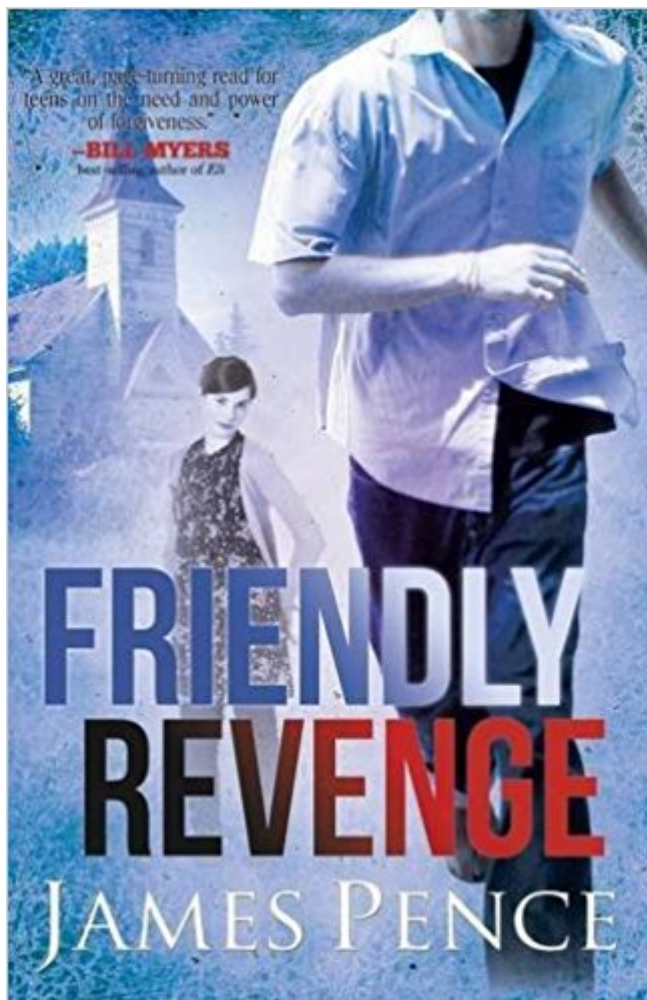


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# Friendly Revenge



## Synopsis

When fourteen-year-old Palmer Keene's parents forced him to move to Grant City he lost his friends, his dog, his whole life. So what if he made a stupid mistake and ruined his father's reputation? It wasn't his fault, but his dad didn't believe him. So when rebel Chad Tarpley sticks up for Palmer, the reluctant preacher's kid is more than happy to call Chad a friend. His parents don't approve, but they just don't understand. Besides, Christians are supposed to love everyone, even kids who just got out of juvie and who live on the rough side of town like Chad. But is his new friend really who he seems? When Palmer is accused of a serious crime, he reluctantly turns to Miss Perfection, Cassie Hurst to help clear his name. The stakes are high for both Palmer and his family, and soon innocent lives are on the line. There is only one way Palmer can make things right, and that could cost him everything.

“A great, page-turning read for teens on the need and power of forgiveness. --BILL MYERS, bestselling author of *Eli*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Palmer epitomizes the teenage boy on a journey of discovery about himself and about life." --

Scribes World Reviews

James H. Pence is husband to Laurel and father to Christopher and Charlene. They live near Dallas, Texas, where James serves as pastor of a small church. James turned to writing as a helpful

means of expression after the death of his infant daughter, Michelle. Nearly ten years later, "A Road Not Chosen," James's narrative account of his and Laurel's experience was published in Dallas Seminary's Kindred Spirit magazine. James's op-ed columns have appeared in The Dallas Morning News, and his short stories in Junior Trails and HiCall magazines. James has recently completed an adult thriller, The Osmosis Project, and is currently planning a sequel to Friendly Revenge. James is also a chalk artist, vocalist, and will soon earn his brown belt in karate.

