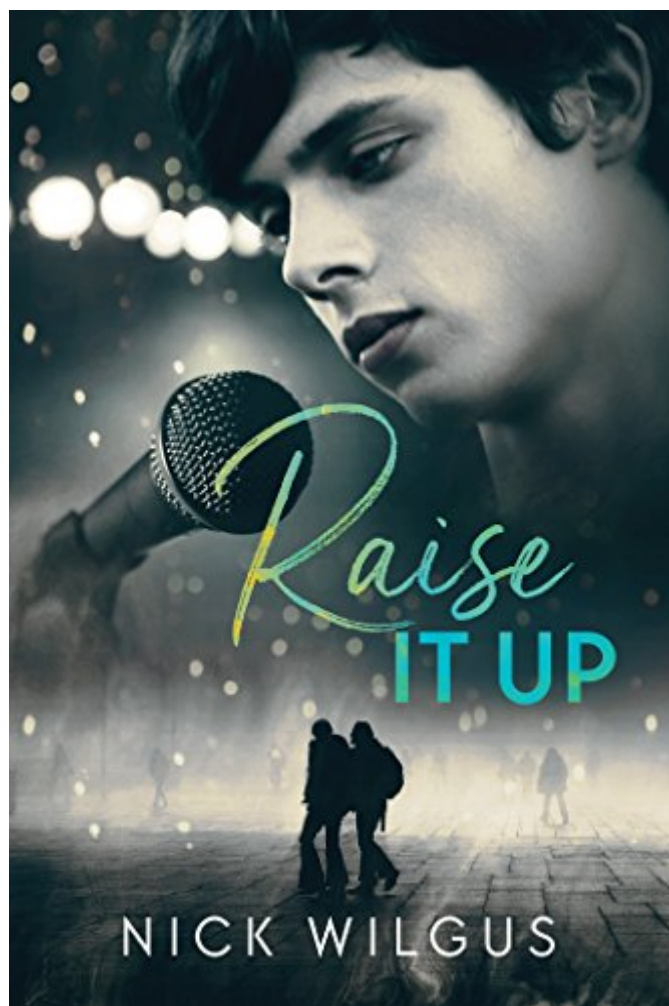


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# Raise It Up



## Synopsis

Telling the truth might set you free, but only if you're willing to pay the price. Growing up gay in rural Michigan at the height of the Cold War has taught Cyrus Hood how to keep quiet about a lot of things. With his mother gone, he fights to keep his family together and care for his little brother, Charlie, whose developmental problems are another secret Cyrus cannot risk revealing. Add to that an alcoholic and paranoid father, and Cyrus's life is rapidly falling to pieces even as he's realizing his feelings for his best friend, Oliver. When things reach their lowest point, it might be Oliver who helps Cyrus find not only his voice but his place in the world and shows him that, when all else fails, love will raise you up.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Like all of his books this one will give you all the feels. Compassion, love and hope. Even while his characters are surrounded with just the opposites. You'll cry for them and then cheer for their futures. I didn't want it to end but I couldn't put it down. You can't read this book and not want to go

out into the world spreading kindness and compassion to everyone you meet. It reminds you that you never know what a person or a child is going thru.

Mr. WILGUS is an american story teller, a rare author who captures the heart and draws it in to keep. You've not read it, well your missing out.

This is one of Mr. Wilgus' very best works. It appeals to anyone with a heart. The twists and turns are intriguing but worth the sometimes bumpy ride. Thank you, Mr. Wilgus.

With Raise It Up, author Nick Wilgus has presented finely drawn characters, a plot full of twists, and enough food for thought to feed our brains for days. He tells the story of fifteen-year-old Cyrus Hood, a boy who, when the story begins just before Christmas of 1979, has endured the sudden death of his mother and the lunacy of his abusive father. Wilgus guides us through Cyrus's life over the next year or so as the boy tries to keep his torn family together and make some sense of the events he has experienced and is experiencing. This is a compelling novel, one that is hard to put down. I feel a special affinity with Wilgus, for not only does he use the effects of organized religion as one of his themes "a theme I return to over and over in my own novels" but he shows us there are what I call "good souls" in this world, ready to help those in need. That motif of "good souls" is prevalent in my novel The Book of Ethan. So feeling like writer-brothers, I embraced Raise It Up wholeheartedly. I reveled in Cyrus's journey, cheered for him, shed tears for him, and was happy for him when he comes through his ordeal whole and pretty much healed. Do not, however, get the idea that Raise It Up is an entirely "feel good" book. Cyrus's story is harrowing, and his emotional journey is complex. But that's what makes a good novel, and Raise It Up is definitely that. Wilgus is a fine writer, and this is a fine, fine book.

Once again Nick Wilgus presents us with an story of angst, courage and love. I started this tale at about 10 pm and read straight through until 6 am. I kept thinking I would find a stopping place, but Cee Cee had ahold of me and I just could not leave him until he was safe. Bad things happen to him, but they are the kind of things are all too real to way too many kids. I am not going to give any spoilers, but as usual the characters grab your heart and don't let go. High school sophomore with a special needs younger brother.....and non existent or detrimental parenting...Cee Cee has very grown up things to deal with, and dark secrets that haunt him. I dare you to try to put it down.

I love this book and it's my favourite book of the year so far. I actually had to look up when the Cold War was and I lived during part of it and I'm sure we discussed in school. I remember learning about bomb shelters and I didn't know that people didn't believe in the holocaust until the last 20 years or so. It definitely was a great story reading a perspective of a kid in a time I actually grew up in too, but from a point of view I just never knew. And that's one of the great things about this story. I did cry, mostly for Cyrus but really for that whole family. I worried about George's response, but he came through admirably, considering the timeframe. I never do this, but my favourite line: He stood, paused to turn and look at me. "Don't beat yourself up. Your dad did a great job of that. You don't have to add to it. I can't wait to see Cyrus and Oliver finish high school, go to college and grow into adults. I really hope there's more to their story. I've read it twice. Such a great story. I absolutely recommend this book.

5 + Stars. I was prepared to shed a few tears, judging from my past experiences with this author, but *Raise It Up* knocked it out of the park. Wow. This is the story of Cyrus Hood, one of five kids living under horrible conditions caused primarily by an abusive father. Instead of being crushed by it all, Cyrus manages to hold it together, until his mother dies. Then everything unravels. This isn't your typical YA novel. The author has created an astonishing character in Cyrus Hood, a brave young man who kept surprising me at every turn. Wilgus is famous for his unapologetic exploration into the darkest sides of the human experience, but this story shook me up more than I expected. It's an emotional, gut-wrenching read, and Cyrus is a character that will stay with me for years. Highly recommended!

Nick Wilgus writes the most amazing stories; reading *RAISE IT UP* is a bit like finding treasure. In just a few pages you'll find yourself totally immersed in the world of these characters, unable to let them go...(or put the book down). They become real. They tug at your heart. You care about them and are invested in their lives. I didn't want to step out of their world when the book ended. It's hard to say goodbye to these friends...After reading *RAISE IT UP*, I purchased Nick's *THE SUGAR TREE* (3 book) series & loved it as well. I decided I needed to help get the word out and share this author with the world. I can't believe I'm only now discovering him. Treat yourself, read *RAISE IT UP* and invest in his other work. These are those books that come along and stay with you long after they've ended...you feel your life has been changed by reading them. I truly hope that Cyrus Hood

gets another book and his story continues.

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