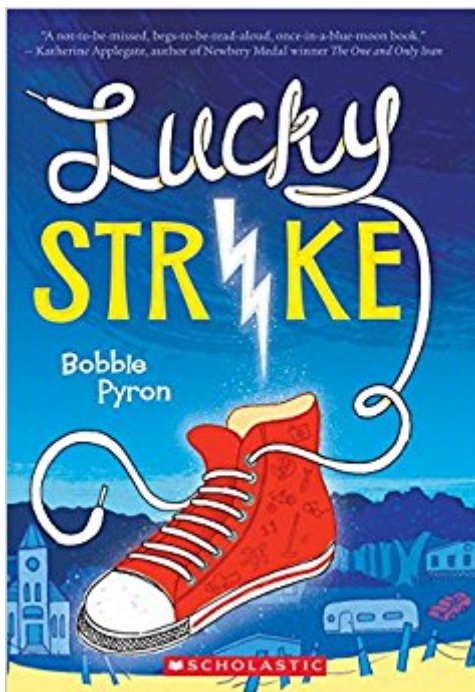


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# Lucky Strike



## Synopsis

Nate Harlow would love to be lucky, just once! He'd like to win a prize, get picked first, call a coin toss right, even! But his best friend, Genesis Beam (aka Gen), believes in science and logic, and she doesn't think for one second that there's such a thing as luck, good or bad. She doesn't care what names the other kids call them. She cares about being right, about saving the turtles of Paradise Beach, and she cares about Nate. Then, on his birthday, at the Goofy Golf mini-golf course, Nate is struck by lightning -- and survives! Suddenly baseballs are drawn to his bat -- popular kids want HIM on their side. It seems the whole town of Paradise Beach thinks Nate has the magic touch. But is there room for Gen in Nate's lucky new world? Lucky Strike tells the unforgettable story of two vulnerable outsiders and what luck is really all about.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 770 (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #46,332 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #112 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies](#) #1030 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship](#) #1367 in [Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4-6 •Wherever Nate Harlow goes, bad luck seems to follow. He has never even won a coin toss, so it comes as no surprise to many residents of Paradise Beach that it is Nate who gets struck by lightning out of the literal blue on his 11th birthday while playing mini-golf with his friend Genesis Beam. What does come as a big surprise is that Nate's luck seems to change

drastically after the strike. All of a sudden, he is winning. Everything. Nate has to decide how he is going to handle this change— he is now surrounded by friends and opportunities whereas before it was only him and Genesis sticking together. Will she stay by Nate's side while he finds his feet, and, more importantly, will he support her when she needs it most? This well-told story of growth, friendship, and small-town life hits all the right notes. The quirkiness of the characters and the town never goes too far, and there is an overall cozy feeling to the book. Genesis's dad is the preacher at The Church of the One True Redeemer and Everlasting Light, but she is a scientist through and through, which adds complexity to the text, including musings on destiny, fate, probability, and weather. Fans of Susan Patron's *Higher Power of Lucky* (S. & S., 2006), Sheila Turnage's *Three Times Lucky* (Dial, 2012), and Ingrid Law's *Savvy* (2008; both, Dial) will find something new for their to-read shelves. — Stacy Dillon, LREI, New York City --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Praise for *Lucky Strike*: "A not-to-be missed, begs-to-be-read-aloud, once-in-a-blue-moon book." -- Katherine Applegate, author of Newbery Medal winner *The One and Only Ivan* "If only every summer could be sprinkled with this kind of magic... This is a lovely storm of a story." -- Natalie Lloyd, author of *A Snicker of Magic* "If you're holding *Lucky Strike*, consider yourself lucky. Open it and read immediately. If you aren't holding it, run now and do so. Open it and read immediately. You will consider yourself lucky. Trust me." -- Barbara O'Connor, author of *How to Steal A Dog* \* "Characters leap off the pages, adding rich depth to an already satisfying tale... Amusing, endearing and sometimes even electrifying." -- Kirkus Reviews, starred review \* "This well-told story of growth, friendship, and small-town life hits all the right notes." -- School Library Journal, starred review "A dramatic and sweetly poignant story, enlivened by a dash of magical realism." -- Publishers Weekly "Filled with Southern charm, a bit of magic, and a cast of quirky characters." -- Voice of Youth Advocates Praise for *The Dogs of Winter*: A Kirkus Reviews Best Children's Book of 2012 "Compelling and highly original fiction... An absorbing account." -- Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, starred review "Terrifying, life-affirming and memorable." -- Kirkus Reviews, starred review "Absorbing... The many vivid details of street life and the convincing portrayals of even minor characters help bring the story to life. A source bibliography is appended. Written with compassion as well as grim, sometimes brutal realism, this novel offers a riveting story as well as material for reflection and discussion." -- *Booklist*, starred review "Well-crafted sentences, lively dialogue, and a remarkable story line combine for an absorbing adventure tale that young readers will find irresistible." -- Horn Book "Pyron delivers a reflective,

