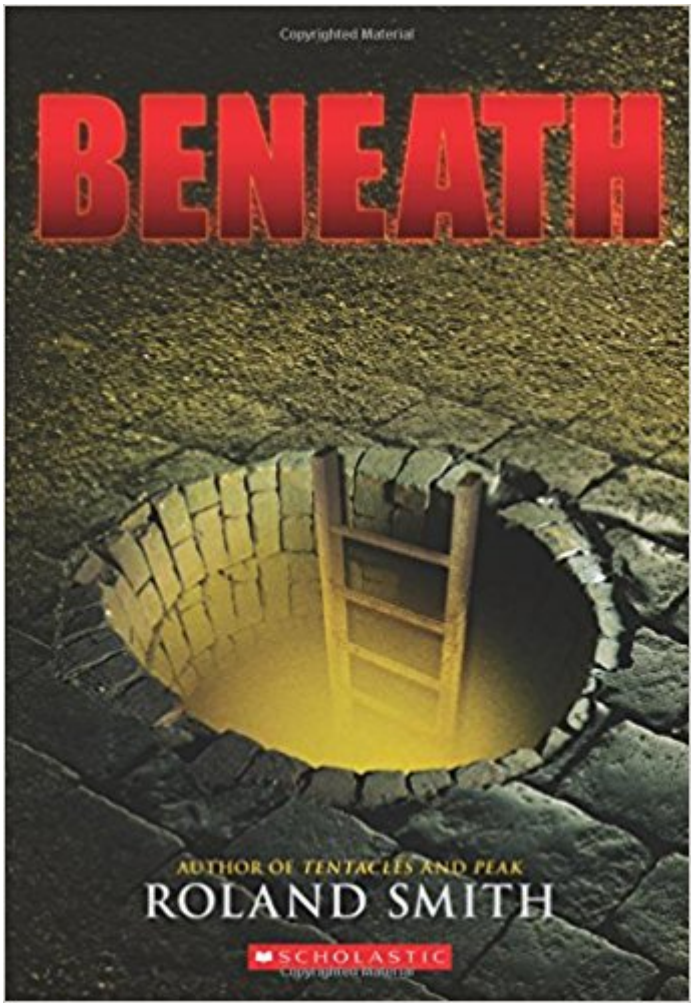
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Beneath



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Synopsis

What waits Beneath?Pat O'Toole has always idolized his older brother, Coop. Coop is... different. He doesn't talk on the phone, doesn't use email, and doesn't have friends. He's never really cared for anything but the thrill of being underground, and for Pat of course. So it's no surprise to anyone that after a huge fight with their parents, Coop runs away. One year later, Pat receives a package containing a digital voice recorder and a cryptic message from his brother. He follows the clues to New York City and soon discovers that Coop has joined the Community, a society living beneath the streets. Now it's up to Pat to find his brother -- and bring him home.

Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

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Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 34 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #24,286 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Runaways #161 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings #1059 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 6Ã¢â ¬â œ9Ã¢â ¬â •Fans of the "Tunnels" series (Scholastic, 2008) will enjoy Smith's latest. Pat and Coop were always close. Coop even let Pat help with his secret tunnel project under Washington, DC. But after an accidental gas explosion, Coop runs away. One year later, Pat receives a package with a recorder and a message that leads him on a mission to find and rescue his old friend. Smith spends much of the first 100 pages on backstory, though it is imperative to understanding the relationship between Pat and Coop had and why Pat is so motivated to travel alone to New York City to find him. This makes the pacing slow at first, but it increases dramatically once Pat makes it to the society under the city. The second half is better paced and action-packed.

Beneath hits all the notes of an underground novel, with several allusions to classics such as Jules Verne's Journey to the Center of the Earth and H.G. Wells's The Time Machine. Avid lovers of adventure fiction will enjoy this quick read.Ã¢â ¬â •Patrick Tierney, Dr. Martin Luther King Elementary School RI --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"A tightly plotted mystery that incorporates themes of nonconformity and social rebellion... Humor, a perilous setting, [and] intense relationships... give the story emotion and grit." -- Publishers Weekly"Avid lovers of adventure fiction will enjoy this quick read." -- School Library Journal"Makes for a fast-paced, compelling read. Fans of Smith will not be disappointed." -- Booklist

Pat and Coop are brothers living in an upper-class DC neighborhood. Coop, the eldest, is a bit of a Luddite who has no interest in the accoutrements surrounding him, holidays or the electronics so popular with his peers. Instead heÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s only interested in reading ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Journey to the Center of the EarthÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“DraculaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• by Bram Stoker; he loves tap dancing; he only eats tuna fish sandwiches. Most of all he likes being underground. The pivoting factor of this story hinges on the night that Coop takes his little brother Pat into the mile long tunnel theyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢d been digging under the neighborhood and accidently hits a gas line. The explosion puts Pat in the hospital and is probably the last straw causing the breakup of his cold parentÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s marriage; thus setting the wheels in motion for Coop to move away to follow his strong internal desire to explore places dark and deep.During a Christmas vacation after the divorce PatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s dad and new sweetheart were going birding in Belize. Pat was supposed to go to visit his mom and her new boyfriend but he traded in the ticket and went to NYC to search for Coop. HeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢d heard from him via a voice recording and theyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢d been covertly corresponding for a while now. All he has is a Post Office Box number but that was a start.This book is a fascinating account, done in diary and epistolary format, of the adventurous search one brother made to find his sibling. Coop has gone far underground beneath the streets of NYC where a whole society lives in the tunnels that were constructed hundreds of years ago. How these people live and support themselves offers some insight into many of the tangent microcosms that exist on the fringes of civilizations all over the earth. The author has geared this book for the Jr. High audience so has definitely sanitized his counter-culture sects but that does not detract in any way from the fascinating pictures he has drawn.The characters in this story are riveting. The parents are educated, cold and aloof. The below-ground characters run the gamut from supportive to cynical

and dangerous. What Pat and the reader find is that there is always the thread of community and the need for cooperation in order to survive. Following PatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s journey through, not one, but two underground societies is a spellbinding journey for the reader.

My 12 year old son loved this book. He could not put it down.

I read this book with my 10 year old son. It was really great for any kid who loves adventure books. Plenty of edge-of-your-seat moments. Interesting characters you come to know and care about. Good guys and bad guys (and some of the bad guys are pretty bad - might not be a book for a child who is prone to nightmares or very sensitive.) It starts a little slowly, but hang in there. It gets great!

This book was absolutely amazing . In the beginning I thought that it wasn't going to be a good book but it turned out I was absolutely wrong.

My son read this for book club and has moved on to Above. He is really enjoying the books and would read again.

The book was amazing and made for several all night readings because I could not put it down.

Roland Smith came to our school! This is one of HIS personal favorites!

This book man. Whew! Two words describe it. Action. packed. Loved it. There's not much else I can actually say. This is one of the best books I have read in a while.

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