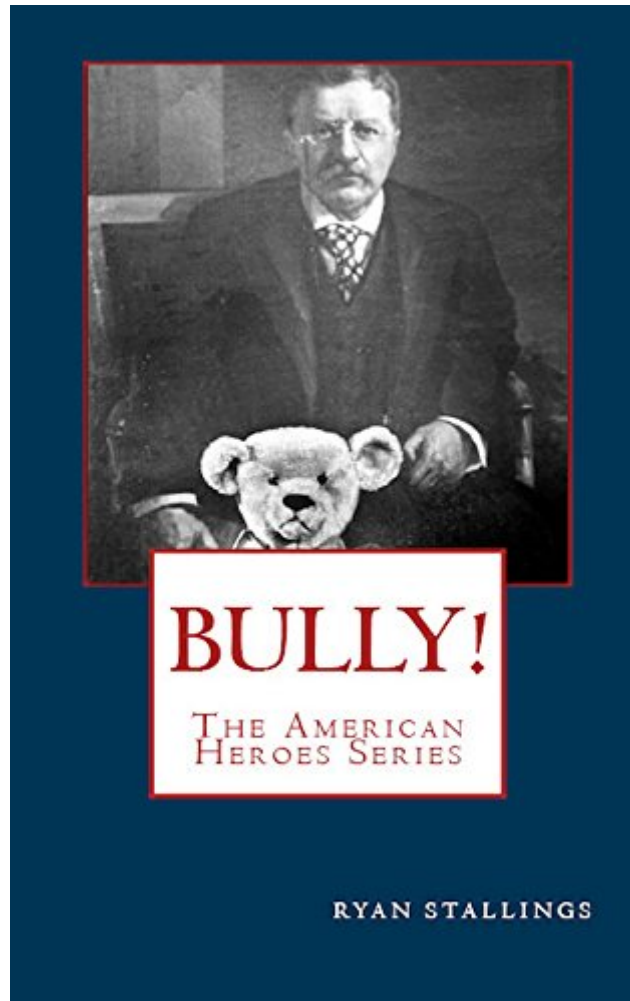




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Bully! (The American Heroes Series)



Synopsis

Deep in the political trenches of the nation's capital, eight-year-old Jamie Douglas mourns his mother's recent death. With a strange and lifelike teddy bear as his only companion, Jamie suffers alone from his father's neglect and the harsh ridicule of two cruel classmates. Senator Paul Douglas works all day and night in a desperate attempt to forget the loss of his beloved wife. At his lowest point, Paul becomes the victim of a political tug-of-war. Two powerful rivals each want something from him. Each promises retribution if he does not fulfill their wishes. Burdened by a decision that could alter the nation's power structure, Paul finds himself weaker and more fragile than his young son. Enter the Colonel. Theodore Roosevelt returns to Washington with all the fervor, bombast, and humor that marked his previous life. No other character from history possesses the experience, knowledge, and practical sense to help the Douglas men solve their problems and repair their broken relationship. Wielding his big stick for all to see, America's great Bull Moose prepares Paul and Jamie for a final showdown against their respective bullies. If he can just stay out of trouble, Theodore Roosevelt might be the family's best hope...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Quick Overview This book might work as a read-aloud book that parents read to their children, but is unlikely to work for that age bracket. For adults, though, who prefer works with no profanities, this is a good read. It could be turned into an excellent read, though, with just a bit more work on showing readers that *Œ* is happening. Length: Print, 259 pages. Q - Target Audience/Genre and is it marketed as Nonfiction or Fiction: A *Œ* Billed as a Children *Œ* Book, a sort of history speculation, if you will. Q - How was this book obtained? A *Œ* Bought on . Q *Œ* If this is fiction, is it a plot-driven or a character-driven story? A *Œ* Plot-driven. Q - Is this a book that I can read without having to read others first? A *Œ* Yes. Q *Œ* If this is a recurring character or a series, does it have a cliffhanger ending? A *Œ* No cliffhanger ending. Q - Are there a lot of typos/misspellings, grammatical errors or other editing failures? A *Œ* No. Q - Is this a fast, easy read or is it more of a leisure read? A *Œ* A leisurely read. Q - What sort of language does this writer use to amplify the points made? A *Œ* Plain English with no profanities. Billing this as a Children *Œ* Book is probably incorrect. Young Adult, though, could work. Q *Œ* What age group is this suitable for? A *Œ* If this were a film it would probably be rated G. Q - My biggest pleasure or disappointment? A *Œ* If I had bought this for a youngster of six or seven I probably would have been disappointed, because the language used is probably a bit too difficult for most kids of that age. If I purchased it for a teenager, though, it might have worked. I doubt it, though, for the story probably won't be found engaging for that age bracket. Yet, there is something further that needs to be said. For the most part, the writer does try showing us that is going on. Imperfectly, of course, but he does make a solid attempt at it. Refer to the excerpt below to see the efforts made by the writer. Note also how this writing could have been outstanding with just a bit more work to show us. Where the writer slipped was telling us that *Œ* "Susan felt sorry *Œ* To give a feel for the editing, and the style and flow of this work, I am posting a brief excerpt below. Excerpt *Œ* "Senator, is it all right if I get out of here? *Œ* Paul finally looked away from his desk. He tossed his glasses onto the pile of notes. *Œ* "What time is it? *Œ* He massaged his eyes with his thumb and index finger. Susan took another step forward. *Œ* "Eleven-thirty, *Œ* she said. *Œ* "Shouldn't you be getting home, too? *Œ* Paul shook his head. *Œ* "No, you go ahead. I *Œ* I've still got a ton of work to finish. I *Œ* I'll be here for a while. *Œ* Susan shifted her large green-framed glasses higher onto the bridge of her nose and collected herself. She looked down at the deep blue

