



## Nickel Bay Nick

By Dean Pitchford

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*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.

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## Nickel Bay Nick By Dean Pitchford Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1507848 in Books
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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*:

From *SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL*:

“Told with wry humor, this fast-paced novel **will appeal to fans of Louis Sachar’s *Holes* and Gary D. Schmidt’s *Okay for Now*.**”

From *KIRKUS REVIEWS*:

“There’s **a real cinematic feel** here—Pitchford also writes for the screen and stage . . . Sam’s a great, well-realized kid, and readers will root for him every step of the way. A surprising, poignant twist at the end explains Mr. Wells’ true motives for involving Sam and brings about **a satisfying, uplifting finale**. Crime *does* pay off—to the benefit of others—in this **enjoyable novel**.”

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Praise for Dean Pitchford’s *CAPTAIN NOBODY*:

From *KIRKUS REVIEWS*:

“...the humor and compassion are **sure to appeal to reluctant readers**.”

From *PUBLISHERS WEEKLY*:

“**Pitchford builds suspense adeptly** . . . the young narrator’s earnest voice—and his raw sense of helplessness—are real and affecting.”

From *SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL*:

“[*Captain Nobody*] **reads like a summertime feel-good movie**. Kids who have longed for their own superhero powers will eat this up.

## About the Author

Dean Pitchford ([www.deanpitchford.com](http://www.deanpitchford.com)) 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*.

## Users Review

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