



BOOK INFO

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Territory

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Author Resides

Asheville, NC

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Hank

By Arch Montgomery

BOOK SUMMARY

This is the story of one summer in the life of Hank Collins, a precocious, questing and troubled thirteen-year-old growing up in the Baltimore suburbs. His divorced parents, busy with new spouses and demanding jobs, largely ignore him. In school, most of his teachers bore him, and he openly questions their competence and interest.

As the summer begins, Hank, a master of sliding between the cracks of his two families, quits baseball, his only structured activity, and spends his days riding along the paths of the gunpowder river. He plays, he finds friends, and he tries to think clearly, though the latter is no easy task for him.

Hank finds his way into a wide variety of troublesome, sometimes dangerous situations, in which he confronts all sorts of issues pertinent to teens today. Like Holden Caulfield, Tom Sawyer, Huck Finn and most true-life American youngsters, Hank Collins yearns to come quickly of age, and through the perspective of his limited years, sees only imperfectly the complications and hypocrisies of the community he inhabits. He stumbles over issues bigger than he is, and situations that are more than he can handle alone.

MARKETING

- Building on publisher's growing reputation in YA fiction ("Reappearance of Sam Webber," and "Finn: a novel"), reviews in Kirkus, VOYA, SLJ, and expected in KLIATT, Horn Book, and other trades
- Advertising of book in publications of the National Association of Independent Schools, of which author is an active and well-regarded member
- Author to speak with parents groups throughout the East Coast, including Baltimore's entire PTA organization (300 attended)
- Author to be guest at Miami Book Festival (11/03)
- Extensive marketing to women's book clubs – several bookings made
- Extensive promotion on Bancroft Web Site
- Promotion of second book in the "Gunpowder Trilogy," a remarkable, moving epistolary novel creating a utopian school and showing how Hank's step-brother Jake matures under its influence and his family benefits

SALES HANDLES

- Author is handsome, articulate, and charismatic
- Book went into reviews with a stunning set of blurbs, including Harvard Crimson's prediction that "Hank" is "the next *Catcher in the Rye*," and from Buzz Bissinger, the Pulitzer-Prize-winning author (*Friday Night Lights*), says: "This is a book I want my 18-year-old son to read. It is a book I want my 11-year-old daughter to read. It is a book I want other parents to read, because it is that haunting and brilliant."
- Book has won rave comments from Hollywood producers, though no deal made yet
- Book to "bridge gaps" between parents/teachers and kids

AUDIENCE

- Parents
- Teachers of teenage children
- Makers of education policy
- Young Adult fiction readers
- Baltimoreans and North Carolinians -- author was headmaster at prestigious Baltimore private school (Gilman) for nearly a dozen years and now is headmaster at NC's most prominent (Asheville School)