



Pax

By Sara Pennypacker

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National Book Award Longlist * *New York Times* Bestseller * An Amazon Best Book of the Year

From bestselling and award-winning author Sara Pennypacker comes a beautifully wrought, utterly compelling novel about the powerful relationship between a boy and his fox. *Pax* is destined to become a classic, beloved for generations to come.

Pax and Peter have been inseparable ever since Peter rescued him as a kit. But one day, the unimaginable happens: Peter's dad enlists in the military and makes him return the fox to the wild.

At his grandfather's house, three hundred miles away from home, Peter knows he isn't where he should be—with Pax. He strikes out on his own despite the encroaching war, spurred by love, loyalty, and grief, to be reunited with his fox.

Meanwhile Pax, steadfastly waiting for his boy, embarks on adventures and discoveries of his own. . . .

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Pax By Sara Pennypacker Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4–7—A viscerally affecting story of war, loss, and the power of friendship. Pennypacker, author of the exuberant "Clementine" series (Disney-Hyperion) and the charmingly morbid *Summer of the Gypsy Moths* (HarperCollins, 2012), here displays not only her formidable writing skills and a willingness to stretch her storytelling into increasingly complex narrative forms but also her ability to tackle dark and weighty themes with sensitivity and respect for the child reader. Set in an intentionally undefined time and place that could very well be a near-future America, the novel opens with a heartbreaking scene of a tame red fox, Pax, being abandoned at the side of the road by his beloved boy, Peter. Perspectives alternate between the boy and the fox, and readers learn that a terrible war rages in this land. Peter's father is about to leave for the frontlines, and while he's away, Peter must live with his grandfather out in the country—and his father makes it clear that there is no place for Pax in Peter's temporary home. Almost as soon as he arrives at his grandfather's, Peter is overcome with guilt, and he sets off under the cover of darkness to trek the 300 miles back to his home, where he prays he'll find Pax. The loyal fox, meanwhile, must figure out how to survive in the wild—though never losing hope that his boy will return for him. As the protagonists struggle to reunite in a world in the grip of violence and destruction, they each find helpers who assist them on their respective journeys: Peter breaks his foot and is rehabilitated by Vola, a hermit suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, while Pax is taken in by a leash of foxes who teach him the basics of foraging and hunting. Pennypacker doesn't shy away from some of the more realistic aspects of war, though she keeps most of the violence slightly off-screen: in one scene, the wild foxes define war for the naive Pax as a "human sickness" that causes them to turn on their own kind, akin to rabies; later, as the battle creeps closer, several creatures are maimed and killed by land mines. Black-and-white drawings by Klassen offer a respite for readers, while adding to the haunting atmosphere. With spare, lyrical prose, Pennypacker manages to infuse this tearjerker with a tender hope, showing that peace and love can require just as much sacrifice as war. VERDICT A startling work of fiction that should be read—and discussed—by children and adults alike.—Kiera Parrott, School Library Journal

Review

"Pax the book is like Pax the fox: half wild and wholly beautiful." (New York Times Book Review)

"Moving and poetic." (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))

"Pennypacker's expert, evenhanded storytelling reveals stunning depth in a relatively small package." (Booklist (starred review))

"In an exceptionally powerful, if grim story, Pennypacker does a remarkable job of conveying the gritty perspective of a sheltered animal that must instantly learn to live in the wild." (Publishers Weekly (starred review))

"A startling work of fiction that should be read-and discussed-by children and adults alike." (School Library Journal (starred review))

"An emotional, thought-provoking story of conflict, loyalty, and love." (The Horn Book)

"Sometimes an author steps aside from a popular series to break new ground, as evidenced in this arresting novel, at once a wilderness adventure about survival and a philosophical foray into big questions." (San

Francisco Chronicle)

“Pennypacker’s elegant language and insight into human nature spin a fable extolling empathy above all. By the novel’s poignant ending, Pennypacker has gently made the case that all of us should aspire to that view—children and adults alike.” (Time magazine)

“Searingly honest and heartbreakingly lovely, Pax is, quite simply, a masterpiece.” (Katherine Applegate, Newbery Award-winning author of *The One and Only Ivan*)

“A sweeping and enchanting wartime story of trust, loyalty, betrayal, and the love of a boy for the fox he’s raised since he was a kit. A master storyteller, Pennypacker leads the reader along a path of shifting hopes to the story’s heart-wrenching conclusion.” (Ann M. Martin, Newbery Honoree, author of *Rain Reign*)

“Pax is set in an unspecified time and place so that the details of the war are unimportant. What is prime is the graceful but haunting story of boy and fox—their relationship set against man-made chaos.” (Columbus Dispatch)

“Both boy and fox experience the kindness of others even with the backdrop of imminent war.”
Recommended 2016 Holiday Gift for Tween Readers (Brightly.com)

“A book that is as much about dealing with loss as it is about how people change and affect the world around them.” An Entertainment Weekly Best Middle Grade Book of 2016 (Entertainment Weekly)

About the Author

Sara Pennypacker is the author of the award-winning, *New York Times* bestselling Clementine series, the acclaimed novel *Summer of the Gypsy Moths*, and the picture books *Meet the Dullards*, *Pierre in Love*, and *Sparrow Girl*. She divides her time between Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and Florida. You can visit her online at www.sarapennypacker.com.

Jon Klassen grew up in Niagara Falls, Canada, and now lives in Los Angeles, California. He is the Caldecott Award-winning author and illustrator of *I Want My Hat Back* and *This Is Not My Hat*, as well as the illustrator of *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole* and *Extra Yarn* by Mac Barnett; *The Dark* by Lemony Snicket; *House Held Up by Trees* by Ted Kooser; *Cats' Night Out* by Caroline Stutson; and the first three books in the *Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place* series.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Benjamin Manno:

Do you considered one of people who can't read satisfying if the sentence chained from the straightway, hold on guys this particular aren't like that. This Pax book is readable through you who hate the perfect word style. You will find the info here are arrange for enjoyable reading experience without leaving possibly decrease the knowledge that want to deliver to you. The writer regarding Pax content conveys objective easily to understand by many people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content but it just

different in the form of it. So , do you nonetheless thinking Pax is not loveable to be your top listing reading book?

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