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Pete Hautman , Owen Smith (Illustrator)

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When Denn joins a poker game in his neighborhood, he puts everything at stake-- his family, his friends, his girlfriend. With humor, insight, drama, and suspense, Pete Hautman looks at the world of high-stakes gambling and how one teenager tries to fit in.

Stone Cold Details

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From Reader Review Stone Cold for online ebook

Brandon Knoke says

In the book No Limit and previously named Stone Cold by Pete Hautman the main character Dennis Doyle or Denn is just a normal kid in the beginning of the summer. He has his own small lawn business, a girlfriend, and a lot of friends. His dad left their family when he was younger to make movie scripts for a living. His dad constantly trying to have Denn visit California so he can see what it is like. Denn always makes up an excuse why he can't come out and visit. One day Denn was hanging out with his friends and they asked him if he wanted to come over and play a little poker. He went over and he won all of their money. After that he became addicted to gambling. He couldn't stop. He read books about card games and how to know if someone has a good or bad hand. He works his way up to playing at casinos by using a fake ID. The first time he went to a casino he was wearing a dress shirt tie and a sport jacket. When he sat down at his first table his hands were shaking so much that he could barely even see the card numbers. There was an older man, Cookie as Denn referred to him, sitting next to him and said, "Hey Swanny you okay?" Denn said that he was fine. After a few hands he got back into a zone and he took everyone's money. After he got home he realized that his tie had swans on it. About a week later he went to the casino after his dad asked him again if he wanted to come to visit. Denn was playing when a man with sandy hair and skin sat next to him. He won a couple hundred dollars then leaned over and said if he wanted to ever play at Marcel's that Denn could just give him a call. Marcel's was a restaurant famous for its food, but even more famous for its no limit poker game. Denn was there so long that when one of the opponents left from losing so much money his dad sat down across the table from him. He looked up and almost didn't even recognize him. His dad made him go home with him and when he cashed in his poker chips he had won 10 grand. When they got home they talked with him and said that Denn had to quit playing poker because he was addicted to it. His dad also made him go talk to the priest of where he used to do lawn business for. The priest makes him go to gamblers anonymous. He doesn't see the point of going because all of them are losers and people who were addicted to gambling. Denn wasn't either of those things so he left and never went again. There was one night when one of his friends took all of the money out of his bank deposit and Denn suspected that he would be going to the No limit poker game at Marcel's with Mr. Kingston the man with sandy hair and flesh. Denn went to try and get his friend out of it by going as well. After the first couple hands he got into a zone. That was it. He was playing in the stone cold. The stone cold is seeing every little thing that a player gives away. Mr. Kingston the owner and Denn were the only two left after a few hours. Denn wasn't sure if he was giving anything away, but then he saw the slightest little things that he did as tells. Mr. Kingston was all Denn's.

Tariq Abdul-Quddoos says

Very good read keeps the reader engaged and great ending. The development of the characters throughout the book it some of the best I've read. Very good descriptions and cliffhangers at the end of most chapters. I would recommend this book to most young adults it is an easy book to read but also engaging.

Derek Betts says

Stone cold is an amazing book, You wouldn't know what hit you if you didn't read pete hautman's first book,

Mr. Was.

Stone cold is about a teen named Denn Dole, who is getting to some pretty high risks, getting into gambling is now his new priority. With selling his booming lawn business to his friend Murky, Denn takes his life to a new level raking in all the cash. As Denn gets addicted to Gambling, he gets good. His friend Jason is challenging him to some games at his place, maybe it's them who are the people trying to get the money out of him. It won't be long before his girlfriend dumps him, and then battles Mr. Kingston at his biggest game ever.

This was a really good book, I hope to read some more of his books later on. I would definitely recommend this book to someone that loves the book Rumble Fish, to where it is so similar. This book has in a way been very fascinating to me and I am positive it can be for you.

Caleb Deacon says

No Limit by Pete Hautman. I thought this book was a very curious book. I say this because every chapter you didn't know what was going to happen. Pete Hautman got me so interested in the book I didn't want to put the book down. The book had such an amazing plot line I forgot why I didn't read that often. I have never been a big reader but for the first time in a long time, I read at my house.

