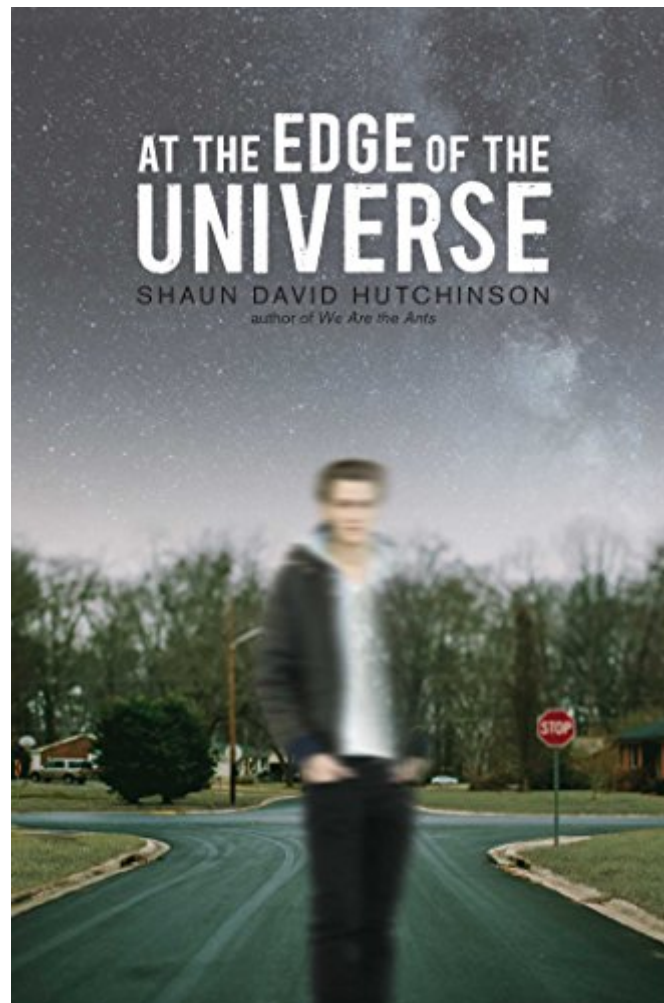


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# At The Edge Of The Universe



## Synopsis

From the author of *We Are the Ants* comes *Another Winner* (Booklist, starred review) about a boy who believes the universe is slowly shrinking as things he remembers are being erased from others' memories. Tommy and Ozzie have been best friends since the second grade, and boyfriends since eighth. They spent countless days dreaming of escaping their small town and then Tommy vanished. More accurately, he ceased to exist, erased from the minds and memories of everyone who knew him. Everyone except Ozzie. Ozzie doesn't know how to navigate life without Tommy, and soon he suspects that something else is going on: that the universe is shrinking. When Ozzie is paired up with the reclusive and secretive Calvin for a physics project, it's hard for him to deny the feelings developing between them, even if he still loves Tommy. But Ozzie knows there isn't much time left to find Tommy that once the door closes, it can't be opened again. And he's determined to keep it open as long as possible.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have no words to explain the level of awesome in this book, but I will try. First of all, I'm so thankful to Jellybooks for giving me an advanced electronic copy to read. Last year I read *We Are the Ants* and it became one of my favorite books of 2016. I was eager to read anything else by Shaun David Hutchinson. I'll be buying a physical copy of this beautiful book as soon as it's released. I have so much love for this book. It follows Ozzie, a boy who exists in a universe where all trace of his boyfriend has been erased from everyone he knows. Throughout the story, Ozzie theorizes on the reasons why this happened, as well as trying to figure out why the universe keeps shrinking in size. On top of adoring Ozzie, I fell hard for all of his friends and family. Ozzie's best friend, Lua especially stole my heart, my lovely gender-fluid rockstar. And Dustin, who I'm pretty sure was ace, also stole my heart. And Ozzie's brother, Renny. I mean, even Calvin was a small cinnamon roll, and I loved them all. So aside from the characters, there were strong friendships and relationships that constantly shifted, and it all made sense, even though it shouldn't have. As the universe shrunk, Ozzie's world kept changing. It was frustrating, but also so relatable. I felt the same when I read *We Are the Ants*. It's one of those stories where you're aware something is off with the metaphysical world, but it makes perfect sense with the way you've felt mentally. It's hard to explain, but the author does beautiful things with his stories. I don't think there's much of a plot to this book, which added so much more depth. It's a story about relationships, romantic and platonic. It's a story about love, loss, growth, courage, and moving on. It's about opening your eyes to the people in front of you, and showing them compassion and love. It's about life and death and the nothingness at the edge of the shrinking universe. As Ozzie lost traces of the life he'd always known, I mourned my own personal losses. When you lose a loved one, sometimes it feels as if the universe swallowed them whole. I'm sad to have finished this book simply because I wanted to continue living in Ozzie's universe, as scary as it sometimes was. I wanted the story to go on. I'm looking forward to revisiting this book many times in the future. I think that's a trend with all of Hutchinson's books, actually. I think he's now one of my favorite authors. I definitely recommend this to everyone. I would understand if other people didn't feel as strongly about this book. It resonated with me, but I don't expect it will with everyone. It's a very unique type of book. I'm glad I found it. (Also, just have to mention the amazing, totally unexpected cameo of a certain pair from *We Are in the Ants*. It was a nice touch. It had me smiling like an idiot.)

