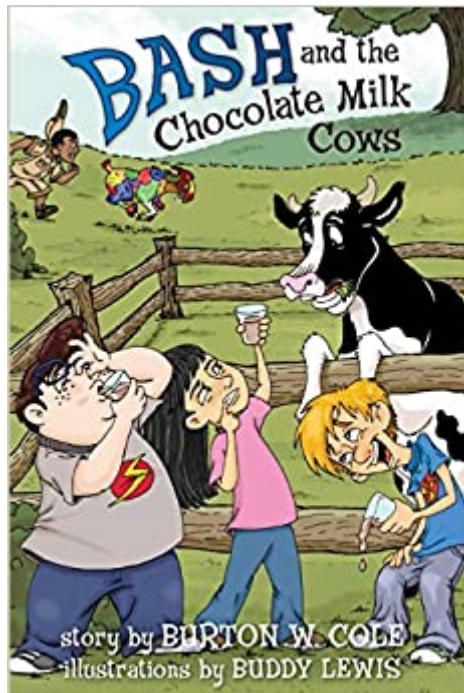


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# Bash And The Chocolate Milk Cows



## Synopsis

Anytime boring Beamer visits Bash, his crazy farm cousin, weirdness always rules. This time, Bash schemes a way for the cows to give chocolate milk on April Fool's Day. Meanwhile, there's a robber on the loose, and Beamer is stuck with his crazy cousin, the pesky neighbor Mary Jane, and a goat of many colors. But somehow Beamer manages to learn an important lesson about baptism and the Great Commission. It's just another day at the farm! Based on Matthew 16:15-16, this third book in the Bash series is hilarious fun for kids 8 to 12.

## Book Information

Series: Bash

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: B&H Kids (May 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1433685302

ISBN-13: 978-1433685309

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #513,136 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Humorous #3158 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity #3509 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Children's & Teens

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Burton W. Cole is a Pulitzer Prize nominated journalist with thirty years of experience and more than fifty humor writing awards to his credit. He grew up on a farm in northeast Ohio and attended a smalltown church with a slew of cousins and buddies. That same boyhood inspires his colorful stories today.

It is two days before April Fool's Day and Bash has just told his cousin, Beamer, that the cows are going to produce chocolate milk on that day! He won't let on how! In the meantime he has borrowed

one of his mom's rain barrels and turned it into a kayak. Yes, the crazy Bash antics continue! If you have not read the first two books in the series, I eagerly encourage you to do so. Although each book is a stand alone, there is a natural spiritual progression from beginning to end. Beamer, at first, has no interest in Christianity and thinks the "Farmin' and Fishin' Book" (Bible) a complete waste of time. Bash maybe mischievous but he is also a great evangelist. We also see character development in some of the other kids. In particular it is really great to see how Lauren and Tyler, two very sad kids in the previous book, have blossomed. Bash lives with his parents, Rollie and Tillie, on a dairy farm. They are a Christian family and this is the third visit that Beamer (Raymond) has made to their farm. Having accepted Jesus in an earlier book, Beamer is now asking questions about baptism - the why's and wherefore's. Along with Bash's crazy schemes there is also a robber loose in the countryside. He has been striking about once a week. Bash predicts that Beamer will catch him. Beamer has absolutely no desire to be anywhere near a robber and it is quite amusing to see how jumpy he is at any little sound etc. It's time for a lesson in frogs. Beamer, a city/beach boy, has never seen pollywogs. The two boys catch some to put in an aquarium in Bash's room. A space ship? Cluckorians? Moovarians? Hee Hee! This author definitely has a great sense of humor. Can Bash really make the cows produce chocolate milk? What are the consequences of this April Fool's trick? Preacher Bash is still convinced they can catch the robber hence him sharing the story of Gideon. What about Mary Jane's goat, Morton? Where in the world does he come into the story? This has been a truly delightful series to read aloud to our children (13, 10 and 6). There have been many, many laughs and guffaws around the table as we have lived in Basher land for the last few weeks. More importantly though they have heard vital spiritual truths and seen how young kids can share the gospel just as well as adults. Highly recommend this series. I purchased this book for my Kindle. I was not required to write a review but chose to do so. Thanks, Liz

Twelve-year-old Raymond (Beamer) Boxby, moves from Virginia Beach to Cow country Ohio where he gets to spend spring break on his crazy cousin's dairy farm. Sebastian (Bash) Hinglehobb, the master prankster, takes Beamer on a wild tour of April fool's shenanigans. With a little battle between the sexes, Bash and Beamer spread the fun to nearly every adult and kid within biking distance. Meanwhile, a mysterious robber plagues the neighborhood, and Bash decides they need to crack the case. More merriment from Burton Cole, as he captures some earthy, preteen humor on a dairy farm. Boys versus girls rivalry spices the plot while the author manages to keep the mystery light enough for the most apprehensive of readers. Along the way you'll learn more than you can imagine about cows and milk, while

yet again encountering powerful spiritual truths seamlessly woven into the story. Another fun and encouraging read.

