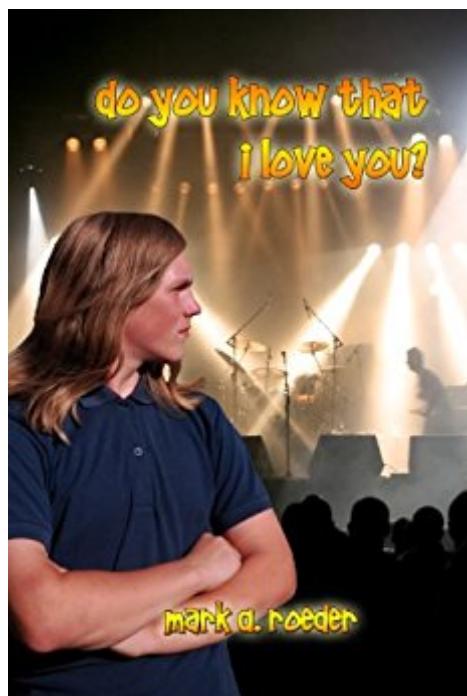


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# Do You Know That I Love You



## **Synopsis**

The lead singer of the most popular boy band in the world has a secret. A tabloid willing to tell all turns his world upside down. In *Do You Know That I Love You*, Ralph, a young gay teen living on a farm in Indiana, has an aching crush on a rock star and wants nothing more than to see his idol in concert. Meanwhile, Jordan, the rock star, is lonely and sometimes confused with his success, because all he wants is someone to love him and feels he will never find the love he craves. *Do You Know* is the story of two teenage boys, their lives, desires, loves, and a shared destiny that allows them both to find peace. Review Mark Roeder is quickly establishing himself as the writer for gay and questioning teens. In *Do You Know That I Love You*, Ralph, a young gay teen living on a farm in Indiana, has an aching crush on a rock star and wants nothing more than to see his idol in concert. Meanwhile, Jordan, the rock star, is lonely and sometimes confused with his success, because all he wants is someone to love him and feels he will never find the love he craves. In a series of scenes that bring the two boys together, accidentally, Roeder keeps you on the edge of your seat. Will Ralph ever see Jordan, again? Or was this just a one-time meeting that will never be repeated? Roeder writes convincingly and makes the impossible seem plausible. Definitely for the romantic gay teen. This is perhaps Roeder's best book. -Ronald L. Donaghe, author of *Common Sons*

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

This was far and away my favorite Mark Roeder book, a great story written with a lot of heart. I've read it any number of times, and it never fails to touch me deeply. And while a few errors and one or two inadvertently repetitive sentences slipped in, these are minor observations on a truly terrific and moving work. I've purchased copies as gifts to friends, who've loved it as I have. Hopefully an audio version will be released before long! :-) Bravo and thanks to Mark Roeder for one of my favorite titles of all time.

This is one of Mark's better books in the series. It shows how Ralph and Jordan met and how some tribulation almost broke them apart. For me to give a book five stars, I really have to feel it could happen or even if not, the situations and/or plot have to be plausible. There are some wonderful moments in this book, but there are also some that really stretch any sense of reality. If it were science fiction...ok. But in a book like this it does not always work. In any event, overall it is a good book and one that I will read again.

The thing which puts me off about this authors writing is his propensity to name each chapter after the characters voice. It's as if he thinks the reader is incapable of keeping up with the plot line unless he names each voice speaking at the beginning of each chapter. He then starts writing in the first person in the following chapter. I would love to see him write in a universal omniscient voice so that the characters don't have to guide the reader along like a pet dog. In several of his other books I had to run back to the chapter title to see who the heck was speaking and what it had to do with the plot line. It was annoying as all get out. In one of his books in particular he even named the characters with similar names and confused the plot even more. It's not that the plot lines are not interesting it's just annoying as heck to keep up with who's speaking. I realize he writes for a specific age group but does that target age group really think and read like that? If so, then we're all in big trouble! The electronic generation in operation I guess. I didn't see my first TV until I was sixteen and until then my TV was between my ears and came directly from the pages of a book. I have read and written in many styles but I have never used this technique for obvious reasons. Regardless, whatever to you do: READ AND ENJOY! Cheers and happy days!

Semi-recommended for gay teenagers, but too many downsides to this book (which has some appealing characters, but too many loopholes in the story line). Little tension or conflict until the end, when there was lots of tension and conflict. Unfortunately, three of the major characters did NOT come out well under fire. Indiana boyfriend (most appealing character) accused his rockstar boyfriend of cheating on him; at the time, the accusation was false, but understandable under the circumstances. However, rockstar's behaviour at that point was abominable: he fell apart, gave up on the relationship and his sweet boyfriend and fell into the arms of and in bed with his best friend and partner in the band. In a matter of hours, he gave up on his relationship and made the false accusation become true. His friend and partner showed poor judgment in allowing that to happen, as he said he loved his partner and his partner's boyfriend and didn't want to interfere in their relationship. Piddle. Then, when rockstar learned WHY his boyfriend had made the accusation, and he decided (far too late) to do what he should have done in the first place and flown to see his boyfriend and convinced him of his innocence (he was no longer innocent), he allowed his other partner to talk him out of it in one sentence! Then, I was disappointed in Indiana boyfriend for forgiving too quickly and easily, and for having the insight to wonder what rockstar saw in him to fall in love with him (critical issue of the book, NOT dealt with thereafter) and then not making sure that his question was answered as part of the reconciliation process. Frankly, I could see what anyone would love about Ralph, but by the end of the story, I wasn't sure whether rockstar was good enough for Ralph. Maybe the sequel will answer my questions. It's a gripping read, but it deserves to be taken with a handfull of salt.

Don't be put off by the terrible cover art: this is a welcome addition to the Gay Youth Chronicles and one of my all-around favorites. Like all the other books in the series, this is a stand-alone story and can be enjoyed without having read the other books. However, one of the great charms of this series is the chance to revisit old friends from the previous books, and there is a wonderful sense of gratification that comes from seeing how these old characters' lives have progressed and watching how they become involved with the new characters introduced in this book. Do You Know That I Love You is a gratifyingly indulgent take on the timeless "rags to riches" motif (anonymous boy meets super-famous boy and gets swept into a whole new world). The improbability of the events is delightful and encouraging as a tale unfolds about two very different boys who find each other, fall in love and learn to trust. Wonderful. Don't miss it or any of Mark's other books!

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