



## Better Than Safe

*Lane Hayes*

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## **Better Than Safe** Lane Hayes

Paul Fallon is a fashion advertising guru. He's a genius at dealing with difficult editors, art directors, and designers alike. He thrives on the chaotic atmosphere and constant challenges. But in his personal life, he's hoping for peace and stability. Settling down with a nice doctor or lawyer sounds perfect. Anyone but an artist. He's been there, done that, and he doesn't want to relive the heartache.

Seth Landau is a model, occasional guitarist, and aspiring painter. He's quirky, flighty, and wise beyond his years. Life has taught him some tough lessons, then given him opportunities he never dreamed of. He's learned to appreciate the fragility of life and to express it in his work. Seth's flare for the absurd combined with a supple mind and a beautiful body are too alluring for Paul to ignore. Against his best intentions, Paul is drawn to the younger man whose particular brand of crazy challenges Paul to accept that things aren't always as they seem. Sometimes taking a chance is better than being safe.

## **Better Than Safe Details**

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## From Reader Review Better Than Safe for online ebook

**Valerie ✨M/M Romance Junkie✨ says**

I am going to be so unpopular with my review. I am so conflicted in my feelings for this book. On one hand, I enjoyed quite a few parts. On the other? I didn't really care about either MC. I didn't like Seth at the very beginning, and Paul was quite boring. Paul's inner dialogue got to be fairly repetitious. The story would start to become enjoyable then BAM! Right back to the same issues over and over. I will also admit that a couple of the smexy scenes were a bit repetitious, as well. I would swear that it was almost exactly the same dialogue with just the names swapped. Not sexy.

(view spoiler)

*\*edited for a change in rating\**

2.5\* the more I think about it, the more I realize how little I really liked either MC.

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**Ami says**

**2.5 stars**

MEH.

See Valerie's review for more elaborate opinion; because she basically said what I thought about this book.

And seriously, with all the issues that Paul and Seth have throughout the book (and that rushed resolution) -- plus the fact that I truly disliked them as a couple -- I couldn't even imagine them together in happily ever after \*shrugs\*.

**Note to Self**

After reading three Lane Hayes's books within few days, I come to conclusion that while I can enjoy her romance (despite the hits and misses rating), I personally think that Hayes's sex scenes are tedious. None of them inspire me to read it further. Oh well, some authors write fab sex scenes that glue my eyes on my e-readers, some don't. Personal taste and everything.

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**\* N aka Nikki says**

I struggled with this one. The characters confounded me at first. Then I really loved the direction the story took. But I couldn't really organize my thoughts to rate and review. And then I read Dani's awesome review, and she totally summed it up with her astute observation (yes, I'm quoting you, friend)!

"Seth seems like a mess: volatile, evasive, scattered. But Paul is not the most reliable of narrators, and it slowly dawned on me that it's not Seth who's falling apart."

Overall, a very enjoyable and sexy read, with complex characters and a satisfying conclusion.

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## Tara♥ says

**"No one is really safe in this life. You aren't alive if you've never been hurt. And you'll never really live again unless you take a chance."**

So you know what I get for being all judgemental and mean? An enjoyable read is what. It had members and it had Curt but neither really took away from the overall story which was engaging and fabulously easy reading.

It also had Seth. I think Seth is my new favourite Lane Hayes character. He is complicated and flaky and came off as rude at times but as the book progressed we get to see he is really kind of wonderful. I've a Seth crush.

Me and Paul got off to a very shaky start. He was still boring (he was super duper boring in Better Than Friends) but it turns out that's what Paul wanted me to see (silly Paul). He needed an Artist/Model/Musician to get in there and shake things up a bit. And boy did he. Seth and Paul were rather smexy together. Like OMFG smexy. Even the introduction of 'member' in these smexy times couldn't take away from it.

I gave out. I annoyed R \* A Reader Obsessed \* with my complaining (thanks for the BR dude) but I really did enjoy it all told. It might even be my favourite in the series and that's kind of shocking. This series is funny, it totally confuses me. I vowed to myself after Curt I'd never go back but I'm an addict and I couldn't give up. So glad I didn't.

I predict Rand and Tom next. I don't like either of them. At. All. I can't wait!!

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## Pre-read thoughts:

What I said about Paul in my review for Better Than Friends:

*"Oh and Paul, how could I almost forget the secondary love interest? Well it is because Paul is one of the most uninteresting and unnecessary characters ever. Paul was British and liked Jazz. That's about all I learned about Paul. He worked somewhere and traveled a lot but I couldn't bring myself to retain the information."*

I've pre-ordered it.

It's like I want to punish myself.

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## **Tina says**

The 4th part of the Better Than series.

Seth is kind of excentric, he's a model, an occasional guitarist, and a painter.