carpet, almost embarrassed to ask the question. “Senator, pardon my asking, but have you spoken to Jamie tonight?” Paul propped his elbows on the mahogany desktop. “Oh, no,” he said. Susan watched him hang his head and run both hands through the thick white hair. “I forgot to call him,” Paul whispered. “I forgot to call my own son.” Susan felt sorry for the Senator. She felt worse for Jamie. Stallings, Ryan. *Bully!* (Children’s American Heroes Series) (p. 32). Oakline Books. Kindle Edition. Bottom Line: A decent read for me, but likely going to miss its declared target audience. As a story for adults, though, this is an okay read. I therefore am rating it four stars. Comments regarding your opinion of this book or of my review, whether favorable or unfavorable, are always welcome. If you buy the book based on my review and become disappointed, especially, I do want to know that and I want to understand how I can improve as a book reviewer. Just please be polite. Thank you.

I missed somehow that this was a modern story in which a historical figure appears. I thought it was set in Roosevelt’s time where he became a father figure to our young hero. Oops. Okay. The writing was well done in the story, I could just never buy the idea of how Roosevelt arrived in the present time ... really? Kid tells teddy bear he wants a real dad and the next day the bear is gone and Theodore Roosevelt is in the bear’s place? Weird, creepy, and how the dad ultimately reacts isn’t real at all. Also, for the book to be marketed as a children’s book, there’s an awful in here that kids won’t really understand - like everything from the father’s perspective about having lost his wife. I know that’s a vehicle for learning about Roosevelt’s wife who passed away, but some of it seemed a little much for children. That said, if I could accept the premise the story was interesting. Lots of tidbits about Roosevelt mixed in and well as conjecturing what he would think about some things we just accept nowadays. But overall, how the adults were just ok with this strange man claiming to be a dead president hanging out with Jamie just never set well with me. So between that and his appearance/disappearance the whole thing was just rather incredible (as in, unbelievable) to me. I was really excited about the idea of this book and series when I started, and the writing is well done, but I just couldn’t buy off on the story itself. I’d read other books in this series if they were free, since the premise is good and maybe others are more believably crafted, but I won’t seek them out. 3 stars. This review originally appeared at Sophie’s Mindset (a blogspot blog) as a part of the Reading Challenge 2016.

This is truly a must read book for any child facing bullies! The author’s use of

Theodore Roosevelt as a role model is brilliant. Now, I have to admit I am a big fan of the Colonel (his preferred title) having just finished my second book about his ancestors. Colonel Roosevelt comes to life in Bully! (no actually he comes to life) and leads a young boy to find his own strengths so he can deal with the bullies that torment him. The first chapter is slow and depressing, but keep your child reading (or read to them) and they will find a book full of humor and inspiration. Colonel Roosevelt's personality shines throughout and if you weren't a fan before you will be afterwards. Don't tell your children, but they'll also learn a lot of neat history! C.M. Huddleston, author of the award-winning "Greg's First Adventure in Time."

I really enjoyed this book and the concept. If this first one is any indication, it will be a great series with lessons for people of all ages, not just children. Well done, Mr. Stallings. Based on Bully!, I feel this series would be probably be best for more mature children at least 8 or up in order to get the most benefit. This whole concept is such a great idea for teaching children history in an enjoyable way. I hope to have the opportunity to read the next in the series.

As a grandmother, I applaud books that can capture the imagination of a child and encourage him or her to read. If it is educational, that makes it even better. With so much smut being passed off as literature, I am delighted to recommend this wholesome book to the entire family. I say BULLY to the author for his contribution. It is truly good reads.

What a fun way to learn about Theodore Roosevelt. A story line that many kids can relate to, but only dream of meeting an American hero. Will encourage my grandchildren and students to explore more of Ryan Stallings books.

Although fictional it was well done and you could actually picture Teddy Roosevelt having this dialogue and interaction with the other characters.

I loved how the historical facts were so elegantly embedded into the story line. Great read and not just for kids!

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