



A Middle-Grade Novel from
National Book Award–Winning Author
Pete Hautman

< TODAY'S SPECIAL >

SLIDER

PETE HAUTMAN

DAVID CAN EAT AN ENTIRE SIXTEEN-INCH PEPPERONI PIZZA IN FOUR MINUTES AND THIRTY-SIX SECONDS.

But he'll have to do better if he's going to win the Super Pigorino Bowl pizza-eating contest. And he has to win because he accidentally put two thousand dollars on his mom's credit card. David really needs the prize money. Like, yesterday.

Training as a competitive eater isn't easy, especially since David also has to watch over his little brother, Mal (who would be labeled autistic if their family believed in labels). But maybe David's bottomless appetite isn't his only talent.

"A sneakily thrilling novel: you cheer for one thing, then discover that, actually, you've been cheering for something else all along. And I promise, you will cheer!"

—Gary D. Schmidt, author of the Newbery Honor Book *The Wednesday Wars*

★ "Genuinely sweet. . . . Fantastically funny."

—*School Library Journal* (starred review)

★ "An infectious tale." —*Booklist* (starred review)

★ "A wholly enjoyable story about a kid who, in the end, just loves to eat pizza."

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

Pete Hautman is the author of many books for young adults and adults, including the National Book Award–winning *Godless*, the Klaatu Diskos trilogy, *Eden West*, and *Otherwood*. Pete Hautman divides his time between Wisconsin and Minnesota.



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PB: 978-1-5362-0432-2 • \$7.99 (\$10.99 CAN)

Also available as an e-book and in audio

Ages 10–14 • 288 pages

A Li'l Bit from . . .

Pete Hautman



A few years ago, an interviewer asked me a question that startled me: “You come from a large family, yet in nearly all of your books, the main character is an only child. Have you ever thought about writing about a larger family?”

I don’t remember how I answered, but the truth was that I had never thought about it.

I thought about it a lot after that.

I am the oldest of seven kids. Each of us had to figure out how to live, how to be an individual, and how to be noticed. For the kids in the middle, it was tough. I mean, being any kind of kid is tough, but middle kids have to work a little harder.

Slider is a book about birth order.

One thing about growing up with six siblings: you learn to grab your share at the dinner table. We had a large round table, six feet across. In the center of the table was an industrial-grade lazy Susan, where all the food was arranged. Occasionally one of us would give it a too-hard spin—with disastrous consequences.

Because I was the oldest and largest child, I ate more than anybody else, and I learned to eat quickly to make sure I



got more than my share. I still eat fast. As a teenager, I won a few bets about how fast I could eat. In my prime, I could down a White Castle slider in five seconds. Does that seem fast?

It isn't. Record holder Joey Chestnut ate 103 sliders in eight minutes. That's an *average* of about four and a half seconds *each*.

I've followed the sport of competitive eating (yes, it's a sport) for years with a mixture of admiration and revulsion, marveling at the amazing feats of rapid mass consumption: 73.5 hot dogs in ten minutes, 141 hard-boiled eggs in eight minutes, 121 Twinkies in six minutes . . . all far beyond anything I would have thought possible.

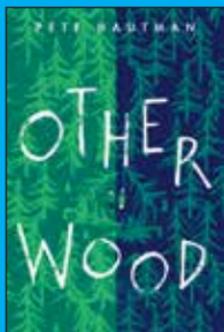
Slider is a book about eating.

In particular, it's about a very ordinary kid named David Miller, sandwiched between an overachieving big sister and an autistic younger brother. David knows he'll never be as smart as his sister or as demanding as his brother, but there is one thing he can do that they can't: he can eat a lot of food, really fast. *Slider* is about how David uses his remarkable eating talent to find himself.

“Being the middle kid of three is like being the beef in a slider—you're just there to weld the bun together. Most people would rather not know what's in there, but it's important. It's what puts the slide in *slider*.”

Appetizers and Sides

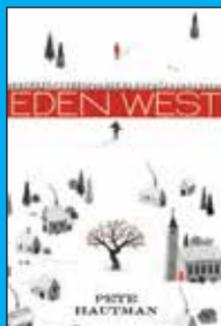
Treats by Pete



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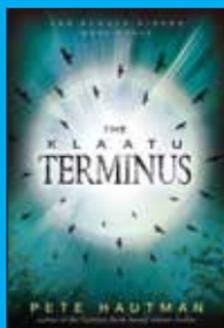


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SUPER PIGORINO BOWL THE WORLD'S GREATEST PIZZA-EATING CONTEST

#slider

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