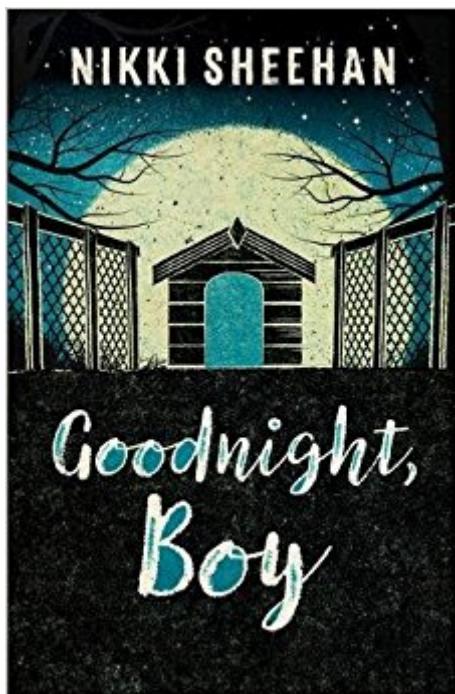


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# Goodnight, Boy



## **Synopsis**

A tale of two very different worlds, both shattered by the loss of loved ones. Tragic, comic and full of hope, thanks to a dog called Boy. The kennel has been JCâ™s home ever since his new adoptive father locked him inside. For hours on end, JC sits and tells his dog Boy how he came to this country: his family; the orphanage and the Haitian earthquake that swept everything away. When his adoptive mother Melanie rescues him, life starts to feel normal again. Until JC does something bad, something that upset his new father so much that he and Boy are banished to the kennel. But as his new father gets sicker, JC realizes they have to find a way out. And so begins a stunning story of a boy, a dog and their journey to freedom.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 252 pages

Publisher: Oneworld Publications (August 8, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1786072106

ISBN-13: 978-1786072108

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 1.1 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,088,614 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #90 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emigration & Immigration #108 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Homelessness & Poverty #2474 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Friendship

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 8 - 12

## **Customer Reviews**

'Because of the free verse and well-crafted suspense, reluctant readers can relish a thick(ish) book that reads quickly. The complicated plot resolves solidly, and the characters matter. JC's poignant insights will stay with thoughtful readers long after they finish the book.' \* VOYA \* 'This is an intricate story in which bits from the past and hints of the present converge on a shocking reveal. JC's hope, perseverance, and tenacity make him a relatable character... A good purchase for schools and libraries.' \* School Library Journal \* 'It's a testimony to Sheehan's tight writing, plotting and beautifully light touch that it's impossible not to read on as her humour seeps through the horror.' \*

The Times \* "With a unique voice, Nikki Sheehan creates a story that is both dark, yet filled with hope. It's one of those books that you want to re-read again and again. Stunning and unforgettable."  
-- Lisa Heathfield, author of Seed and Paper Butterflies 'Goodnight, Boy is a unique book. Brilliantly conceived and beautifully constructed.' -- Brian Conaghan, winner of the 2016 Costa Children's Book Award 'A hauntingly original and heartbreakingly beautiful novel' -- Sarah Crossan, winner of the 2016 CILIP Carnegie Medal 'Wonderful, heartfelt and beautiful . . . utterly unpredictable' -- Piers Torday on Swan Boy 'A moving story about grief, resilience and courage' \* Financial Times on Swan Boy \*

âœUniquely written, full of personality, and politically charged. SWAN BOY has the power to heal individuals who have faced similar circumstances and to evoke change, especially in those who stand by passively without intervening. SWAN BOY is the wakeup call many need, delivered in the nicest way possible.â • (YA Books Central)"A moving story about grief, resilience and courage." (Financial Times on Swan Boy)â œThis novel, with its solid message about finding courage through adversity, should resonate with teens who feel isolated.â • (Kirkus Reviews)

