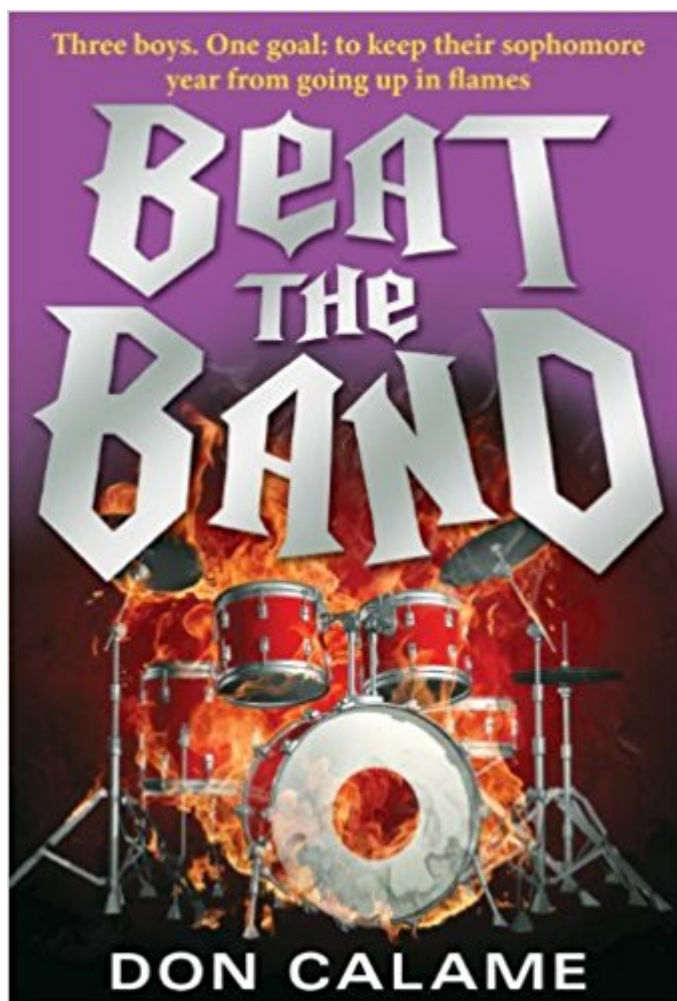


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# Beat The Band



## Synopsis

Get ready for riffs on hot girls, health class, and social hell! The outrageously funny boys from *Swim the Fly* return to rock their sophomore year. In this hilarious sequel to *Swim the Fly*, told from Coop's point of view, it's the beginning of the school year, and the tenth-grade health class must work in pairs on semester-long projects. Matt and Sean get partnered up (the jerks), but Coop is matched with the infamous "Hot Dog" Helen for a presentation on safe sex. Everybody's laughing, except for Coop, who's convinced that the only way to escape this social death sentence is to win "The Battle of the Bands" with their group, Arnold Murphy's Bologna Dare. There's just one problem: none of the guys actually plays an instrument. Will Coop regain his "cool" before it's too late? Or will the forced one-on-one time with Helen teach him a lesson about social status he never saw coming? With ribald humor and a few sweet notes, screenwriter-turned-novelist Don Calame once again hits all the right chords. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: Candlewick; Reprint edition (August 9, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763656631

ISBN-13: 978-0763656638

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 1.1 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #623,439 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #146 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Performing Arts > Music #586 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction >

Boys & Men #688 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Humorous

## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up-Narrator Nick Podehl excels at embodying hilarious teenage male characters, and his voicing of 15-year-old Cooper Redmond is no exception. Podehl is not new to Cooper or his friends Matt and Sean-he took on all three in Don Calame's *Swim the Fly* (2009; Sept. 2010, p. 66). In that book, the focus was on nice but nerdy Matt, with Cooper as his obnoxious sidekick. In this sequel (2010, both Candlewick), Coop takes center stage. After being paired up with class pariah, "Hot Dog" Helen, for a health class project on safe sex, Coop is desperate to save his sinking reputation.