Paul works in fashion, he loves the chaotic atmosphere and constant challenges. In his private life he loves it quiet and peacefull.

Then quirky and flighty Seth breaks through the walls around his heart...

Loved the guys... and enjoyed the book. Recommended. :)

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## **.Lili. says**

Better Than Safe is the story of two very different men who fall in love. Paul is 35 and set in his ways. Seth is the 24-year-old artist Paul is drawn to despite all his fears of pursuing a relationship with him. Past hurts in Paul's life make him believe they will never work.

What I loved:

\*Paul. There was something about him that I found very endearing. At first glance you might think him a bit stodgy but he was anything but. I know he described Seth as a quandary, but he was a bit of a quandary himself.

\*Seth. Gosh, I loved him! He was so quirky and loveable and I loved his view on life- how could I not fall in love?

\*The push and pull. Normally I loathe this but it worked here. Didn't matter how hard Paul tried to fight a relationship- it was like a moth to the flame. Resistance was futile!

\*Story had a nice, easy flow.

\*The dirty talk :D

\*The secondary characters. I just LOVED revisiting the gang and seeing where they're at.

What I wished for:

\*An alternating POV. It drove me batty not being in Seth's head. It's not the first time I've felt this way while reading a Lane Hayes book. I think that it would strengthen the story if we got both sides. I felt like I'm missing a bit of story and left me wanting more. I am *BEGGING* Lane Hayes to please write a book from a dual POV.

\*Sex. I wanted more. lol

As far as this being the fourth book in the series... do you need to read the other 3 first? Technically, no but I

recommend those books as well- especially the first book. It's one of my all time favorite comfort re-reads.

Overall, this was great! If you love opposites attract and May/December romances- then look no further! This book was fun, sexy, feel good, with a sprinkle of angst on top. Highly recommend! 4.5 I Hope Rand Is Next Stars!

*\*\*ARC kindly provided by Dreamspinner Press for an honest review.\*\**

*\*\*This review has been cross posted at Reviews by JesseWave:*

*<http://reviewsbyjessewave.com/2015/09...>*

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### **Bev says**

**Loved this one. Thank God that evil stinker Simon Pickard didn't succeed in completely breaking Paul and Seth up, they were great together. The next story A Kind of Truth features Seth's best friend, Rand and a sexy genderbender named Will. 4.5 stars.**

**Oh, there is a little Paul and Seth freebie on Lane's website, and once A Kind of Truth comes out, a little freebie featuring Rand will appear.**

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### **CrabbyPatty says**

**3.50 stars.** This book was my least favorite of the Better Than series. We meet Paul Fallon earlier in Better Than Friends, and he carries that stiff British upper lip into Better Than Safe.

Cashmere-sweater-wearing Paul is set up with model / guitar player / artist Seth (by Aaron, who else?) and their first coffee date is a disaster. A second chance encounter brings them together and wild hot sex ensues, but I felt their relationship lacks that undeniable hot *something* that Jack & Curt and Jay & Peter had in abundance. I was never quite sure if Seth was just a total jerk, if Paul was ever going to stop being such an OCD prig, and if they were ever going to deal with the elephant in the room (view spoiler) and actually communicate about their issues. Unlike the other couples in the series, I was never sure that Seth & Paul really worked as a couple, until the very end of the book.

I know other reviewers have stated this is their favorite book in the series, so I think it's fair to say that perhaps your mileage may vary on this book!

*I received a copy of the "Better Than" bundle from Dreamspinner Press, via Gay Book Reviews, in exchange for an honest review. Review also posted at GayBook Reviews. Check it out!*

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## **\*J\* Too Many Books Too Little Time says**

Well....I ended up liking this one a lot more than I thought I would. Needless to say, it wasn't my favorite of the series.

Both MCs frustrated me a times throughout the book, but by the end everything came together.

Paul's the older, broody, stuck in his ways fashion designer. Seth is the younger, flighty, gets lost in the moment model and aspiring artist.

Their first date is nothing short of disastrous.

There was a lot of push and pull and back and forth. Seth frustrated me in the beginning. I found him to be frustrating and immature. I couldn't figure him out. And then he started to grow on me.

Paul and Seth start to finally get on the same page.

Now it's Paul's turn to annoy me. His stunt at Seth's art show....

Seth was really cool about it, therefore sealing his fate as my favorite of the two MCs in the end.

Somehow by the time i finished this one it just worked for me.

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## **Ele says**

### **\*4.5 stars\***

This is my favorite book of Lane Hayes after .

Very engaging story, I was hooked from the start and my interest never diminished.

Paul is British, too uptight, too organized, too standoffish. He's a successful businessman and every little thing in his life has its place.

