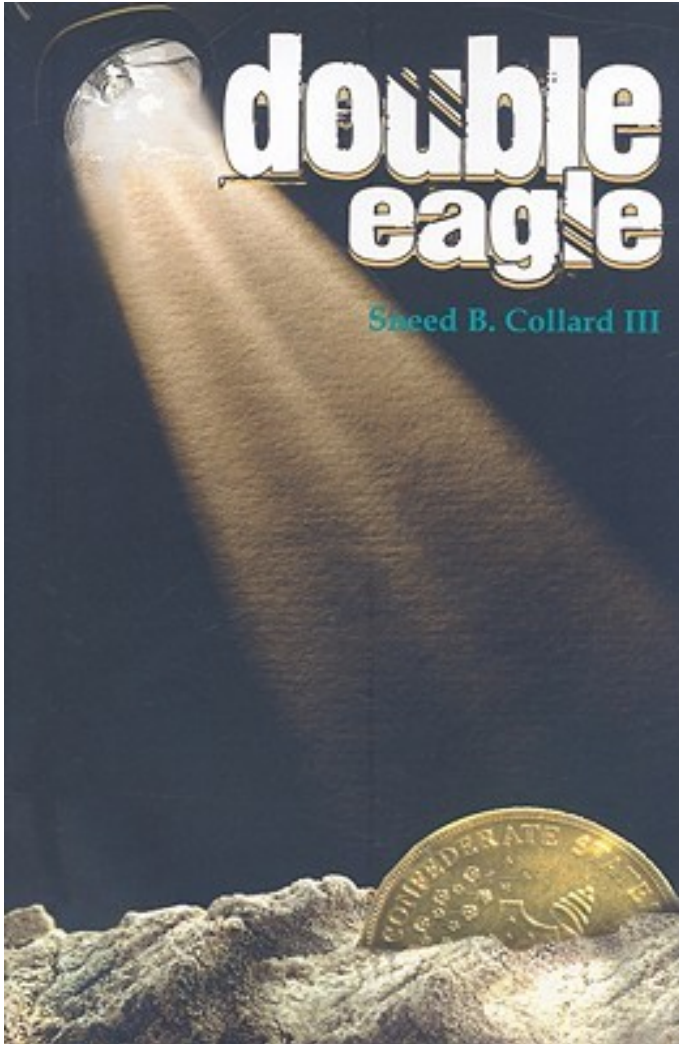

Sneed B. Collard III

Double Eagle (Double Eagle #1)



Title: Double Eagle (Double Eagle #1)

Author: Sneed B. Collard III

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Description

The year is 1862. The *Skink*, a Confederate ship, is attacked by Union forces and sinks off the Alabama coast in the Gulf of Mexico. Although the ship was rumored to be carrying newly minted gold coins, no trace of the wreck and not even a single piece of Confederate gold is ever found.

Fast forward to 1973. Mike is prepared for another routine summer in Pensacola with his marine biologist father. But plans suddenly change and Mike finds himself on Shipwreck Island near the site where the *Skink* went down and right in the middle of a century-old mystery!

Mike and his new friend Kyle are intrigued by a salvage ship anchored just offshore. Some say it was brought in by fortune hunters searching for the long-lost Confederate ship and its treasure. But when the boys scale a fence at the fort on the island and explore a section closed off to the public, they realize that the fortune hunters may be looking in the wrong place. There in the sand-covered floor of an abandoned chamber they spot something shiny: an old double eagle gold coin. Mike and Kyle agree to keep their discovery a secret and start their own investigation into the shipwreck and the missing gold.

Insightful reviews

April: Double Eagle is a delightful, fun and educational (without knowing it is educational, lol) historical fiction book, geared toward young adults. Based loosely on historical facts taken from the Civil War time period, in the location of the Alabama Coast, readers are taken back in time, to April 24th, 1862 when a Confederate ship, called the *Skink* is attacked by Union forces and sinks. It is believed that gold coins were being carried upon the *Skink* and have been much sought after, since it's demise.

