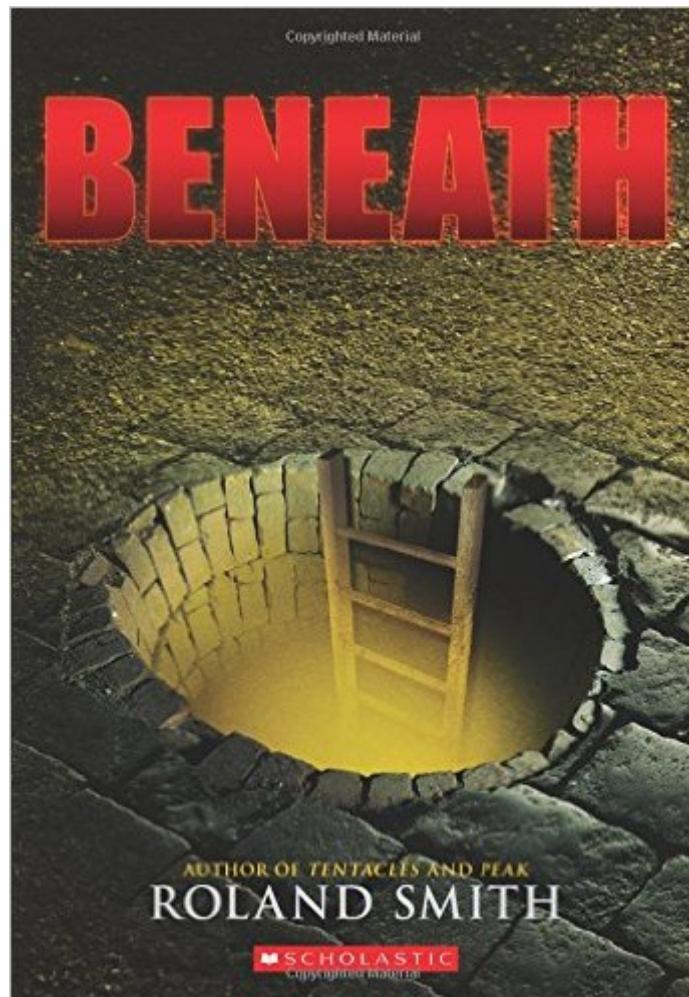


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# Beneath



## Synopsis

What waits Beneath? Pat O'Toole has always idolized his older brother, Coop. Coop is... different. He doesn't talk on the phone, doesn't use email, and doesn't have friends. He's never really cared for anything but the thrill of being underground, and for Pat of course. So it's no surprise to anyone that after a huge fight with their parents, Coop runs away. One year later, Pat receives a package containing a digital voice recorder and a cryptic message from his brother. He follows the clues to New York City and soon discovers that Coop has joined the Community, a society living beneath the streets. Now it's up to Pat to find his brother -- and bring him home.

## Book Information

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Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (22 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Pat and Coop are brothers living in an upper-class DC neighborhood. Coop, the eldest, is a bit of a Luddite who has no interest in the accoutrements surrounding him, holidays or the electronics so popular with his peers. Instead he's only interested in reading "Journey to the Center of the Earth" and "Dracula" by Bram Stoker; he loves tap dancing; he only eats tuna fish sandwiches. Most of all he likes being underground. The pivoting factor of this story hinges on the night that Coop takes his little brother Pat into the mile long tunnel they'd been digging under the neighborhood and accidentally hits a gas line. The explosion puts Pat in the hospital and is probably the last straw causing the breakup of his cold parents' marriage; thus setting the wheels in

motion for Coop to move away to follow his strong internal desire to explore places dark and deep. During a Christmas vacation after the divorce Patâ™s dad and new sweetheart were going birding in Belize. Pat was supposed to go to visit his mom and her new boyfriend but he traded in the ticket and went to NYC to search for Coop. Heâ™d heard from him via a voice recording and theyâ™d been covertly corresponding for a while now. All he has is a Post Office Box number but that was a start. This book is a fascinating account, done in diary and epistolary format, of the adventurous search one brother made to find his sibling. Coop has gone far underground beneath the streets of NYC where a whole society lives in the tunnels that were constructed hundreds of years ago. How these people live and support themselves offers some insight into many of the tangent microcosms that exist on the fringes of civilizations all over the earth. The author has geared this book for the Jr.

In his soon to be released thriller, *Beneath*, Roland Smith has once again found a fascinating setting and page turning set of circumstances to enthrall young readers. Deep under the city of New York, among architectural leftovers from a city always in a hurry to shed one skin after another, lie secrets only known to a few, and only to the invited. Into this underground labyrinth, Coop O'Toole and his younger brother Pat are drawn, each for different reasons. Coop is attracted on some mystical wavelength, Pat is on a mission to find and save his brother. The O'Toole brothers start their journeys from an upper middle class neighborhood on the outskirts of Washington D.C. Coop, the older brother with the kind of idiosyncrasies reminiscent of Maniac McGhee, shuns the modern accoutrements of youth, including cell phones, email, etc. Except for his brother Pat, friendships are not something he seeks. Inexplicable, underground, adventures are what keep his mind at full throttle. With the help of his brother Pat, they dig hundreds and hundreds of yards of tunnel under their neighborhood. After weeks of work the tunnel collapses, threatening Patâ™s life, and drawing the attention of the FBI, concerned that the tunnel might be the work of terrorists. Although Pat gets no plausible explanation of Coop's need to tunnel under their neighborhood, this is his first real glimpse of his teenager brother's obsession for all things underground. After a fight with his parents--one of many in continuing family battles--Coop disappears, leaving Pat to agonize, wondering why his brother took off without saying good-bye. After a year, a strange package arrives containing a voice recorder from Coop.

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