

The Pitcher

William Hazelgrove

**"American Fiction is not dead ...
Hazelgrove has skillfully revived it."**

—*Library Journal*

SALES HANDLE

Ricky Hernandez is a pitcher. He has an arm like a rocket and dreams of making the high school baseball team. His dying mother enlists the broken down World Series pitcher who lives across the street to coach Ricky. He shows Ricky how to achieve his dreams and break through the hell of organized kid sports.

DESCRIPTION

"I never knew I had an arm until this guy called out, "Hey you want to try and get a ball in the hole, sonny?" I was only nine, but mom said, "come on, let's play." This Carney guy with no teeth and a fuming cigarette hands me five blue rubber balls and says if I throw three in the hole we win a prize. He's grinning, because he took mom's five bucks and figures a sucker is born every minute. That really got me, because we didn't have any money after Fernando took off, and he only comes back to beat up mom and steal our money. So I really wanted to get mom back something, you know, for her five bucks."

A boy with a golden arm but no money for lessons. A mother who wants to give her son his dream before she dies. A broken down World Series pitcher who cannot go on after the death of his wife. These are the elements of *The Pitcher*. A story of a man at the end of his dream and a boy whose dream is to make his high school baseball team. You will laugh and you will cry as *The Pitcher* and Ricky prepare for the ultimate try out of life.

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Junior Library Guild selection for 2013
- The author is known internationally as the Writer in Ernest Hemingways attic. Stories in the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *The International Herald*, NPR, All Things Considered, *People Magazine*, *Chicago Tribune*, *LA Times*, *Chicago Sun Times*, NBC, ABC, PBS, CSPAN have all covered his books and writing in the attic.
- Follow up to highly reviewed *Rocket Man* novel out this spring
- Strong crossover into the YA market
- Releases just in time for the MLB playoffs
- Appeals to Latino and Hispanic readers

AUDIENCE

- People who loved *The Natural*, *Eight Men Out*, *Field of Dreams*, *Bull Durham*, *The Rookie*.
- Baseball fans, coaches and players
- Women who have sons in organized sports.
- Latinos and Hispanics

AUTHOR BIO

William Elliott Hazelgrove is the best selling author of four novels, *Ripples*, *Tobacco Sticks*, *Mica Highways*, and *Rocket Man*, which launches in May of 2013. His books have received starred reviews in *Publisher Weekly*, *Book of the Month Selections*, *ALA Editors Choice Awards* and optioned for the movies. He was the Ernest Hemingway Writer in Residence where he wrote in the attic of Ernest Hemingway's birthplace. He has written articles and reviews for *USA Today* and other publications. He runs a political cultural blog, *The View From Hemingway's Attic*.

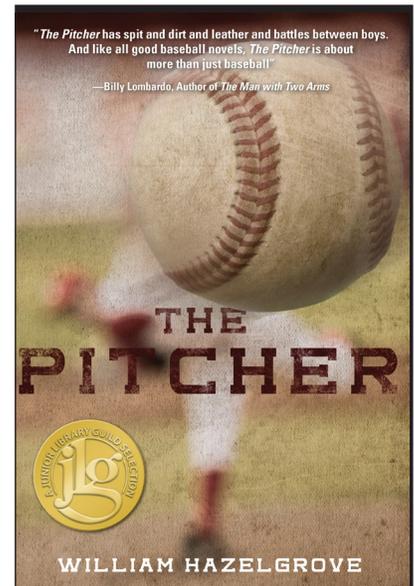


ONLINE

billhazelgrove.com theviewfromhemingwaysattic.com

VIRGINIA BEACH & CAPE CHARLES

212-574-7939 john@koehlerbooks.com www.koehlerbooks.com



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MARKETING AND PUBLICITY HIGHLIGHTS

- Author will go after national media he has had success with in the past
- Author will cultivate online relationships with bloggers, book clubs and other sites for reviews and endorsements
- Will offer certain number of free ARCs on website
- Will promote book to author's 1200 Twitter followers
- Mass email campaigns will be sent to author's contact list
- The author will give talks and signings
- He is planning on visiting schools and engaging English teachers
- Endorsement by MLB pitchers Giveaways to sports commentators Kid sport program tie ins. Sports writer author blurbs



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A Junior Library Guild Selection

**Nominated for the *Printz Award* for
Literary Excellence in Young Adult Fiction.**

***"The Pitcher* manages to capture everything I love about baseball and fiction.
This is a compelling, timely, absorbing and utterly enjoyable novel."**

—David Liss, author of *The Twelfth Enchantment* and *Whiskey Rebels*

**"With tense moments, unexpected twists, and a few
humorous and joyful reprieves, Hazelgrove's writing reflects
the dramatic arc of a baseball game."**

—Junior Library Guild

"Hazelgrove captures the essence of heartbreak and tragedy beautifully."

—The Denver Post

**"Hazelgrove writes with warmth and feeling, his characters richly drawn,
moving and evocative of its time."**

—Booklist

"American Fiction is not dead ... Hazelgrove has skillfully revived it."

—*Library Journal*

**"Hazelgrove has a natural grace as a storyteller that is matched
by his compassion for his characters."**

—*Chicago Sun-Times*

**"Proof that despite the fleeting nature of trends, good writing survives.
For this reason William Hazelgrove has more than survived."**

—*Time Out Chicago*

**"Like all good baseball novels, Hazelgrove's *The Pitcher* has spit and dirt and leather and
battles between boys. And like all good baseball novels, *The Pitcher* is also about more than
just baseball. There are dreams here, and hope (and a mom, something even the best baseball
novels often forget about). *The Pitcher* is a story about making lives, and in Hazelgrove's hands
you can feel them taking shape."**

—Billy Lombardo, Author of *The Man with Two Arms*