Shaun David Hutchinson is easily one of my favorite authors, so I was highly expecting a great book. I wasn't let down. Shaun never fails to write great books with realistic characters and great plot lines. **\*\*Spoilers ahead\*\*** Even though the main character did not end up with a particular love

interest, I was still left satisfied. This book really makes me think. Like, was it an alternative universe? I don't know, but I'm probably overthinking. If you ever want a great book to read, this is a wonderful choice.

Was it good as others are saying? No. It was just ok. Typical high school cliches. The ending felt rushed and it didn't really answered the most important question.

This book is FANTASTIC! Could not put it down. So much heart. So much feeling. And great representation of on-the-page asexual and non-binary characters.

AMAZING!!!! I would recommend this book for everyone!!!!

Ozzie is the only one who remembers his boyfriend Tommy. He's known Tommy since they were young children and they started dating in middle school. Now though, no one remembers that Tommy existed, including Ozzie's family, his friends, and Tommy's parents. Ozzie has figured out that the universe is shrinking around him, erasing people like Tommy from existence and rearranging history as if they were never there. Meanwhile, Ozzie's world continues to change. His best friend Lua is becoming a rock star, his brother is headed to basic training, and his parents' marriage is breaking up. One bright spot in Ozzie's life is Cal, a confusing boy he is paired with for a physics project but the feelings developing between them complicate his ongoing search for Tommy. This book sweeps you up, whisks you into Ozzie's world and you believe, oh my, do you believe. Even though it's impossible, questionable, and strange, you are along for the ride and the wonder of it all. This is because the emotions are so strong and real, the terror of life changing and the lack of control, the love between people that survives even though one is gone, the joy of new connections and friends. It's all there, exactly what young readers are experiencing themselves but shown in a way that no one has seen before. While Ozzie may believe the universe is shrinking, readers will question that right up to the end. What they won't question is the world that Hutchinson has created here, filled with vibrant characters that you want to love and befriend. The LGBT themes are strongly written and beautifully presented. While the main character is gay, his friends are just as diverse. Lua is gender variant, striking and dramatic, changing pronouns with outfits. Other characters are asexual, presented in just the same frank and unquestioning way. LGBT characters in the book talk about sex, have sex,

explore sex. It's all brilliantly normal in a book that is anything but. This is a book you must read to completely understand it. I hope you find it just as compelling and wondrous as I did. Enjoy! Appropriate for ages 14-18.

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