This book is about a kid named Dennis Doyle. Dennis was living an ordinary life. He had a girlfriend named Kelly and a best friend named Murk. His parents were divorced and didn't see much of his dad. He also had a mowing business. Then he was invited to a poker game. His dad had taught him a few things about poker before he left. Could one poker game mess up his whole life? Throughout the book, you will go through many different difficulties, humbleness, and direct straight forwarded information about the characters and their life. Dennis makes a lot of mistakes in the book and kept making and more mistakes. I think that all of his mistakes gives the book a lot of excitement because you don't know what's going to happen next. I think if anybody gets a chance to read this book this should be your first choice to choose. If I would rate this book I would give it a solid 9/10.

Larry Dragani says

No Limit the story of a sixteen year old, high stake poker player is a great book with bursts of action. Pete Hautman did a great job with this book and I absolutely loved it. I loved the way he spaced out the book giving every part of the book some action. The author definitely kept us engaged and it had an absolutely amazing ending. Dennis Doyle the main character in this book is in love with money, however his social and family life is just as normal as any of the sixteen year old. I also like how this book is in the first person, and in the eyes of Dennis Doyle. I definitely recommend this book to anyone that is in middle school or in high school. As they can relate to this book in many ways. The characters were also very intriguing, all of them were diverse making the story very interesting. There were a lot of characters and all of them had something to do with the story which I really liked. Since there were so many it gives you a bigger and better perspective of the book. This book goes through many themes of Obsession, Addiction, and Friendship. As

Dennis finds out he's a great poker player he gets obsessed. Then once he started to win money he became addicted. Then as he made poker his number one objective he lost his friends and most of his family. The main reason why I loved this book is because the author did not make this book about Dennis's problem. As most people reading it would've thought it turned out. However, it was about how he found something he was great at and grabbed it and didn't look back. This is a definite read and I recommend it to everyone.

Anthony Silva says

This book was really good book. What made me become interested in it was the amount of poker I've been playing lately. It taught me a bunch of things I didn't know about poker.

This book is about a kid that gets addicted to poker and loses everything, but he is able to buy whatever he wants because he is rich and keeps winning.

I definitely recommend this book to kids that want to get better at poker.

Sam Harrison says

I enjoyed this book despite having no knowledge of poker. It was an exciting book and was detailed. It's wasn't too stressful because Dennis, the main character, didn't care about the money but he had a passion for cards. It's a good read. Four stars because it wasn't the greatest book I've ever read but it's alright. But the ending I felt, was rushed and ended too quickly.

Phong042008 says

"Money is not everything". Dennis Doyle knows this from lots of things that happened to him. Then he had a lot of money. He felt so lonely without family and friends. He just wants someone to call him and listen to him.

He is a one who really loves money. He has a lovely girl friend who loves him a lot.

He also has good friends who always listen to him. But he lost them after he learns that he has a natural talent. "All I want is to play cards, to run my fingers over those slick, hard surfaces, to feel that cold power flowing in and out through my hands and eyes." He could beat other people on the card including his peers, even older, experienced players. He gets lots of money. He got everything like he wants to. But he has to pay for everything he did. That is nobody would be with him.

Matt says

No Limit is a book that I read within a 3 week span. It was a good read for me because I am not the best of reader but it also challenged me. The book has strong points in it because he had problems. He gets together with some friends and comes to find that they really aren't the best of friends. I can relate to what he feels at this time because I have friends that have been there for me and know when to push my buttons and know when not to. He never gives up on his plan from when he was young, but doesn't totally give up. He goes

about his plan in a different direction. Which I really enjoy because it's not boring and the way it should be. He comes to bumps in the road and has to walk over them.

While reading it I was guessing about what was going to happen next, but reading on it took turns and yields then goes on. I loved reading this because of those.

D. says

STONE COLD tells the story of Denn Doyle, a high school student who discovers, quite accidentally, that he's an amazing poker player. But more than that, it's a story about growing up, the choices you make AS you grow up, and about discovering who you are for better or for worse.