Seth is the complete opposite. He's a model/ artist/ guitarist. He's too impulsive, sometimes snarky or even rude and at first glance uncultured. But first impressions are not always right.

Their first meeting is a disaster and it convinces Paul that it is never going to work between them. Besides he wants to settle down and Seth seems to be all over the place.

I admit it took me a while to warm up to Seth, mostly because he kept playing Paul making it hard for me to believe he truly cared and not having his POV didn't help.

But as the story progresses it becomes clear that Seth is wiser and more self aware than he lets on. Poor Paul didn't know what hit him. **It was so good seeing him unraveling, starting to have real feelings like jealousy, passion, possessiveness, love.** It confuses him and it freaks him out, it leads him to wrong decisions but it is truly beautiful when he realises and accepts his feelings.

*"I'd grown up in an unconventional home surrounded by uncertain affection. I yearned for certainty. Perhaps there really was no certainty in love. Love required faith, trust, and acceptance. There was no place for jealousy or mistrust. I loved Seth. It was my certainty."*

If you're looking for an opposites attract story, with loads of steam, an age gap between the MCs, engaging and evocative writing, this is the story for you. Recommended!

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## Macky says

One of my top go to m/m contemporary romance writers in the genre, Lane Hayes always keeps me engrossed by creating engaging, three dimensional characters whose combustible chemistry never fails to deliver the type of sizzling on page sexual tension I absolutely love...as well as some mighty fine man loving! And with the pairing this time of the slightly mature, touch prickly at times, Brit Paul Fallon and part Native American Seth Landau, the gloriously unpredictable, sex on a stick, gorgeous young model/artist/musician...she's ticked all the boxes for me. I fell in love with these guys the moment they set eyes on each other and generated a palpable spark that had me totally glued to this particular instalment in the Better Than series, possibly making it my favourite Lane Hayes love story up to now.

This particular opposites attracts style romance of 'solid, more centred older character' meets 'beautiful, erratic, quirky, younger guy' has been done many times, but when it's done with style and enigmatic characters whose on page presence holds your attention, it always works its magic on me.

I adored Paul but have to say it was Seth's charismatic personality that called to me. He's that beautiful, elusive creature I think we'd all secretly love to have our lives turned upside down by. One minute exasperatingly fickle, wayward, moody and a tad immature...the next...thoughtful, funny and teasingly sensual; with flashes of fierce intelligence and a shrewdness that as we get to see more of him, shows much deeper layers to his character and past history than first impressions indicate. The sort of intriguing, contradictory character who provokes but fascinates at the same time, making everyone around him almost pale into insignificance. Gorgeous to look at and magnetic.

The attraction is instant but their first couple of get togethers don't go well at all. To the point that despite the inexorable pull he's feeling, Paul is all too happy to put it down to experience and move on yet circumstances keep drawing them back together. The problem is, Seth is Paul's wet dream but he's also his worst nightmare; a quandary that has the thirty five year fashion advertising exec continuously fighting a losing battle with the twenty something multi talented model who keeps popping up in his life, tying him in emotional knots about starting anything remotely romantic with the beautiful man.....

For rest of review follow Link-> <http://bit.ly/1ivhHov>



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~☆~Danni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

*Better Than Safe* is my favorite book in this series since *Better Than Good*, and takes place four years after the first book and two years after the third.

Paul, the first-person narrator of this story, was Curt's potential love interest in book 3 before Curt met Jack. Paul is now friends with Aaron and Curt, so we get to briefly revisit with all the couples. This was fun, and I enjoyed reading about Aaron and Matt's upcoming adventure.

Paul is 35, British, and uptight. He's a successful fashion ad executive who drives an Audi and wears Armani. Nothing is out of place in Paul's world, and he wants a man to complement the cultured, structured life he's made for himself.

If Paul is sometimes lonely, so what? He has enough on his plate to worry about a complicated relationship.

Paul's first date with the younger, impetuous, gorgeous Seth is a disaster. Seth is late and rude, jumping between snarky and brooding. A model, artist, and part-time guitarist, Seth exudes confidence.

I'll be honest: I didn't warm up to Seth for a long time. I felt like he played Paul like a fiddle. But maybe Paul needed to be played.

The ups and downs, the sheer chaos of their relationship, made for a fast, sexy read.

*"I see who you are. The real you. I see past your slick suits and your fancy car. I see the lonely guy who doesn't like his food to touch, hates being late, and has this weirdass compulsion to watch from the sidelines. I know sad movies make you cry, Chinese food makes you smile, and jazz makes you horny as fuck."*

The MCs have strong chemistry, and their banter, once it loses its mean edge, is charming and sweet.

