



Nickel Bay Nick

By Dean Pitchford

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Nickel Bay Nick By Dean Pitchford

Perfect for fans of Jerry Spinelli and Gary D. Schmidt, this heartfelt coming-of-age story will make you believe in the power of second chances.

Eleven-year-old Sam Brattle is already having the worst Christmas ever – his dad's bakery is going bankrupt and his mom is spending the holidays with her new family. To make things worse, Nickel Bay Nick, the anonymous Good Samaritan who leaves hundred-dollar bills around Nickel Bay at Christmastime, is a no-show, so this year the rest of the town is as miserable as Sam. When he stumbles upon the secret identity of this mysterious do-gooder, Sam is stunned to learn that he might now be his town's only hope. But before he can rescue Nickel Bay, Sam has to learn the skills of a spy and unravel some even darker secrets that will change his life forever.

"Told with wry humor, this fast-paced novel will appeal to fans of Louis Sachar's Holes (Farrar, 1998) and Gary D. Schmidt's Okay for Now (Clarion, 2011).... This is a Christmas book that can be enjoyed year-round."—School Library Journal

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Editorial Review

From Booklist

“This has got to be the Worst. Christmas. EVER!” declares 11-year-old Sam Brattle. He has a swelling police record and no respect for anyone or anything. His mother left before his heart transplant at age 3 1/2. His friends are older delinquents. His father’s business is failing. On top of that, Nickel Bay Nick—the secret benefactor who leaves 45 \$100 bills around his deteriorating town before Christmas—has disappeared. When Sam damages part of Herbert Wells’ house, he is blackmailed into service to help cover the repairs. The job isn’t what Sam expects because Herbert, whose leg is broken, reveals he is Nickel Bay Nick. To become Herbert’s “operative” before it’s too late, Sam has no choice but to listen, obey orders, and accept responsibility. The often-thankless execution of the distributions changes his perspective about friends, family, and community. With a genuine feel for adolescent pain and emotion, Pitchford offers a comical but forthright coming-of-age story that will make readers cheer for Sam. Hand to fans of Louis Sachar’s *Holes* (1998) or Gary D. Schmidt’s *Okay for Now* (2011). Grades 4-7. --Jeanne Fredriksen

Review

Praise for Nickel Bay Nick:

“Told with wry humor, this fast-paced novel will appeal to fans of Louis Sachar’s *Holes* (Farrar, 1998) and Gary D. Schmidt’s *Okay for Now* (Clarion, 2011). In the best tradition of Christmas stories, it’s a bit of a tearjerker as Sam discovers just why Mr. Wells cares so much about him and learns to forgive his own parents. This is a Christmas book that can be enjoyed year-round.”

—School Library Journal

“Sam’s a great, well-realized kid, and readers will root for him every step of the way... Crime does pay off—to the benefit of others—in this enjoyable novel.”

—Kirkus Reviews

Accolades for Dean Pitchford:

Captain Nobody has been nominated for 13 State Award lists: FL, IL, KS, MN, MO, NH, NM (2 separate years), NY, OK, SC, TN, VA. Audio edition was nominated for a 2010 Grammy Award in the Best Spoken Word for Children category.

The Big One-Oh has been nominated for 5 State Award Lists: KS, MD, MO, NH, SC. Audio edition was nominated for a 2007 Grammy Award in the Best Spoken Word for Children category.

About the Author

Dean Pitchford is the author of Captain Nobody and The Big One-Oh and also an Oscar®-winning songwriter. He wrote the lyrics to the Oscar®-winning song “Fame,” and the screenplay and lyrics for the hit movie Footloose. Most recently, he has been involved with the stage musical version and new film adaptation of Footloose as well as the new Broadway revival of the musical, Carrie. Visit him online at www.deanpitchford.com or on Twitter @DeanPitchford1.

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