for Daniel"

...

The bulk of this story is about Jamie and Daniel -- foster brothers (Daniel was fostered by Jamie's family when he was 9 years old) and eventually first time lovers. Although there are two other kids in Jamie Walker's family (Mark who is older and Megan who is younger), it is always Jamie that is closed to Daniel, mainly because of their similar age.

Growing up, Daniel feels the attraction towards Jamie. While Jamie, he first puts himself as Daniel's protector (Daniel is the geek, while Jamie is the jock) but he cannot deny that Daniel is his best friend, and what he wants is to be with Daniel. Then, Jamie is attacked at school, which left him scarred and both have to make decisions that will affect their lives.

Another MM Young Adult from the pen of RJ Scott after "Love In The ..." series got me all choked up in several scenes. The scene in the hospital is getting my eyes all teary eyed. I can imagine some readers probably get annoyed with the angst and the drama and the tears shared ... but I find it touching and my heart gets all squeezed reading how these two first struggle with their feeling; most especially Daniel, who is afraid that he will lose his place in the wonderful Walker family.

The supporting casts, in form of Jamie's family, are wonderful. The whole family is a portrayal of a lovely amazing family. Mark, the older brother, is my favorite in this. I love how he takes the news about Jamie and Daniel. My favorite scene of his is when he actually HELPS Jamie to do research about gay sex (you go, big brother!)

If I have complaints, it might be due to one or two editing errors (but I can forgive that) and personally, the evil wanna-be girlfriend (who gets her own scenes several time) takes away the story from our main heroes. She also feels like a 'cartoonish villain' and her scenes disrupt my flow of reading, which is why the story can't get higher rating from me.

Nick Pageant says

I love this author. The books are simple, sweet, and with the perfect amount of angst. This one was particularly good. That's all I got 'cause I'm still dabbing my eyes and blowing my nose.

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

This was such a sweet story, sad and hopeful and funny!
I would love to read more about Daniel and Jamie's future and time at college.
My only complaint, and it's just because so many of the m/m books I've read recently feature the evil, conniving female! It's getting old!

Arthur says

4.5 stars

The story is what the blurb said. In summary, it's about Danny who's raised by the Walkers falling for Jammie, his foster brother.

I usually don't like reading young adult romance, particularly highschoolers. The main reason is statistics: in both for gay and het relationships, they don't last long. I feel sad thinking about main characters that I enjoy reading would split soon. Mostly because they're still young, and new opportunities or new people in college would pull them apart. An exception, however, is given when the Mcs grow up together, like in this book. Somehow, I'm hoping such relation can last.

Dallison says

OMG I was on my way to work on the bus reading this book and burst out crying. I cannot say why I cried because I don't want to spoil it for you guys, but boy what a FANTASTIC book!!!! I LOVED IT! RJ when are you going to finish this story. You just cannot end it there. I need to know what happen to these two guys when they go away to college. Please say you are almost finished writing the sequel. 5 plus stars.

Susan says

Daniel is taken in by a foster family after his parents die when he is 9. The family he goes to live with are wonderful, with 2 sons, a daughter and amazing parents.

Daniel is especially close to Jamie, who is the same age. When the boys are 17, Daniel comes out to them. His family supports him, even though they're afraid of the difficult path ahead.

Jamie is torn about the news that Daniel is gay. He feels betrayed that Daniel didn't tell him sooner, but he

also struggles with the fact that he has all these feelings for Daniel.

The boys share a kiss, but Daniel is terrified he is jeopardizing his family, his home, by being with Jamie..

This is a strange book to rate. There were parts I liked, like the fact that Jamie and Daniel were very close and I loved how Jamie was totally committed to Daniel from the start.

What I didn't really care for were the constant flashbacks to see how the boys grew up. I started skimming them after the first two.

And even though I liked the big dramatic event that happened (hurt/comfort, oh yeah!), it was too much, too soon, to feel realistic. I would have liked the boys to have been a little more solid before it happened and everything got thrown out in the open.

It had potential, but it kind of fell flat for me.

Jeff Erno says

This interesting story dared to explore a somewhat unconventional family dynamic. Daniel is a foster kid, orphaned at the age of nine, who is taken in by a family vastly different than the one he was used to. He was an only child, rather introverted, who was musically gifted and played piano by ear from an early age. The day he moves into his new home, his foster brother Jamie, who's the same age, immediately befriends him. Over the years they become close.

Years later, in high school, Daniel comes out as gay to his family, and they accept the announcement without so much as a raised eyebrow. But a few months later when Jamie also comes out, it all hits the fan. To make things even more awkward, Dan and Jamie have feelings for each other.

My apologies for this spoiler, but I have to give a warning. The story contains a hate crime that was so disturbing it literally sent me reeling. I had to put the book down and walk away for a bit. Even writing this paragraph is making me tear up a bit. It's a tough scene, but it's well-written and integral to the story. Readers should be prepared, nonetheless.

I love RJ Scott's writing. This is the third book of hers I've read...the best so far.

MsMiz (Tina) says

Honest to God, this family and these two boys have just made my month. Jamie and Daniel are refreshing young characters that I could read about every day. The family support system is one that every young LGBTQI should have. On top of that, Daniel had devastating family deaths that lead him to be fostered with the Walkers. To deal with all that and come out remotely functional, man I could just hold Daniel to my heart forever. Jamie is intoxicating, loving and all around a great kid. The two of them together are a potent

combination. It is obvious that these two are soul mates.

Now for the looney tunes that was Jamie's stalker prom 'love' interest. As I said in my status, if that is what girls are like, I want another gender categorized and I am jumping ship from this one!

