



Nothing Man and the Purple Zero

A Middle Grade Novel by Richard Scarsbrook

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Ages: 13+

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Commended, Resource Links Best Book

Marty Apostrophes and Bill Brown are from opposite sides of the tracks, but their friendship allows them to overcome bullies and scrape through classes (with Bill doing the lion's share of the scraping). Bill's obsession with the classic cars owned by Marty's family leads to a joy ride in a 1937 Cord 812 Sportsman, and the accidental foiling of a robbery, which is caught on video by their friend, aspiring teen reporter Elizabeth Murphy. The video goes viral, and Marty and Bill - or at least, their accidental alter egos, *Nothing Man and the Purple Zero* - become instant celebrities. Is this a fleeting moment of celebrity? Or are the trio living up to a destiny foretold by a dying principal who reminded them that "Some have greatness thrust upon them"?

In *Nothing Man and the Purple Zero*, award-winning author Richard Scarsbrook brings us hilarious adventures from Faireville High School.

Reviews

"Scarsbrook does not shy away from difficult topics such as drugs, bullying and sexuality. His use of flashbacks is a very effective technique to move the plot forward ... Readers will be fascinated with the frequent amusing references to history and popular culture such as *Star Trek*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *The Andy Griffith Show*. Teenage readers will definitely enjoy this amusing novel which pokes fun at high school life while revealing what is really important in life!" Rated E for Excellent – *Resource Links*

"The omniscient present point-of-view allows the narration to dip into the heads of all the characters, providing insight and gently comparing their different mindsets ... The interwoven web of characters drives the plot as much as the plot itself does, as is evident from the epilogue which details each character's life after high school and thus brings this book to a close with the suggestions that, though greatness is thrust upon some, everyone is capable of it." – *Canadian Children's Book News*

The Author

Richard Scarsbrook's short stories and poems have been published widely in literary journals, magazines, and anthologies, and he has won a number of prizes and awards. His first book, *Cheeseburger Subversive*, is a funny, moving must-read young adult novel. *Featherless Biped*, the exciting rock 'n' roll sequel to *Cheeseburger Subversive*, was shortlisted for the 2007 Young Adult Book Award by the Canadian Library Association, and was a 2008/2009 Stellar Book Award nominee. Richard's third young adult novel, the White Pine Award-winning *The Monkeyface Chronicles*, was published in April 2010. Richard lives in Toronto, Ontario.



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