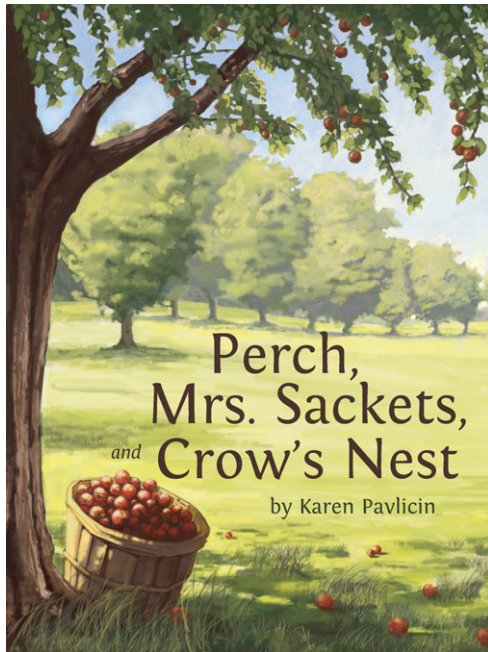


Perch, Mrs. Sackets, and Crow's Nest • Pavlicin



Perch, Mrs. Sackets, and Crow's Nest

Karen Pavlicin

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Juvenile Fiction

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** A 2007 NAPPA Honor Book **

A boy faces his grief in a summer filled with family and surprises. When 10-year-old Andy Parker reluctantly goes to Grandma's house for the summer, all he can think about is how much he misses his dad in heaven and his best friend Anthony, who moved away. What will he do in this sleepy small town for the entire summer? But it turns out even cow dung can be interesting and something wonderful can come from rotten apples.

"Grandma?" I asked. "Why don't you just pick the good apples from the tree instead of cutting up these rotten ones?" Everyone stared at me like it was the dumbest question ever asked.

"These are baking apples, Andy," she said. "There's lots of good apple in that bucket and when it's all baked up, you don't know what the apple looked like when it started out."

I looked at my bucket of tiny, hard apples full of bruises and worm holes....After an hour of all of us cutting, there was barely half a pan full of good apple pieces for baking. I still didn't get it. It seemed like a whole lot of work for just a few apples.

John got up to get another bag for the compost. He leaned over and whispered in my ear, "It's not about the apples, sport."


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Karen Pavlicin is an award-winning author. *Perch, Mrs. Sackets, and Crow's Nest* is her first children's novel.

Karen grew up in rural upstate New York, where the story takes place, and now lives in

Minnesota with her son, Alexander. They have an apple tree in their backyard and a cow dung clock in their kitchen.