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The Ongoing Reformation Of Micah Johnson (Get Out Book 1)

THE ONGOING REFORMATION OF
MICAH JOHNSON



SEAN KENNEDY



Synopsis

Micah Johnson is out of options. Following a stint as a runaway after the cruel revelation of his sexual orientation, Micah vows to get his life back on the right track. But there are roadblocks between him and his goal of making the national draft and having a shot at becoming an AFL player, including struggles with other students both on and off the football field. Hiding behind sarcasm will only protect him from so much, and Micah knows just making it to graduation will be an epic battle. If only Micah could find a fraction of the faith that his mentor, Declan Tyler, has in him, but he can't seem to see what Declan does. Micah is trying to reform, but the end of the road is a long way off, and it's clear the process is ongoing.

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Customer Reviews

Sean Kennedy, who's given us a series of quirky romances involving sports stars (in Australian football, which is somewhere between soccer and rugby, I think), seems to have started on a new series with a young adult story line. If the first offering in this series is any foretaste, it should be fun. We've met Micah Johnson before: outed embarrassingly in high school, Micah has handled his new notoriety by pushing everybody away and making plenty of bad

choices—the most extreme of which sent Declan and Simon on a road trip in *Tigers on the Run*. In *The Ongoing Reformation*, Micah is still struggling with anger and aggressive behavior in school, but is gradually becoming aware of how his actions not only hurt his chances at a football career, but hurt the people around him who love him most. Micah's best friend Emma from Declan's GetOut organization for LGBT teens is one person who tells him the truth. Emma's cousin Carl, a straight boy who is his only friend at his new school, also offers him wry candor and acceptance of who he is. Micah's parents do their best, but anyone who knows how difficult teenagers can be under the best of circumstances (and I do), will not be surprised at their tendency to hover anxiously in the background, trying NOT to set Micah off. I really enjoyed this, largely because Micah is deeply drawn, and he is every bit as mercurial and confusing as a real teenager. From page to page he changes from hostile and angry to repentant and earnest—and back again. He pushes those who love him to their limits, terrified that they'll turn their backs on him and leave him alone. Ultimately the power in this fairly simple story is found in Micah's agency in taking responsibility for his actions in order to salvage the promise of a career. I didn't realize until the rather abrupt ending that this was the start of a new series. I was relieved, because the final scene was emotionally rocky, and left me slightly desperate for something more.

Really true and interesting characters. A little rushed at the end but the main story was done by then. Good read.

Actually a really great book.

Great start for a new YA series

If you think this is going to be another story involving Simon and Dec, you will be disappointed. That said, Simon is in the background, delightfully so and is up to his usual snarky self. It's also clear Dec loves him. However, this is Micah's story and good grief Micah makes his life hard, and those around him. All the talent in the world does not make up for a crappy attitude, which Micah has in spades. Wow, tough love was not nearly enough to get through to that young man, as Dec had his hands full trying to get Micah to listen. I caught myself shaking my head quite a few times. I am looking forward to Sean's next book, hoping it's a continuation of Micah's story.

(Originally reviewed for Love Bytes Reviews with a copy provided by the publisher / author for an honest review. Rated 4.5 out of 5.0 stars.) I'm still reeling from the fact that I managed to snag this book to review! Usually a couple of our reviewers get their names on the list for Mr. Kennedy's books before I do. I'm really happy they didn't this time! In The Ongoing Reformation of Micah Johnson our focus shifts from the main characters in the Tigers & Devils series, over to Micah Johnson, the troubled youth that Declan has been working with through his Get Out charity. Those of you who've read the Tigers & Devils series will remember that Micah had quite a bit of page time in Mr. Kennedy's third book in that series, Tigers on the Run. Now it is time for his own story. The story begins shortly after the end of Tigers on the Run, but sidesteps over to Micah's point of reference in what is billed as the start of a new separate series. We knew Micah had issues in the previous book, but I really enjoyed getting to know this kid in this current work. I'll be honest, at times I wanted to reach in and shake him when he was being pig-headed, but that was only because the story was, as always with Mr. Kennedy, superbly written, with snarky characters, infighting, bouts of homophobia, high school drama, and the build up to the AFL draft. I want to stress that this book isn't part of the Tigers & Devils series, but rather a spinoff. With this book, Mr. Kennedy has created a new series targeted I believe, based on it having been published by Harmony Ink Press, at the Young Adult / New Adult market. The book is age appropriate for that market, while still being a great read for old duffs like me who love the original series! That said, we do still have Declan running around and even a couple brief flashes of Simon. Will Micah ever wise up, lose the anger and hostility he is carrying from being outed before he was ready? With it feeling like the whole world is out to get him, and rampant homophobia at not only school, but also the Football camps, will he make it to the draft picks? No spoilers except to say that I really liked Micah's character by the end of the book and hope we hear more of him in the future! I highly recommend this book. You don't have to read the Tigers & Devils series first, but I love that series and recommend you read it when you have a chance. I don't remember anything too wild in those books that would make them inappropriate for this audience as well.

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