Fast forward to the summer of 1973 when fourteen-year-old Mike is sent to stay with his dad for summer break. Living the "divorce shuffle", as Mike calls it, is difficult enough and though he loves staying with his Dad, it is an adjustment. That adjustment is being blown out of the water when he finds out that his Dad has taken a summer job teaching, at a new marine lab on Shipwreck Island, near Mobile Bay.

Not sure what to expect, Mike is naturally nervous and hesitant, until he becomes friends with another boy, Kyle, who is a year older than him and whose Dad also is working at the lab. It doesn't take long for the two of them to forge a close bond, exploring, hanging out and once they learn of the missing treasure of double eagle coins, their treasure hunting excursions.

Sneed Collard III does an excellent job of intertwining fact with fiction, to quickly and easily draw the readers into the story. Double Eagle is the perfect book to engage any age, particularly young adults, girls and boys alike. Another wonderful aspect of Mr. Collard III's writing is his ability to cross generational information. One such instance, that sticks in my mind, is when Mike meets some of the other people at the lab and one was wearing a ZZ Top shirt, but he had

no idea who ZZ Top was. I had to chuckle at this. What a perfect way for young adults and adults to be able to relate to the same book and story. Of course this is just one small example, as there are several throughout the story.

Mike, Kyle, Mike's father and all of the characters are brought to life effortlessly, complete with little idiosyncrasies such as Mike's habit of counting his teeth with his tongue when he is nervous or bored. I also loved the way the author brought the past to life, through Mike's thoughts and ponderings. Here is a small excerpt from page 37:

I used to hold an old coin in my hands and wonder about all the people who had held it since it was minted. A Standing Liberty quarter might have been in the pocket of a soldier at Pearl Harbor. An Indian head penny could have been spent to see Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.

I have often done the same thing with material objects, or just looking around at my surroundings, be it a building or outdoor area.

Another aspect of Mr. Collard III's writing, that I greatly enjoyed, was his amazing talent at bringing visual aspects to life with his words. The following excerpt from page 49 is a perfect example of this talent:

Our heads whipped around to see a tall man with white, wispy hair standing behind us. He wore a faded red fishing cap, and his pale blue eyes peered out from beneath bristling eyebrows. The skin on his face was the texture of ancient brown leather, and an unlit pipe dangled from the corner of his mouth. Despite his age he stood straight as a piling in his long-sleeved button-down shirt and faded blue seaman's pants.

I can't stress enough what a wonderful and delightful book Double Eagle is. It is a story rich with educational lessons and openings to the desire to learn more about the Civil War, coin collecting, and so much more. Do keep in mind that the author is rather sneaky about adding in these educational and historical facts within the story - enabling the reader to learn without even knowing they are doing so! I truly feel that Double Eagle is a story that even the most hesitant and picky of reader will dive into and love. Though Double Eagle is the first work by this author that I have read, I am incredibly anxious to read more!

Erin Forson: Double Eagle
by Sneed B. Collard III

What's more fun than searching for a buried treasure? That's what Mike and Kyle end up spending their summer on the Alabama coast looking for. Rumor has it that Confederate gold coins minted towards the end of the Civil War were on board a ship that ran a blockade over a hundred years ago. Now, Mike and Kyle actually have evidence that this did not happen and the gold does not rest under the ocean. In fact, they are racing to uncover the gold's real hiding place before Hurricane Elsa hits the island and destroys everything, taking the gold with it. This mystery rocked. First of all, the chapters rolled past and always ended with me wanting to know what happened next. The characters were real guys (gritty guys, not little boys) who became best friends like guys do—no hugging or anything like that—just a quiet understanding that they've got the other's back. I was a little concerned that the book makes lying seem okay, but I must say that without the lies there is no way the book would have had such an interesting ending. As it stands now, this is one of the best mysteries I have read this year.

