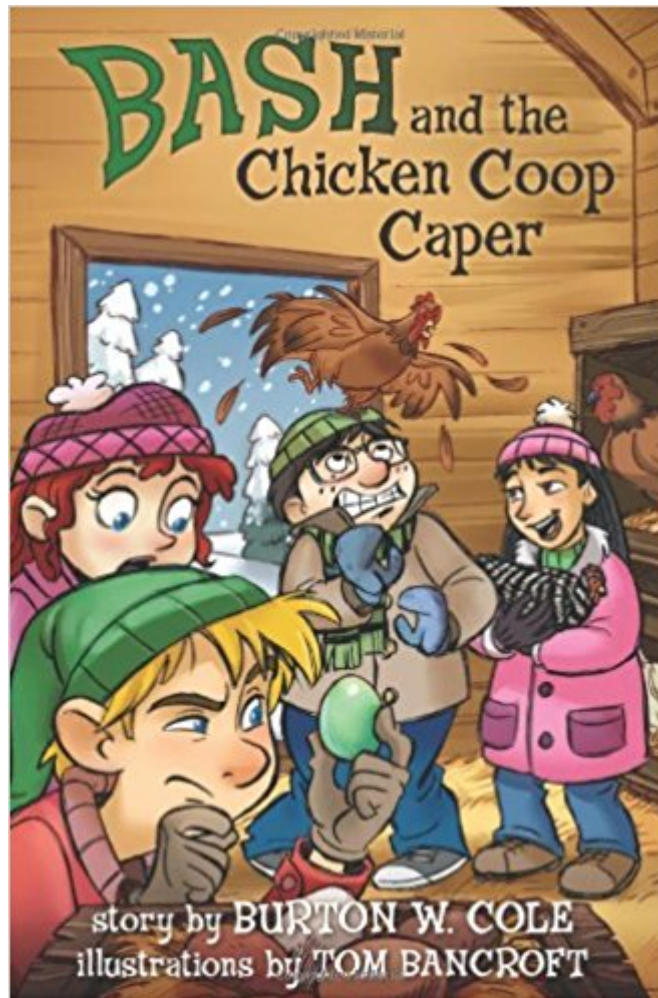




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Bash And The Chicken Coop Caper



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Synopsis

Mysterious footprints in the snow. Vanishing mittens, misplaced eggs. A pink, purple, and orange paisley sleeping bag on the move. Something's definitely amiss in the chicken coop, and wackiness runs amok on Bash Hinglebobb's blizzard-blasted farm. While Bash is inventing such contraptions as a snowball catapult from inner tubes and underwear, his cousin Beamer Boxby, a city kid at heart, must help newcomer Lauren Rodriguez figure out why God lets horrible things happen to good people. Can Bash's Farmin' and Fishin' Book (the Bible) be believed when it says, "We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God"? What about when fire rolls through an animal building. Or when a kid's lost her dad? It's time to find out—with a little help from an ice-skating pig.

Book Information

Series: Bash

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 6

Customer Reviews

Burton W. Cole is a Pulitzer Prize nominated journalist with thirty years of experience and more than fifty humor writing awards to his credit. He grew up on a farm in northeast Ohio and attended a small town church with a slew of cousins and buddies. That same boyhood inspires his colorful stories today. Tom Bancroft has more than twenty years of experience in the animation and

illustration industry and worked with Disney on films including Beauty and the Beast, The Lion King, and Aladdin. Other clients have included DC Comics and Big Idea Productions. He lives with his family in Nashville, Tennessee.

Following on from the first book in the series it is now winter time and a big ol' snowfall has occurred. Beamer (Raymond), who has now moved from Virginia Beach to Ohio, has been staying with cousin Bash (Sebastian) since Friday and they are now snowed in. After three days inside, Aunt Tillie has had enough and the boys are outside. (Parents, have you been there, done that?) Where exactly are the boys? Oh, just on top of the chicken coop roof with "extreme sail powered superboard supersleds"! Now that Ray is a Christian (happened in first book, Bash and the Pirate Pig), Bash is intent on teaching, experiencing and crossing off all the Fruits of the Spirit. With snow still deep on the ground Bash is determined to go rescue "Camels in Distress" i.e. help someone from an avalanche with broken bones etc. (Yes, Bash is a little dramatic!) Hitching Gulliver, Bash's ride-able red Duroc pig, up to the sled, off they go. Bash is disappointed when his rescue does not involve broken bones thus he doesn't recognize the true goodness that they do. (Having raised pastured hogs for years, I LOVED this chapter.) Three boys baking? Oh my! Poor Aunt Tillie! Laugh your heads off at the Abominable Snowman underwear catapult! Along with the many, many antics, there is also a mystery going on. Beamer tries to convince Bash but he doesn't listen until later. Whose footprints are those in the snow? Why are there not so many eggs to pick up each day? Who is taking the gloves? What about eggs turning up in strange places with bread etc. missing? Is Mary Jane, a local girl, involved? She keeps blaming Bash but is he innocent this once?! Amidst the laughter this book touches on two very sensitive subjects allowing children to see how NOT to deal with them and how just being your stumbly self can have a profound and good effect on the unsaved around you. Lauren and Tyler have recently lost their Dad. You feel their heartache and grief along with their questioning of why God allowed it to happen. Meet a bum (homeless person) who is harmless but not like anyone Beamer has ever come across before. EXCELLENT! I criticized the first book for the kids calling each other names on a regular basis. In this book there is a small amount of name calling but nowhere near as bad. Instead the boys can be heard asking Jesus for help. I highly recommend this series for girls as well as boys. Yes, it is primarily written with boys in mind but our 10 year old daughter loved it as much as our boys did. Now that we have read it aloud I can see them reading this series over and over again. We're off to read the next and last one in the series! If you have NOT read the first book in the series, I highly recommend you doing so. Although this is a stand alone book there is a progression that we see in the spiritual lives of the boys,