The story was not overly flowery and while the kids had support, they were both realistic in the fears as well as had a decent amount of 'try it world, we will survive' arrogance that I love in kids.

I want to follow them to college. Please RJ?

Elsa Bravante says

Daniel y Jamie son hermanos desde el momento en el que Daniel llega a la familia de Jamie como niño de acogida. Son hermanos desde los 9 años, son hermanos a lo largo del colegio y del instituto, y es en el momento en el que cada uno de ellos piensa y descubre su sexualidad cuando se dan cuenta de que están enamorados.

Como ocurre en casi todos los YA los personajes son dulces y es fácil sentir lo que ellos sienten, a ellos no nos queda otro remedio que quererles, por las inseguridades y la necesidad de amor de uno, y por la generosidad y valentía del otro, pero aun queriéndoles y aun sufriendo y disfrutando con ellos al libro le falta algo. Es fácil disfrutarlo, es una lectura rápida, pero la sensación que me ha dejado es que ocurren muchas cosas, cosas que definen una vida, y aunque somos partícipes de ellas como espectadores se nos escapa algo porque, en mi opinión, no se les da la profundidad que requieren. Conozco a Daniel y a Jamie, pero al terminar el libro lo que me queda es que hay muchas cosas que no sé de ellos, de lo que sienten y de lo que piensan, cómo se enamoraron, cómo vivieron el paso de querer a un hermano a darse cuenta de que ese amor era algo más.

Me ha gustado leerlo, pero me ha dejado con ganas de saber más, para ser un libro de los que se quedan dentro le han faltado unos cientos de páginas.

Nikyta *Miss Forgetful* says

One of the reasons I love RJ's stories is because she can always make me feel so much emotion with just a few words.

In *The Decisions We Make* it's no different. I fell in love with Jamie and Daniel when they first met as children and Daniel was afraid of getting his clothes dirty. The relationship these two develop over the years, being foster brothers, is sweet and touching. They've become best friends and they confide in each other when they have issues. Daniel is quiet, a bookworm and an amazing pianist. Jamie is the opposite of Daniel. He's brash, full of energy and a jock. He's a prankster and always drags Daniel into his jokes, which always end up back-firing. Which made for some very funny times.

The story revolves around these two coming to terms with their feelings for each other and the problems,

emotionally and physically, that arise from being gay so young. They have to accept their love for each other and that there are homophobes in the world who will hurt them. It's a very touching story, one that I absolutely adored. It was hard not to feel some type of emotion for these two and what they go through together. I loved the the relationship this family had, though. The way they all came together when one of them is in trouble or hurt is very sweet. Especially since they all accepted Daniel, an orphan, so easily into their mix and made him feel like part of the family. It was nice.

The only reason I can't give this five stars (even though it is surely a five star read) is the editing. I felt like there was none. Throughout the whole book I found mistake after mistake and it kept throwing me out of the story. There were a lot of inconsistencies that a beta reader or an editor should have pointed out. I know this is a self-published story, but considering the readers are paying for it, I would have liked a more easy flowing story and that could have been accomplished by a bit of self-editing at least. That's my only complaint.

In the end, I really did love the story. The editing might have thrown me off but it didn't stop me from loving Jamie and Daniel and hoping there's more of their story to come. Recommended.

Vivian says

This is a cheese grater book.

Take one heart, yours
Rip it out
Swipe it back and forth
Reinsert

Thank god for the ending. Didn't actually cry, but probably would feel better if I had.

Leaundra says

I loved this story, I loved Jamie from the first time I read about him and Daniel bless his heart. This was the best family he could have came to. I loved the whole family. This wasn't just about first love but about Daniel finding his place in the family and just finding his way. Jamie and Daniel were so perfect for each other, each others other half. Make sure you have Kleenex, I cried but I also laughed too. I'm not surprised I enjoyed this book I really do enjoy RJ's books.

Serena Yates says

This is a young adult gay romance that isn't afraid to tackle some difficult issues, yet will warm your heart with the depth of the characters' feelings. In the end, that is what it is all about. Growing up and being a teenager is tough, but the problems Daniel and Jamie have to deal with are just that bit extra-difficult. The angst almost killed me, parts of the book were hard to read through my tears, but overall, the way these two guys grow up and deal with their situation is amazing. Not that I expected anything less from RJ!

The very first sentence of the book already set the tone. "Do you think he loves Star Wars or crappy Transformers like Mark?" is the question Jamie has just before Daniel arrives to become part of the Walkers family. And what a family it is! They are all about making Daniel feel welcome, and Daniel, trying to deal with the loss of his biological parents, has a hard time accepting all the love he is being given. That part, and later on the family's support, truly reads like a fairy tale.

The interesting part is how the boys' feelings for each other change over time. Since they are foster brothers, yet not biologically related, this isn't easy for them. They know what they feel, well, Daniel does but he is afraid to admit it. Jamie takes a lot longer to come to terms with the fact he loves Daniel in an entirely un-brotherly way. The issue of how others will see them needs to be acknowledged and dealt with, and it is. I felt for them, since not only are they teenagers (tough enough), they are gay (talk about making life almost impossible), and they feel romantically attracted to each other? They sure have a lot to overcome!

If you like angst-y stories, if the task of growing up in today's world baffles you but you're curious about the way kids deal with it, and if you think you can survive one heck of an emotional roller coaster ride, then give this book a chance. I don't think you'll regret it - I certainly didn't!

NOTE: This book was provided by the author for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.