Tessa Joy: Mike is dreading the summer with his marine biologist dad in Florida. But plans change when Mike's dad decides to teach a summer course on an island off Alabama's coast. Soon after his arrival, Mike makes friends with Kyle, a charismatic southern boy who is familiar with the island. While hanging out at an old Civil War fort, Mike happens upon a gold Confederate coin. When the boys look for more coins, they can't. They find help in a local man whose ancestry goes back to the time the coins arrived at the fort.

Collard creates an unpredictable story by expertly weaving together Civil War history, rare coins, a disastrous hurricane, and an unlikely friendship. In many young adult stories involving the discovery of a missing artifact, it usually seems far-fetched that the teen characters are the only ones who find the lost item, even after experts have tried and failed. But in *Double Eagle*, Collard sets up a realistic premise where it's plausible that Mike and Kyle are the only ones who find the Confederate gold. They had a crucial piece of Civil War history that other experts didn't have. If readers enjoyed the friendship of Mike and Kyle and their search for rare coins, readers will be happy to know that Collard published a sequel called *Cartwheel*.

(Found on Children's Compass Chronicle: <http://childrenscompasschronicle.blog...>)

Aaron: it really is June of 1973, and 13-year-old Mike goes to be spending the summer season along with his dad as soon as again. Usually, that implies heading from his California domestic together with his mom and stepfather to Florida, the place his father is a faculty biology professor. as a substitute he's going to be heading to tiny Shipwreck Island at the Gulf Coast in Alabama. Since his father regularly appears overly busy along with his students, Mike makes certain to deliver alongside his personal leisure within the type of a significant portion of his coin collection. At first, this proves to be a good suggestion because his predictions are primarily right. issues starts off to alter while he will get to understand Kyle, an area boy whose father works as a custodian for a labs website hosting the summer time classes at the island. the 2 speedy develop into buddies through fishing and exploring the island and its people. Things fairly take an exhilarating flip whilst the lads are exploring fortress Henry, an area Civil warfare

period publish that region lore indicates may possibly play host to a lacking treasure. Spurned on through the truth that a gaggle of treasure hunters are looking the waters close to the fort, the men are drawn into the thrill, rather because the treasure is probably going tied to accomplice coins. One afternoon, Kyle and Mike are in a closed region within the citadel whilst their flashlights secret agent on anything glowing gold. After checking it out, it feels like it's a accomplice double eagle coin. They determined to maintain their findings mystery as they consult a few humans at the island to aim and notice if it truly is attainable that the neighborhood fortress may need ever had such cash and even if the recent Orleans Mint had ever transitioned to creating American to accomplice coins. As the neighborhood treasure hunters, and a pair of others, take into consideration their interest, the lads locate themselves in actual threat as they fight to discover the place the remainder of the capability cache could lie. The race turns into extra imperiling while a storm bears down at the island. have they got sufficient time to unravel the secret and elude the villains? I inspiration this was once fascinating treasure searching secret that ties in well with a few actual old fact. I preferred that Collard contains a nice Authors word defining what historic evidence have been incorporated within the tale in addition to supplying references in case you need to know extra in regards to the area, the hot Orleans Mint, and the conflict for brand new Orleans within the Civil War. i discovered the pacing to be stress-free because it slowly introduces the \$64000 components prior to rushing speedier and swifter to the lovely climax and conclusion. the one factor I wasn't definite approximately was once why wasn't a latest story instead of surroundings it within the Seventies on the grounds that not one of the tale parts have been required to be set at that time.

Ms. McC: A DCF nominee for 2010-2011, Double Eagle is a enjoyable experience tale that jogged my memory of Black Duck (Janet Taylor Lisle)

Judy Desetti: WAW nomination 6-8. i used to be hooked correct from the beginning. WOW!! i feel it will be the winner of the Kansas WAW booklet Award. terrific story. plenty of action, relatively believable, drama, mystery, and friendship all rolled into one. a really enthusiastic thumbs up!

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