But even more than that, STONE COLD is about the things we do to convince ourselves that we're not making mistakes, and how we justify the things we do as we do them. Hautman's writing here is reminiscent of Robert Cormier, who never romanticized or moralized about his characters, but just let them make their choices and deal with the consequences. Hautman's major success in this book is his amazing way of getting into the mind of a high-school student, with all the questions, heartbreak, successes, and disappointments that come with it. He also manages to put into words the FEEL of a poker game better than just about anyone else I've read.

While he's primarily known as a "YA writer," (probably because his most well-known novel was GODLESS, which won the National Book Award in 2004), Hautman's really just a great WRITER. (He has written some novels for adults -- RAG MAN won an award from the WLA in 2002 -- but he'll probably always be known as the guy who wrote GODLESS, just like Robert Cormier will always be the guy who wrote THE CHOCOLATE WAR, even though he wrote several other fabulous novels.)

This book shows why Hautman deserves to be read by younger audiences and adults -- he crafts a good story, makes you think, and you can't ask for much more than that.

Highly recommended.

Max Price says

The book lacked character development, and upon finishing the book I realized that I never connected to any of the characters that Hautman introduced.

The storyline is predictable, but I found myself most frustrated by Hautman's decision to not delve deeper into the relationships in the novel. Why is Mark friends with Denn in the first place? Why don't we learn more about Denn's girlfriend? Because Hautman never lets us experience the relationships on a deep level, I found myself indifferent when these characters "strayed" from the narrator.

The book does provide some simple lessons, and it was a page-turner, so I do think it has value for reluctant YA readers, especially those interested in cards.

Justin Regenscheid says

im about half way through the book and it really isn't what i had expected it to be, its not very interesting at all. it is a very fast read so that's one good thing about it. so all in all it was one of my worst books to read.

after finishing the book i thought it was kind of dumb. it wasn't all that good from the beginning to the end it made me bored.

LaDounia Tescum says

I really enjoyed reading this book this month because it made me realize that you don't know what you are capable of unless you really go and try. This book is a great book because it also showed the ups and downs to actually seeing what you are capable of and accomplishing it and it also showed who you're real friends are because they will either support you or put you down and discourage you. And it showed me more of why you don't need someone.

Graham says

I read the book No Limit by Pete Hautman. In this book, the main character is Dennis Doyle and he loves poker. He also has a good landscaping business going on and he's doing really well. Once he picks up the cards for the first time, he immediately loves the game.

I liked this book because it was a fast read and it was one of those books where you want to know more about the character and what is going on in his life. Once I picked this book up, I didn't want to put it back down. It was so good that I read it in 3 days. I really like it because it takes you through the couple of months with Dennis and you get involved in some complicated things. This book is a book you casually read to pass the time. I think that anyone could read this book because it was that great and it was fun to read.

Edwin says

I just finished reading the book No Limit by Pete Hautman and it was great. The main character Dennis Doyle is a worker. He likes earning money for himself but when his lawn business doesn't sky rocket as he plans, he turns to something else...poker. His neighbor introduces it to him and Dennis turns out to be good at it. He wins, wins, and wins but when one of his friends bluffs him out of a jackpot of 200 hundred dollars, he stops playing... for now. He buys books and cards to help him out for his game. Dennis gets better and starts to hit the casino and now he's playing with the big boys now. He earns 55,000 dollars a night just playing in the casino. But as time goes by, his mom and dad start to see a change in their son. He loses all his friends and family because of his focus in money. So his father shows up one day when Dennis was in the casino and brings him home. There he persuades him to do something else. This was a shocker in the book. He turns out to be a priest. I didn't expect that in the book. But when a trip back home, Dennis has flashbacks of his life and his game of poker and starts to play again. The number one player in poker had a nickname

KING , And Dennis was aiming and taking his reputation away by beating him in the game he loves... poker. Dennis beats everybody and soon its only him and the king. the king try ed to bluff him out of a big jack pot of 30 million dollars but Dennis knows better he raise it and when they reveal the cards Dennis has a better hand now hes the king of poker. This book was really great and i rate it a 10 out of 10 good book.
