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Dead Man's Hand (The Caden Chronicles)



Synopsis

In an authentic old west ghost town where the dead don't stay dead, Nick Caden uncovers the body of Jesse James ... and other deadly secrets. Awards for Dead Man's Hand Winner of the 2013 Selah award for Young Adult Fiction ~ 2013 INSPY Award nominee (Literature for Young People) ~ 2013 Moonbeam Children's Book Award nominee ~ Book Summary It's All Just a Show...Right? Just Hollywood theatrics? "This is an authentic old west ghost town, son. Around these parts the dead don't stay dead." Nick Caden's vacation at Deadwood Canyon Ghost Town takes a deadly turn toward trouble when the fourteen-year-old finds himself trapped in a livery stable with the infamous outlaw Jesse James. The shooter whirls, aims and... vanishes. Great theatrics, Nick thinks, except now he's alone in the hayloft with the bullet-riddled body of Billy the Kid. And by the time the sheriff arrives, the body disappears. Soon Nick is caught in a deadly chase---from an abandoned gold mine, through forbidden buffalo hunting grounds, and across Rattlesnake Gulch. Around every turn he finds another suspect. Will Nick solve the murder? Will his parents have him committed? Or will the town's infatuation with Hollywood theatrics conceal the real truth about souls, spirits and the destiny that awaits those who die. In this new supernatural mystery YA series, award-winning author Eddie Jones takes readers to the Wild Wild West. Perfect for fans of mysteries and crime TV and reluctant readers. Readers are Leaders - Buy a Boy a Book! Praise for Dead Man's Hand This is teen fiction that's not just for teens. I for one can't wait for the next book in the series. For adventure, suspense and just plain laugh-out-loud fun, you can't do better than ~ Dead Man's Hand. ~ Ann Tatlock, two-time Christy award winner Dead Man's Hand is an exciting ghost-story with lots of surprises. A great read for kids who love a good mystery. I highly recommend it!" Levi Holmes, son of best-selling author and ~ two-time Christy Award nominee, ~ Gina Holmes ~ Dry as Rain & ~ Crossing Oceans Dead Man's Hand was a perfect mixture of suspenseful and spooky. I loved all the detective stuff. It taught me how to find a murderer! ~ Abby Delloso, daughter of Mike Delloso, author of Frantic and Rearview With a plot that lassos you in, ~ Dead Man's Hand ~ is a fantastical read! ~ ~ Laura Tatlock, 15-year-old daughter of Christy award winning author of ~ Promises to Keep I am reading this book aloud to my seventh grade english class and they absolutely love it. It is really intriguing and gets the childrens attention. (And mine) It is so hard not to read ahead because I am so engrossed in the book too! ~ Goodreads

Book Information

Series: The Caden Chronicles (Book 1)

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

Looking for a good Middle-Grade [#halloween](#) [#MGLit](#) read? The Caden Chronicles are clean, wholesome books with a spiritually spooky message. [#happyhalloween](#)

Eddie Jones Founder and CEO of Lighthouse Publishing of the Carolinas and co-founder of Christian Devotions Ministries. He also an award-winning novelist of middle-grade fiction. Learn more about Eddie at: eddiejones.org.

Great book for middle grade boys AND girls--and even adults who like kid's mysteries. Nick's adventures and the thought-provoking questions about ghosts, the Bible, and the afterlife provide discussion starters for parents and kids. I do have to tell you that as a retired adult (read that as "old lady") I enjoyed the book and was left guessing as to who the real murderer was -or even if there actually was a murder-- until the end of the book. I also learned things about cyber-sleuthing that I never knew. The overlay of grammar/spelling humor in the signs around the ghost town and the mention of Donn Taylor's cowboy poetry were special touches that will resonate with readers involved with the Christian writing world. I can't wait to buy the next book in The Caden Chronicles.

My mom bought me this book on Kindle and it was amazing. I really liked this book; it is about a boy

who is 14 and on his spare time he watches criminal investigation shows and compares them with real life crimes, and he gets in some trouble along the way and meets some interesting people along the way. This is an awesome book. I would highly recommend that you buy this book and once you're done with this one you can buy book 2. It is an awesome book too!!! Foster Brumbaugh

While vacationing in Deadwood, a Western theme park in the remote Rockies, Fourteen-year-old Nick Caden finds a body— a real one— or is it? With Hollywood style trick photography snatching illusionary dead bodies who can tell for sure? And Nick has no evidence or leads— yet. Join Nick as he sleuths through the facts, apparently aided by fourteen-year-old Deadwood actress, Annie— as in Annie Oakley— a dead shot with a Smith & Wesson. This excellent mystery keeps you guessing, and Eddie Jones keeps you rooting for the cyber-sleuthing hero. An excellent read for middle grade, middle school readers. Nick and his family, apparently not Christians at this point, both find and raise interesting questions, The Bible study questions at the end are some of the best I've seen in middle grade and young adult books. They'd make excellent small group discussion material.

Author Eddie Jones still thinks like a fourteen year old boy. He thinks like fourteen-year-old Nick Caden, a young reporter for the Cool Ghoul Gazette. This review is about Eddie's second book in this series, Skull Creek Stakeout—coming soon. Investigating murders is Nick's calling and brings in a small paycheck. Nick hears about the murder of a suspected vampire with a stake through his heart. He searches out his story through graveyards, running from a wolf dog, and finding uncertain safety in a crypt that smells like mildew and damp rot. Nick's theory of the mystery pays off, but not before he faces his worst fears. I found myself entranced with the action of the story and anxiously awaiting Nick's escape from constant danger. Now I can pass the book along to my young friend, Parker. I sure hope he can handle the graveyard scenes and vampires better than I did. I received a complimentary copy of Skull Creek Stakeout but this is my honest review. Phyllis Q Freeman

Nick Caden, 14, is certain his family's vacation in an Old West ghost town will be deathly boring, until he stumbles on a real death within minutes of arriving. Problems arise when the body disappears before Marshal Buckleberry can find it, leading the Marshal to believe Nick has an overactive imagination. But Nick knows a dead body when he sees it, and when the Marshal deputizes him and gives him permission to investigate, Nick goes to work. In the great Hardy Boys

tradition, Nick interviews suspects and checks out alibis and clues until he gets too close to the killer and almost becomes a dead body himself. I'm old enough to have read the original Hardy Boys/Nancy Drew series as a kid and I found myself drawn into the story, wanting to keep reading until I discovered who committed the murder and what happened to the body. I did figure it out about 3/4 of the way through the book but that didn't make the ending any less interesting. In my opinion, young teens will really enjoy this mystery.

I bought this book for my son and finally when his teacher gave them rewards for reading and was looking for a book, I pulled it out and gave it to him. Today he handed it back to me saying he enjoyed it and "Can I get the next one?" High praise indeed from a twelve-year old who would rather play on the computer than read.

This book is an AMAZING book for tweens and ages above that. A reason why is with all these characteristics like action, drama, mystery and sometimes a tinge of romance which just makes the book so juicy in detail. And the story is great!! You just can't put it down. You should get this book to figure out just what will happen to Nick Caden next!!!!!!! I say 10.5/10. I just can't wait to see what will happen next IN THE CADEN CHRONICLES

Dead Man's Hand is a perfect mystery for tween / teen boys and girls. The mixture of biblical truth and fictional twists and turns kept me hooked. It is a great book for kids of all ages. I can't wait to read all the books in The Caden Chronicles series.

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