hard-hitting story about the bond between child and dog...The book's emotional impact is immense." -- Publishers Weekly

This book is a fun, fast read filled with interesting glimpses into life on the Gulf of Mexico. As well as into challenges faced by the local fishing industry and the obstacles endured by migrating turtles. But what impressed me most was the insight into the humanity of all the characters which Ms. Pyron achieved without judgement.

My son is 12 and he chose this book for his summer reading assignment for school. He told me he really enjoyed the book. I figured it must have been good because he shared that information on his own and he is not a big reader. It was not just an answer to my question "Did you like the book?".

This book was really good ! I enjoyed it but it was boring in some parts.I recommend this book to kids who like thrill.

Great for my summer school class!

The exact item arrived promptly, my son loves this book.

ucky Strike is a tale of how sea seemingly endless friendship can be broken or challenged when circumstances in life changes. It is a story of self-discovery, peer pressure, forgiveness and more.What happens when disasters or tragedy occurs in a community? Can obtaining one's dreams truly bring contentment and happiness? These questions will be answered through individual experiences in one small community in the Florida panhandle.I particularly enjoyed this novel because its settings were in some of the little known areas my husband was raised in and has family living there still. It was so easy for me to visualize it since I have experienced being in some of those areas and can relate to the views, senses which are stirred by the environment and feel the charitable attitudes of the small communities.The author did a great job of holding the reader's interest. The storyline was familiar yet contained a couple of unexpected twists. The Book Cover and Title were cleverly created which depicted the story without giving anything away. They were eye-catching and attractive. The characters were believable/I enjoyed the book but couldn't really feel connected to it. Although emotions were described, they still could not be felt. There were not the words which enveloped the readers heart and mind.This is recommended for children 8 to 12

years of age. It has a variety of great discussion points for Book Clubs. It, also, points out good values, of which could have been more strongly portrayed. This book review offer a Four Stars rating for this Book.\*This book was sent to

Ask anybody in Paradise Beach who is the unluckiest of them all, they'll unanimously offer the name, Nathaniel Harlow. Nate is so unlucky when he tries to toast some bread, it doesn't come out burnt, the toaster shorts out instead. Every box of cracker jacks is consumed with no prize in the bottom. So who would be the unlucky person to get struck by lightning on his eleventh birthday but Nate. Yep. while playing goofy golf, a bolt came down and blew him clear out of his favorite red sneakers. Now that's not the way it was supposed to work. For the first time ever, when Nate made a fervent wish and blew the candles out on his birthday cake, they all went out. Not one flame stayed lit. Shouldn't that mean his wish had come true? His luck had changed? I wouldn't call lightning zapping him lucky. Perhaps his luck did change though. He did survive to see more birthdays. And then more lucky things began to happen to Nate and soon he was the most popular person in Paradise Beach. But is he truly lucky? His best friend, Genesis Beam, doesn't think so. She's been friends with Nate for a long time and being a science geek, she doesn't believe in luck. She just tells him the odds are in his favor for good things to happen. We shall see. Nate is a delightful boy. He remained positive even though he was unlucky. He never gave up hoping for better. And his friend Genesis. She's such a cute thing. Both are the outsiders. The ones the others bully and make fun of. I was worried about their friendship when Nate became popular. I didn't want him to lose such a loyal friend or abandon their plight to save the sea turtles. Childhood friends are precious and can last a lifetime. Lucky Strike is a gem. Friendships are tested and new ones are forged. It's a story of learning to see what's in front of you and hold tight to it. Sometimes wanting something more shows you've had it all along. My son read this after I did. He's a bit older than the recommended reading age for this story but he loved it too. We talked about luck and friends, family and how things change over time. Our reminiscing was another gem I discovered from sharing this book with him and we both feel it's a gem to have read it. I received this book for my honest review.

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