I enjoyed this well-written youth novel. I would expect the story to be fairly riveting to the youth audience it targets. The book starts immediately putting the reader into the mind of the main character, quickly defining his dilemma — a clergyman's son dealing with the loneliness of relocation, feelings of powerlessness, of being a victim of his father's job. Whether he likes this town and the people or not, he is being held to a higher, very public standard, and his father has been hired on somewhat of an approval basis making the pressure to fit in and perform well all the more intense. He's a computer geek, not the popular type and, besides, he doesn't want new friends in this new town; he wants to go back to his previous home and friends. His resentment and inner turmoil take him into dangerous territory. He will make some big mistakes and learn some big lessons as a result, and it's quite uncertain up to the end how it will turn out. The resolution is satisfying without being naively idyllic. As an adult reader, I appreciated that the themes are clearly stated early; they hold the plot focused from beginning to end. The conflict is well defined in the first few pages. The plot moves at a steady pace from beginning to end. The storytelling is tight, well driven throughout. The dialogue sounds natural to the ear but at certain moments has the sound of an adult writing what he thinks kids would say; however, the characters are otherwise realistic. They face typically believable problems, and the circumstances of the 5 youths playing out the story evoked empathy, and I cared about whether they found resolution and peace, so much so that I read it in a single 3-hour sitting to find out if they did. I read the Kindle edition of Friendly Revenge and found the typesetting well organized and not distracting. I never had to look back to see who was talking in the longer dialogue sections. The editing is very good with one notable exception at the beginning of chapter 3 when the omniscient narrator's verb tense inexplicably shifts for a few lines while the secondary character is introduced. If this was done to create a foreboding emphasis, I can't say that it worked for me. It just baffled me and completely derailed my concentration. I think young readers will enjoy this book because they will identify with the main character's need to fit in, his peer problems and the scary

fix he gets himself into because of them. I think adults will enjoy reading it because raising a teenager is uncomfortable, the outcome frighteningly uncertain, and the compassionate adults in this book play a positive role in the good outcome of the main character. It's a good read! I was provided a complimentary electronic copy of Friendly Revenge by the publisher, Mountainview Books, and was asked to review it. I was not expected to review it favorably. My opinions are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the FTC's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Friendly Revenge by James Pence is a realistic story about bullying, revenge, manipulation and the pressures of being a teen--as well as a parent. Pence has done a masterful job in capturing the anger and resentment of a youngster judged for all his actions, and forced to relocate because of his dad's job. Palmer Keene is a preacher's kid, not a good friend in the world. That alone is good reason to be angry. It wasn't his idea to live his life under a microscope. Chad Tarpley lives in poverty, not a real friend in the world. He doesn't remember signing on for that either. When their lives intersect, heartbreak is a given. This is an excellent story with characters any one of us might identify with. I recommend it to all ages. I was provided a complimentary electronic copy of Friendly Revenge by the publisher, Mountainview Books, and asked for an honest review. I am disclosing this in accordance with the FTC's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Friendly Revenge By James Pence Friendly Revenge, written by James Pence, was a quick read for me. Not because the book was short. It isn't. But rather because Mr. Pence's writing flair leads you to want to see what happens next. And next. And next. The story itself takes a senior citizen (myself) back to the days when values were instilled in young lives. While we often get confused by the technology of today, this book brought back glimpses of growing up in a small town "back in the day" when actions were judged by morals and circumstance. And self-accountability takes on deceit. This is the story of a young man, a preacher's son, who struggles to fit in, unsure of who his true friends are. While this is a struggle that most teens survive, it isn't something you outgrow. Parents face the same kind of struggles in their daily lives as well. There is ample evidence of peer pressure, both with teens and adults, all with conflicting agendas which don't necessarily become evident until the end of the book. Who are your friends?

Why are they your friends? Does their friendship have a purpose? Does it have a limit? While the story that Mr. Pence weaves is quite engaging, one can't help but draw analogies to higher powers. After all, isn't all religion based on belief and trust? So it is with parent and child, father and son, Father and Son. I highly recommend this book. This is my third experience with Mr. Pence's work and he has never failed me. A glimpse at his website demonstrates why he hasn't been more prolific with his writing. He is a master of all things art! Looking forward to his next offering, whenever that may be.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Mountainview Books for the purpose of review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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