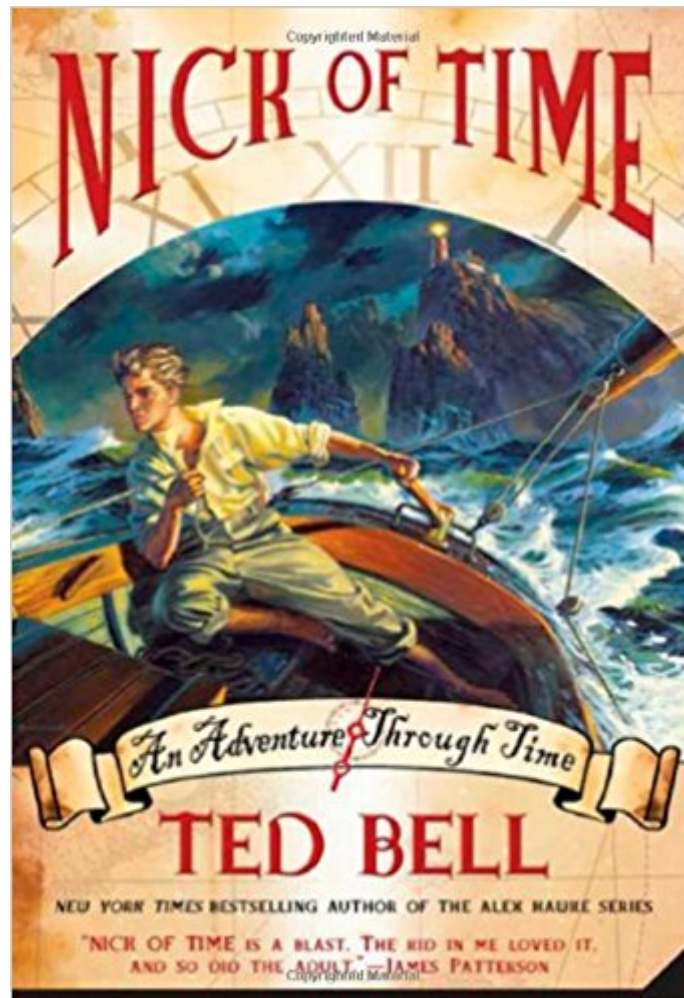




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# Nick Of Time (Nick McIver Adventures Through Time)



## Synopsis

Nick of Time is the first young reader's book written by bestselling author Ted Bell. The setting is England, 1939, on the eve of war. Nick and his sister, Kate, begin gathering vital information for Winston Churchill as he tries to warn England of the imminent Nazi invasion. But the Nazis become the least of Nick's problems after he discovers a time machine hidden in a cove. Unfortunately, the evil pirate Captain Billy Blood, who travels through time capturing little children and holding them for ransom, will stop at nothing to possess the priceless machine. With the help of Lord Hawke, whose children have been taken by Blood, Nick must fight the ruthless pirate on land and sea in two different centuries in a desperate attempt to save his home and his family from being utterly destroyed.

## Book Information

Series: Nick McIver Adventures Through Time (Book 1)

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 6â9â This is an immensely appealing book about 12-year-old Nick McIver, son of a lighthouse owner, who lives on Greybeard Island off the coast of Great Britain in 1939. Opening with a thrilling near-fatal sailboat excursion, the action kicks into high gear when Nick finds a sea chest containing a mysterious glowing globe. Hunted by pirates from the past who seek the globe, a time-travel device, Nick finds himself bouncing back and forth in time fighting exceedingly nasty pirates, Napoleon's naval forces in 1805, and Nazi spies in 1939. Nick is the pluckiest, most likable boy-hero since Robert Lewis Stevenson's David Balfour (Kidnapped). With great battle scenes; lots of nautical jargon; and themes of courage, integrity, and honor, this book will appeal to

restless boys who can never find books written just for them. Three huzzahs and a great big 21-gun salute to Bell for his first novel for kids. Hopefully, it won't be his last.â "Jane Henriksen Baird, Anchorage Public Library, AK Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In 1939, Nick McIver finds a sea chest washed up on the island in the English Channel where he lives. Soon after, he and his younger sister run afoul of the menacing pirate Billy Blood, who seems to have stepped right out of the eighteenth century, as well as a group of Nazis patrolling the waters in an experimental U-boat. Inside the chest is a time machine (built, naturally, by Leonardo da Vinci) and a cry for help from another Nick McIver, who was a captain in Lord Nelson's fleet. It's hard to imagine a more fail-safe recipe for a successful middle-grade adventure than pirates, Nazis, and time travel, but the ingredients never quite cohere. Pages are peppered with exclamation points in lieu of earned excitement, and readers may stumble through the nautical terminology as well as a few inevitable temporal anomalies. There is a wave of publicity in store for this, though, so expect considerable interest for this slightly overengineered but still engaging seafaring and time-skipping adventure. Sequels? Count on it. Grades 5-8. --Ian Chipman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