Seth seems like a mess: volatile, evasive, scattered. **But Paul is not the most reliable of narrators, and it slowly dawned on me that it's not Seth who's falling apart.**

The scenes of jealousy and Paul's troubled past as a muse give this story an edge.

Paul is scared of letting go, of losing himself in another person. He doesn't associate love with being safe. Seth, who is wise beyond his 24 years, gets it though.

*"[I]t's too late, Paul. You're already on the roller coaster. You have to ride it all the way in with your hands in the air and your heart in your throat."*

Hayes' writing is always engaging, and this book had just enough steam and romance to make me happy. The epilogue didn't hurt either.

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### **Jewel says**

?I wanted to ?love this one, but I had a really hard time. Paul was very stuffy, but Seth -- man, he was all over the place. I nearly DNF'd after reading the first chapter because I couldn't see how anyone in their right mind would give Seth a second date. He was late and then rude. He interrupted constantly and made everything about him. He was an awful date.

But I kept reading. And though I was able to get to know Seth a bit more and he seemed like a decent enough guy, he was still undependable, self-absorbed and flighty for the first half of the book. By about halfway through, though, it was Paul I started to lose patience with. He's rigid, impatient, and I've got to agree with Seth on this -- snobby. Actually, implacable is a good description.

?I didn't really warm to either of them until about 65%, at which point I had to admit that Seth is actually the mature one in the relationship. After they both got their act together, I thought they were good together, but this isn't a book I'll read again.?

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### **R \* A Reader Obsessed \* says**

3.5 Stars

I'll admit I went into this not having very high expectations and maybe that wasn't fair or kind of me, but I can also admit that I was proved wrong because I really enjoyed this.

Like Paul, I was a bit put off, a lot bewildered, but utterly and hopelessly charmed by Seth. He was quite the unconventional character, definitely not your standard romantic interest who never acted in a predictable manner. He was a little off kilter and impetuous and he was a thing to behold. I don't blame Paul at all for being dizzily besotted.

Paul does have a lot of issues to wade through. He's a lot tad stiff and has a tempestuous past which makes him understandably skittish when it comes to a free spirit such as Seth. I thought the yin and yang these two represented were portrayed quite nicely and it doesn't hurt that their interactions were fun/funny/frustrating but also with some very, very nice heat and want.

Of course life owes no one any guarantees - a lesson Paul must realize in order to be happy. Seth is the perfect foil to him and it just so happens that it obviously works both ways.

*Thanks Tara for nudging me to read this with you!! You won the drinking round - 7 to 2! Ha ha.*

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### **Renée says**

This was my favorite Hayes story to date!

Paul is the ad exec for the fashion industry who's been traveling for years (the book is told entirely from his POV). He's ready to slow down. Seth is the model who paints so he can breathe.

These two are set up on a date by Aaron from Book 1. The coffee date is an absolute flop. Seth is late. Paul gets cheetoh residue on his fancy shirt from the rambunctious toddler in front of him. And Seth keeps talking about wanting to have Aaron set them up because of Paul's sexy British accent. Add on top of that Seth is clearly many years his junior, and Paul is D-O-N-E. He abruptly leaves with a stilted goodbye, *nice to meet you*, with associated undertones of *let's never do this again*.

But they do wind up bumping into each other again. And Paul gets to see how he came across that fateful coffee date too. **\*cough\* Snobby, uptight, British bastard. \*cough\*** Seth could not be further from Paul's initial first impression. He's intellectual, insightful, a delightful mixture of caring and thoughtless.

**"[He] spoke like an immature college student one minute, then a sage old soul the next."**

These two have a lot of push/pull banter in the first half. And I won't lie. Seth gives Paul the run around a bit. It wasn't cool at all. But Paul needed to be shaken up a little. Because this is Paul's POV, you get the impression of this British yuppy ad exec who's uptight, set in his ways, and has everything completely together. But he doesn't. Seth is just what Paul needs.

They tried the date - it was a disaster. So they try friends. *Snort* - the sexual tension that surrounds these two while they're "being friends" is so scorching hot. It's palpable through my Kindle. And this is where Hayes nailed everything for me. Phenomenal writing during this buildup of characterization. They learn so much about each other, but they just know this is the foundation of something. Seth knows it and is biding his time. Paul knows it but is in complete denial about it.

**"I screwed my eyes shut and reveled in the intense sensations, willing myself not to be guilty of romanticizing the moment. But when I opened them to find him staring up at me, I knew with an odd certainty that I was correct. He felt this too. I wasn't alone."**

It doesn't just go from friends to love and HEA. There is a very distinct journey to HEA for Paul and Seth. Pasts that collide, best friends that are a little too familiar, and online dating with a pretentious vascular surgeon. But any more detail will get too spoilery. There was never dull moment. I was pulled in from page one! This book was incredibly well-written and is a high recommend!

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