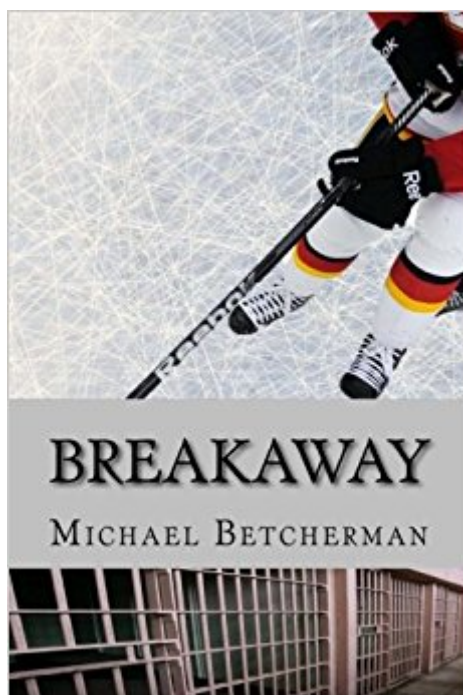


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# Breakaway



## Synopsis

A year ago, 16 year-old Nick Macklin had it all. He was an A student and a talented hockey player, with a beautiful girlfriend and the best dad in the world - a man who was not only there for him when his mom died, but was also a star player for the Vancouver Canucks. Then the bottom fell out. His father was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison for a crime Nick is convinced he didn't commit. Angry and bitter, alienated from school and friends, Nick devotes himself to seeking justice for his father. Who framed him? And why? But freeing his dad is not his biggest challenge. His obsession with proving his father's innocence threatens to ruin his own life. Can Nick put the pieces of the puzzle together - and save himself and his dad? Shortlisted for The John Spray Mystery Award

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

"Author Michael Betcherman had me hooked from the beginning and kept me turning the pages late into the night with the fast paced action and short chapters (an important element that will appeal to reluctant teen readers) ... This is a novel that not only sports enthusiasts and hockey players will enjoy. Anyone who likes a good mystery will find this story a hard one to put down." - Canadian Children's Book Centre "With both strong hockey and mystery elements, this book will appeal to many guys, and yet it has enough emotional story hidden inside to satisfy most girls ... Overall, this is an amazing book that should appear on the Christmas tree for many teenaged males this year. And will quietly stolen and read by sisters and girlfriends. It has wide appeal and is a great read." - Workaday Reads "Michael Betcherman's Breakaway was a fantastic read. It took me completely by surprise and it is one of those books that I will definitely be recommending in the

future. And if you're looking to find a book for a boy, then I strongly recommend you send *Breakaway* their way." - Emilie's Book World  
"Breakaway skates from mystery to sports story to contemporary drama with flawless precision and ease... Betcherman takes the reader on an emotional journey with Nick Macklin, a 16-year-old seeking justice for his ex-hockey star father, currently serving time for a murder he claims he didn't commit... It's a rewarding book, both intelligent and entertaining." - John Spray Mystery Award Jury

MICHAEL BETCHERMAN is an award-winning screenwriter and author with numerous credits in both documentary and dramatic television. He is the author of two young-adult novels, *Breakaway*, which was shortlisted for the John Spray Mystery Award, and *Face-Off*, which was short-listed for the Arthur Ellis Mystery Award. Both books were published by Penguin Canada. He is also the author of two online novels, *The Daughters of Freya* and *Suzanne*. Betcherman lives in Toronto with his wife and daughter.

More adolescent boys would read books if there were more books for them like *Breakaway*. Michael Betcherman introduces us to a young man who is struggling with the unimaginable problem of having his single Dad, a hockey pro, suffering in prison for a murder he didn't commit. Distracted, Nick loses interest in his grades, his girlfriend and the high school hockey team that formed the center of his universe. What brings Nick back to life is his quest to find the real killer and free his father, set against a tumultuous high school hockey season. It's a journey that takes Nick - and readers - inside the world of the wrongly convicted. As he encounters dead ends and roadblocks in his mission, Nick seems to grow at every step. He learns the value of persistence, both in his pursuit of justice and his tentative return to the hockey ice. He learns the value of friendship. He learns empathy, suddenly seeing the pain behind the team jerk. He learns to trust his feelings. Betcherman delivers the story with wisdom and admirable insight into the inner-workings of teenage guys, with lines like "Nick spent most of the class looking at the back of Sherry's head, hoping she'd turn around and acknowledge him." Or in the hero's recounting of his first random hookup. "The next day he woke up feeling as if he'd crossed a bridge that divided the world in two - but after the initial excitement wore off, it didn't seem like such a big deal." There's a lot of subtle advice and guidance in this book and it's delivered in a way that young boys could hear it.

If you have lived the hockey life the language in this book will make you feel at home. A wonderful

and exciting read.

Both my sons and some of their friends have read this book. For teenage boys, reading is not always the preferred pass time. This book changed that. We've also picked the next book Face-Off... Another great book for boys. The story lines are good and are peppered with hockey to keep the attention of my hockey playing sons!

My preteen sons both LOVED this book. Once they started neither could put it down. The both play hockey and loved that it was a part of the book. They are starting Face Off as we speak. One thing we didn't like was the language. It was a little bad for our taste could have still been the same book without the bad language.

My 13 year old hockey playing son has severe dyslexia. Getting him to want to read anything is a challenge. He loved this book. It took a while for him to read, but when he was finished he wanted to know if there were any more books like this one. Any book that has him asking for more books gets 5 stars from me! :)

My 14 year old could NOT put this book down....he refused to go to bed until he had finished reading it!!!!

My 14 year old son loved this book. He said it was exciting and suspenseful. He couldn't put it down.

Very Nice!

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