Despite their lack of talent, he is determined, along with Matt and Sean, to compete in his school's Battle of the Bands. Podehl captures Coop's raunchy, sex obsessed personality as well as his eventual realization that there is more to a relationship than how many "bases you can tag." With his vocal skills and Calame's brilliant, humorous text, Podehl reflects Cooper's maturation as he navigates the ever-challenging world of high school. Podehl's female voices are convincing and his interpretation of Cooper's father is hysterical. This is laugh-out-loud fun, and fans of the series will be pleased and hope that a third book from Sean's point of view will be on the way. -Shari Fesko, Southfield Public Library, MI (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

It's not all that often the wisecracking buddy gets to be narrator, but that's what happens in Calame's endearing follow-up to *Swim the Fly* (2009). Fifteen-year-old Cooper's nightmare of being paired with class pariah "Hot Dog Helen" for a semester-long project has one solution: get respect by winning the school's Battle of the Bands. Each chapter is titled after a thematically appropriate song (guess what "Smells like Teen Spirit" is about), and the band's attempts to transform themselves into swaggering, spray-tanned rock gods is rife with laugh-out-loud blunders. As the slang-happy Coop might say, this is one part brill and one part ridic. Grades 9-12. --Daniel Kraus --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

I loved *Swim the Fly*, so as soon as I had some time, I picked up *Beat the Band*. And I wasn't disappointed! Just as funny as the first installment, and in a way better -- the shift to Coop's perspective gave the humor more of an edge, riskier. (Although I really liked Matt's perspective as the every-kid hero). Coop's library fart stunt was the most over-the-top, hilarious bathroom humor I've read, worth reading the whole book for. (Who knew there were so many different names for a fart?) And the climax had everything: a rock and roll battle, bullies, heroes, redemption, forgiveness, and just like *Swim the Fly*, the power of real friendship. A winner.

Can't get enough of this series. All quite funny.

Love all the books in this series. Calame has crafted great and believable characters. Very laugh-out-loud humor. And the audio version is amazing. I highly recommend this author.

This is the second book in this developing series. However, Calame appears to have a better sense

what this series is all about with this instalment. While the first book was humorous, Calame takes more risks, and is edgier with his humour this time. As a result, this book is actually funny -- humour that won't be regarded as tasteful to all parents. It does, though, bear great similarity to the Brent Crawford book, "Carter Finally Gets It".

This book was outstanding. It was really funny at times, and really heart breaking at others. It does have a lot of crude humor in it, but it's worth it.

Just a good, fun read! Great Characters and a nice look at another one of the boys from "Swim the Fly". Good look into the head of a typical teenage boy with one, maybe two, things on his mind! Get it, you'll enjoy it.

I am a teacher and this is not a book that I would recommend to students. It should be rated R. I read the first couple of chapters. I threw the book away.

---- "I couldn't stop laughing at this book. Cooper may be the most unlikely (and yet thoroughly likeable) hero you'll ever find yourself rooting for." - MEG CABOT, author of the Airhead series and Insatiable ----Although I admit that Beat the Band was not as hilarious as its predecessor: Swim the Fly, I couldn't find a part in this "adventure" that I did not like. Unlike the first book, that was narrated by Matt Gratton, this sequel was told through the mind of Cooper Redmond, who is a perverted and image crazed jerk that gets paired with the unpopular "Hot Dog" Helen for a health project on birth control. This event, of course, makes Coop get his best buds Matt and Sean together for one of his crazy plans: win the Battle of the Bands contest to score some hot babes and be super popular in school. Being a sophomore in high-school helps me relate to Coop's thoughts and actions (except for the popularity crap) that he makes throughout the story. I highly recommend reading Swim the Fly before reading this book so that you can feel a better feel for the characters and to see what I mean when I say that it's not as funny. I gave Beat the Band 5/5 because it is simply a really good book, and if I could, I would give it more than that. This book, no, this series is a MUST READ!!!

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