especially Beamer. PLUS you don't want to miss out on the antics in the first book! I purchased this book for my Kindle. I was not required to write a review but chose to do so. Thanks, Liz

A blizzard dumps several feet of snow, stranding Raymond Boxby aka, Beamer, on his cousin, Sebastian Hinglehobb's northeastern Ohio farm. But Bash with his wild imagination, and penchant for crazy, leads Beamer on a quest to capture all of the fruit of the Spirit. Enter the winter fun, tobogganing supersleds off rooftops, a rescue mission with a pig drawn sleigh, and launching giant snow bombs with a catapult, among other adventures, are interrupted by something weird happening in the chicken coop and Ray suspects one of the neighbor kids is punking Bash. More zany fun from Burton Cole, this time with some boys versus girls fun in a contest of wit and will. With an interesting glimpse of farm life in the winter, snow caves, snow sculpture, hay forts, and snowball fights (among many other crazy kid capers) keeps the action moving. Bash and Beamer learn some cool stuff and are amazed at how God uses their determined kindness to eventually change the lives of their new neighbors. Another fun read.

This is the 2nd book in the series (following Bash & The Pirate Pig). If you haven't yet read the first one you should start there first as it sets the stage for the others. Like its predecessor, this is an absolutely excellent book for the 9-13 year-old range! There just plain don't seem to be all that many Christian books for kids in this age range - let alone good ones that are modern in style, but this is a great one. It is a bit more relatable to boys since those are the main characters (NOT a criticism but a praise!), however this one has more "girl involvement" as compared to the first one and I think both boys and girls will enjoy. Like the first one, this is a very fun and imaginative book. The Christianity is a little more front-and-center this time around (which makes sense given what happens in the first book) but is still fairly low key. In this one, the main lesson learned is on sharing the fruit of the Spirit by letting God use us to minister to others. But, like I said, the way this message is presented is through a very fun and engaging story. Even as an adult, I found this book entertaining and interesting! This is just plain a good book that is both fun and funny, while also being meaningful. I'll be honest and say that I thought the theological explanation given for why a child's dad had died (this death had happened previously - it wasn't part of the story) was a little weak as it seemed to basically put the blame on God (i.e. it must have been God's will). It addressed that God can take any "bad" situation and turn it "good" which I thought was great, but I just wish it didn't come with the inference that God must have necessarily wanted the dad to die as a part of His will. I know lots of people hold that theological view (where because God is sovereign,

everything that happens must be because He wants it to happen) but I don't believe that to be a correct view. In any event, this inference only took up a very small part of the book, so I can generally look past it. One fairly minor concern I had with the first book is that the character telling the story constantly referred to others and situations as "stupid", "wacko", and like terms. Although there's definitely similar in this book, it seemed toned down. Which actually makes sense given the character's change at the end of the first book. I would expect his attitude to be a little different in this one, and it was. I thought the character's progression in this book was just about right for a new-in-the-faith believer kid. I appreciated that the author didn't all of a sudden turn him into a perfect, have-all-the-answers Christian, but instead showed him as a new believer himself learning how to live his new faith and yet also share what He's received with others the best he can. I would assume that as the series hopefully continues to come forth that we will continue to see his progression. The author seems to be giving good thought to his characters and their development. It did not escape my notice, for instance, that a girl who receives Jesus and previously constantly called the main character something instead of his real name (against his wishes) stops doing that at the end after coming to Christ. These types of things show good thought being put into the characters and their development. Also, I just have to say: You "feel" the Winter season while reading this book, just as you "feel" Summer while reading the first book. That's the sign of a good writer. All things considered, I thought this book wasn't quite as strong as the first one, but was still very well done. I find I am having a hard time getting the ice-skating pig out of my mind. :) This is an excellent series that really does fill a void. I have no idea how many more crazy antics the author can come up with for future books, but I hope they keep a-coming (Update: A 3rd one has been released). Burton, God bless you sir! Thank you for using your God-given talents to bless so many! Chris Long Laugh & Lift ministries laughandlift dot com

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