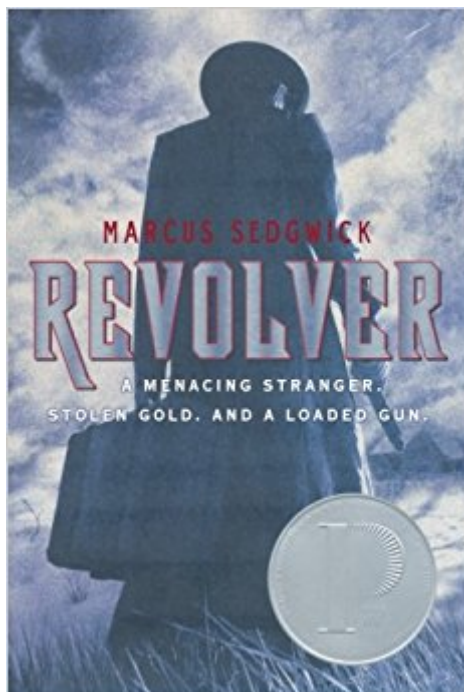


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Revolver



Synopsis

A LOADED GUN. STOLEN GOLD. And a menacing stranger. A taut frontier survivor story, set at the time of the Alaska gold rush. In an isolated cabin, fourteen-year-old Sig is alone with a corpse: his father, who has fallen through the ice and frozen to death only hours earlier. Then comes a stranger claiming that Sig's father owes him a share of a horde of stolen gold. Sig's only protection is a loaded Colt revolver hidden in the cabin's storeroom. The question is, will Sig use the gun, and why? *Revolver* by Marcus Sedgwick is a 2011 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year. This title has Common Core connections.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up — Narrator Peter Berkrot chillingly and expertly brings to life Marcus Sedgwick's short, yet intense mystery (Roaring Brook, 2010). Pitch-perfect voicing, suspenseful and satisfying pacing, and spot-on character portrayals draw listeners inside the cold and brutal atmosphere of a lonely cabin 100 miles north of the Arctic Circle in 1910. Sig, the 14-year-old son of a practical and proud man, is alone in a small, dark cabin with his father's dead body awaiting the return of his sister and his stepmother who have gone to find help after his father was found frozen to death. But he doesn't have long to grieve alone before a large and fearsome man enters the cabin claiming that the boy's father had cheated prospectors out of gold. As Sig tries to reconcile this confusing news with pieces of his past, listeners will do the same along with him and two inanimate objects that take on character roles within the story — the old Colt revolver his father taught him to shoot and the Colt revolver belonging to the ominous stranger. The backstory is told through

flashbacks to the 1899 Alaska gold rush in alternating segments. Berkrot's fully-voiced and emotive telling will keep listeners on the edge as they visualize Sig, his surroundings, and every moment in time from beginning to the satisfying and climactic end. An excellent choice for school and public libraries and an ideal selection for reluctant readers. Stephanie A. Squicciarini, Fairport Public Library, NY
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Sedgwick's historical mystery, set in the Arctic Circle in 1899 and 1910, makes good use of the word chilling. Outside their remote Scandinavian village, Sig's father dies of exposure after trying to rush home across a frozen lake. The reason for his carelessness becomes apparent to Sig when a hulking brute of a man arrives at their tiny shack with a Colt revolver, demanding his share of a stolen wealth of gold. But Sig has his own Colt hidden in the storeroom, and some very pressing questions. Who is this brute at the door? Is there really a hidden treasure? And, most importantly, can he bring himself to use that revolver to save himself and his family? As the claustrophobic tension in the Arctic cabin mounts, Sedgwick doles out bits of backstory set a decade earlier in the Alaska gold rush, and the climax reveals that there hasn't been a single superfluous detail in the intricate, freezer-burn buildup. A carefully crafted story effectively rigidified by taut plotting and the crystalline atmospherics of its isolated setting. Grades 7-10. --Ian Chipman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a very good book. It tells the story of a hard life with hard decisions from a boy's point of view. I would recommend this book to any young teen that is looking for an exciting read.

This book is fun and cool to read and it was amazing I read it in 2 nights at the end he got the revolver and we'll your just going to need to read it to find out

Different

I liked it because it was very suspenseful.

Revolver is part historical fiction (set in the frozen arctic in the early 1900's), part mystery (Did Sig's father steal gold from a prospector during the Alaska gold rush? If so, where is it?) and mostly a story of a young teen facing a life altering moral dilemma. Sig was raised by a stern but loving man

who found ways to create a home and life for his family in unbearable conditions. His father taught him the world is a cruel place and sometimes requires cruel actions to survive. Sig was also raised by a mother and step-mother who were both very gentle, religious pacifists. When the story opens, to the family's dismay, their always careful and pragmatic father tried to cross the thawing lake, fell through the ice and died. Sig's sister and step-mother have gone to town for help. The contradictory parenting clashes when a sinister, violent man shows up at the family's arctic cabin the day after Sig's father died. Sig must deal with the angry visitor, Mr. Wolff, alone. Mr. Wolff says he will kill Sig if Sig does not turn over the gold stolen from him years before. After Sig is dead, he will wait for the sister and step-mother to return and give them the same ultimatum. Sig creates an opportunity to fetch his Dad's revolver and hide it on his person, but can he bring himself to kill Mr. Wolff? Revolver is very short and there is little action, but every page is tense with Sig's fear and Mr. Wolff's anger and the tension builds to a surprising and frightening climax.

Despite the frigid climate and desperate men infected with gold fever, there is also courage and love and family. Will that be enough, or will Sig need to use the revolver to survive?

Full of twists and turns and "hold your breath" moments, kids and adults will love this story. It elicited an actual applause at the end from the kids I read this to.

Exciting...keeps you enthralled!

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