The teenager JC lives in the United States now. He moved there when Melanie decided to adopt him. However, Melanie needs to go back to JC's homecountry to finalize legally making him her son and leaves JC with his adoptive father and their dog Boy. JC's new father isn't happy at all with the arrival of a boy he doesn't know. According to Melanie he should treat him as a son, but he doesn't want to and is constantly angry. Instead of letting JC stay in the house he throws him out and makes him live in the doghouse together with Boy. After a terrible incident JC is no longer welcome in the house that doesn't even feel like home yet. Boy is his only friend and to pass the time JC tells Boy about his life before Melanie took him in. He talks about his country, the terrible earthquake he survived, illnesses and his friends and family. JC has been through a lot and he's strong, but staying with a dog in a small wooden kennel without any regular food or water is tough and Melanie doesn't seem to come back any time soon. Will JC eventually find a way out of the doghouse and the terrible situation he and Boy are in? Goodnight Boy is a fantastic moving story. I was shocked when I started reading it, because of the appalling conditions JC and Boy are living in. Their story moved me to tears many times, as what's happening to them is heartbreaking. Goodnight Boy is sad and emotional, but it's also beautiful and hopeful at the same time. It is a bittersweet story with a special main character and the writing is gorgeous. I couldn't put the book down, it mesmerized me and I had to keep reading. Goodnight Boy impressed me in many different ways, because of the amount

of depth, the originality, the gorgeous one-way dialogue and the comfort a boy and a dog can offer each other. Nikki Sheehan has written a stunning book about a teenage boy being unpleasantly surprised by life over and over again. JC never gets depressed, he does everything he can to make something of every situation he finds himself in and his resilience keeps getting him far. He's talking about his awful past in a matter-of-fact way and never feels any self pity. That made a difficult story light enough to keep reading. It's a strange contrast and Nikki Sheehan makes it work really well. Goodnight Boy is a story about bad luck, good and evil and everything in between. It shows how an unlucky situation can sometimes turn into a chance. It's about abuse, deep emotional wounds and the craziness that many unexpected twists and turns in life can bring. I absolutely loved this brilliant story and highly recommend it.

I confess. I agreed to review this for a purely superficial reason. We share the same last name. I have no idea if it's HER name or she married into it (mine came via DNA and a father who ensures I know the history). I've never met her and as far as I know we're not related but then my father once told me all the Sheehans are related in one way or another because there really isn't that many of us. That's why I said Yes because out of family name loyalty. THANKFULLY her book doesn't suck so I don't have to lie out of that same loyalty or this could have been awkward. I've always adopted shelter pets because I can't stand to see the animals in cages as if they're criminals locked up waiting for a pardon or a death sentence in some cases and with Clear the Shelter coming up in a couple of days this book brings on even more meaning and emotions. I already have 2 labs and a black cat but now I feel the need to add to our family. She really knows how to hit you in the gut, and your conscience, with this beautiful but sad story about adoption, love, family dynamics and most importantly the relationship between a boy and a dog. Be prepared to have the Kleenex ready and consider checking out the schedule for your local shelter event. Despite the emotional turmoil you'll go through reading this JC is such a strong, amazing character you want to stay glued to the pages as if your mere presence will somehow seep through and give him hope, let him know there are caring people in this world. The writing style is easy to get through, great for a younger audience and the pace is on point with no big areas that drag making you regret picking this up. Despite the obvious sadness I've referenced repeatedly there are bright moments with humor and hope that help keep this from falling over a cliff of pure depression. I could easily see this being made into one of those emotionally powerful movies Hollywood needs since it is a unique story with a great voice.

I honestly don't know how to begin. This single chapter book has rocked me. The heartbreakingly beautiful book is told by JC, who is talking to his dog, Boy. JC's story is beautiful, even though there is no real dialogue, the story moves quickly as the reader is pulled into this story of desperation, fear, love, and hope. You quickly realize that there is a very good chance that JC's story will not have a happy ending. From the disastrous streets of his home country to the terrifying parts of his new father, JC's story will grab you and not let go. This story is both heartwarming and devastating. Beautiful and horrible. I honestly can't think of more to say about it, so I feel like I'm babbling. Pick up the book, grab a good snack, and get ready to be pulled through the emotional roller-coaster this book will take you down. Enjoy my review? Check all of my reviews out at [the-pink-moose.com](http://the-pink-moose.com)

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