NICK OF TIME is the first installment in the An Adventure Through Time series by author Ted Bell. Set in 1939, just prior to the onset of WWII, NICK OF TIME is an excellent tween adventure novel, which can (and should) be enjoyed by all ages. While clearly written to appeal to middle grade boys, NICK OF TIME certainly keep this mother of two (girls) completely entertained. Nazi spies, blood thirsty pirates, and time travel all mix together to keep the reader enthralled and the pages turning. In June of 1939, 12-year-old Nick McIver wants nothing more than to spend his summer on his sail boat, the Stormy Petrel, exploring the coastline and dreaming of adventure. His father is the lighthouse keeper at Greybeard Light, Greybeard Island, England, and Nick and his family actually live in the lighthouse. In fact, his family has been keepers at Greybeard Light for generations. It turns out; however, that Nick's father has a secret life. He's a "birdwatcher," a secret agent searching the Channel for German activity and reporting to Winston Churchill, in direct violation of Prime Minister Chamberlain's orders. On top of this, Nick and his sister Katie find a mysterious sea chest washed up on the shore, which contains a time travel device invented by Leonardo da Vinci, along with note from Nick's ancestor, Captain Nicholas McIver, requesting his help in a sea battle during one of Lord Nelson's famous campaigns! It seems that Nick McIver is about to get more

adventure than he ever dreamed. NICK OF TIME is a great fantasy adventure, full of spies, pirates, and science fiction. The writing style is almost formal; reminiscent of the original Hardy Boys (before they were "modernized"). People of all ages are polite, respectful, and take the time to listen to each other, no matter what their age. Yet at the same time, NICK OF TIME is action packed, exciting, and full of mystery. While reading this book, I had this image in my mind of my husband and his two younger brothers as young kids, reading this book aloud to each other, late at night, heads under the covers, with flashlight in hand. It is THAT kind of story, full of mystery and suspense; something that young boys would miss bedtime and risk punishment to keep reading. At least, that is how NICK OF TIME made ME feel. I really enjoyed NICK OF TIME. My one small criticism is that it starts off too slow in the first few chapters. It almost lost me, but luckily, the action picked up somewhere around chapter 4. I am really glad I stuck it out. I will definitely be recommending this to my 13 year old DAUGHTER who loves adventures and even to my 18 year old nephew, who is still not too old for such imaginings. NICK OF TIME is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, especially if you have adventure in your heart and love of a good story in your soul.

A very fun read! I completely enjoyed the time I spent inside this book. I told my boys to read it and they are ignoring me. Too bad for them. One of them would totally appreciate the elaborate security system at Hawke Castle. The youngest would love it that Gunner's cat gets to go on all of the adventures too. I appreciated the very real dangers faced by the characters and found myself holding my breath a little bit while reading some sections. All of the main characters are fun to imagine, including the villains. While I don't sail, I liked all of the jargon and learning more about how they maneuvered tall ships at sea.

Nick of Time by Ted Bell is a most unusual read. I had heard the author speak about this and his new book, (The Time Pirate: A Nick McIver Time Adventure, due to be released on April 13th-so you'll have to get your taxes done ahead of time!). I became interested in Mr. Bell's objectives, ordered the book and have now devoured it. This book is most unusual, because it is written in a "high style" for children of all ages. Mr. Bell has stated that he had been disappointed in the level of children's books today because of their simplicity, lack of morality and not containing characters which have traditionally been thought heroes of merit in "classical lore" (i.e. Treasure Island, Kidnapped, Robinson Crusoe and other treasured classics). One review on the front of the book written by James Patterson is apt: "Nick of Time is a blast. The kid in me loved it and so did the adult." I have a grandson named Nick and so I bought, but thought I must check it out before

sending it to him. Was I totally surprised to find that I truly couldn't put it down, even making me late for dinner, bedtime and running around sneaking in my chores while reading. Now, it is a bit scary, as I believe all great adventures are, as we as children are little salty dogs and swashbucklers and have enjoyed the intrigue of pirates, storms at sea, castles and small islands. Nick does the "trick" for fulfilling every one's starvation for well-written, classical adventure. I do suggest that it might best be suited for at least the 10-year old starting point, but that a parent reading a bit at bedtime for small fry with a little bit of explanation, will find these listeners begging, "Just read a little bit more! Please?" Ted is also the best selling author of the Alex Hawke series and he has a new classical book ready for "launch" and all of his fine work is available on [Amazon](#) and all major book providers. (Nick, I can send this now that I have written this review, even though it wasn't in the nick of time for Christmas!) Del Latham, [...] January 13, 2010

Great read for adults as well as children.

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