My kids loved this book. We can't wait to read the next one.

My 10-year old son absolutely loved this book. He has been reading non-stop since we got him the Bash-series by Burton Cole.

As the 3rd book in the Bash series, this one is different on several fronts. The most immediately noticeable doesn't involve the story at all, but the binding of the book itself. The previous entries were a really nice hardback that had a great look and feel to them. This is only paperback and my understanding is the publisher is intending to re-release the previous books only in paperback as well. This might not seem like a big deal, but I'm telling you that with these books, part of the joy (no matter how small) was the feel of the book - it set you up for a good read - and that is no more. The real disappointment with this book though is that it just isn't as good of a book compared to the previous two ("Bash and the Pirate Pig" and "Bash and the Chicken Coop Caper"). Don't get me wrong: It's still great to have a good Christian book for kids and if you were just reading it on its own, you might think it great. But in comparison to the previous two, it's a letdown. The most noticeable difference with this book is that the author seemed to change his target audience age range. The first book was pretty much solidly geared for 9-12 (or even 9-13, and especially 9-13 yr old boys), but was enjoyable for all ages. The second book was about the same, but also targeted girls much more. In other words, as an average they were right at about the 11-year-old age range, the same as the characters in the book. This book seems to be geared for about ages 6-10 with an average of about age 8. Even though the characters are the same ages they were previously (mostly 11 and 12 year olds), the overall writing and style just seemed like it was geared for a noticeably younger audience. I'm not sure why this happened, but it seems to have been a deliberate decision on the part of the author. I guess how you feel about this depends on whether you prefer it this way or not. I don't as there's a fair amount of young kid targeted Christian books, but not a whole lot for the tween range - especially for boys. This series was filling that void, but it seems to now be changing direction and I really don't get why. The story itself was also just not as interesting as the previous two. This I'm sure is partly do to the simple fact that it's got to be hard to keep coming up with crazy antics for the boys to get into. There were still a few great ones in this one (a multi-colored goat spring to mind), but overall they just weren't nearly as entertaining. Also, because this book

centered around April Fool's Day (spring as compared to summer and winter in the previous two), much of the book was centered around coming up with the best pranks to play for April Fool's - which really just ratcheted up the silliness level to a crazy level that really wasn't helpful IMO and contributed to the "age-lowering" feel of the book. In addition to this, the real point of the book - the Christian content - just didn't have the same "punch" as the previous books. The first one dealt with salvation, the second with the fruit of the Spirit. This one mostly deals with baptism. And unlike the previous two, most of the story seems somewhat disconnected to the baptism-related stuff.

Throughout the book, a few somewhat awkward-feeling conversations about baptism take place, but they seem to mostly come out of the blue and just long enough to remind you this is a Christian book. And the baptisms that take place at the end of the book seemed kind of forced and rushed. Granted, I'm sure it's hard to write a kids-related book about baptism, but the story just wasn't nearly as connected to the point it was trying to make as the previous books did. It just made it feel a little "awkward". I did, however, like that the author showed the preacher being a little "too religious" at the end by basically not being initially interested in baptizing people outside of his comfort zone and "acceptable Church behavior" but then (apparently) realizing his mistaken thinking. Overall, this was a letdown compared to the previous two books in the series, but it's hard to knock it too much. Even though I rated it 3 stars, it's really probably a 3.5/5. I appreciate what the author and the publisher is trying to do, though I personally hope they consider re-upping the target age a bit for future endeavors in the series. Since we now have Bash books themed around Summer, Winter, and Spring, it would seem a shame not to at least round out the series with a 4th book centered around Fall.

Was gift. Grandchild age 9 liked it.

My granddaughter and I are really enjoying Bash and the Chocolate Milk Cows! It is very funny!

My grandchildren--both boys and a girl--loved this book!

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