



The Billion Dollar Boy (Jupiter Novel)

By Charles Sheffield

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Shelby Cheever V is a spoiled brat. He is also the richest kid in the country. Actually, make that the *universe*. Bored with his all-the-amusements-money-can-buy life, he decides on a bit of interstellar action, Shelby-style. But it turns out life on a starship is not all fun and games. As part of a crew, Shelby has a few things to learn. Like, how to *follow* orders instead of simply *giving* orders. Can Shelby learn how to cooperate with his crewmates?

He may not have a choice. When Shelby becomes the target of a hostage-for-ransom scheme, he'll need all the help he can get.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

In *The Billion Dollar Boy*, rich, spoiled, overweight 15-year-old Shelby Cheever is bored, so he convinces his mother to take him on a space cruise. Without proper preparation, and drunk besides, he accesses the node network alone to visit the Kuiper asteroid belt and finds himself hurtled 27 light years out to the Messina Dust Cloud, where he is rescued by a mining family. On the three-month journey home, Shelby must learn how to do for himself in an environment where his wealth and pampered status mean nothing. Another well-written coming-of-age adventure story in the new Jupiter series. For large sf collections. In the hard-science *Tomorrow & Tomorrow*, Sheffield explores changes in the solar system and the theory of a closed vs. open system wrapped around a tale of a musician's fanatical love for his wife. Drake Merlin has his dying wife Ana and himself cryonically frozen so they can be together once a cure for her disease is found. Several times over 15 billion years he is awakened only to find no cure and, one time, he accidentally causes Ana's death. But if the theory of a closed system is true and the universe shrinks, he and Ana can return to a point when she is alive. This fascinating story is recommended for most sf collections. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

The second Jupiter novel apparently takes place in the same future as Sheffield and Pournelle's *Higher Education* (1995), one and a half centuries later and much farther from Earth. A spoiled, very rich teenage boy, Shelby Cheever V, accidentally passes through the interstellar travel nodes and ends up aboard a starship that mines interstellar gas clouds for rare elements. He quickly develops the skills to be a useful member of the crew, survives the perils of space and would-be kidnapers, and is thinner, smarter, and much more of a mensch by the time he is reunited with his father. Any resemblance between this plot and Kipling's *Captains Courageous* is almost certainly intentional. Sheffield skillfully puts his own stamp on the familiar elements, providing first-rate scientific and technical extrapolation, brisk pacing, and a more plausible depiction of his young hero's maturation than is typical of this sort of coming-of-age adventure. *Roland Green*

Review

"A teenage protagonist, a speed-of-light plot and a clever narration equal accessible, entertaining reading. Sheffield skillfully put his own stamp on familiar elements providing first-rate scientific and technical extrapolation, brisk pacing, and more plausible depiction of his young hero's maturation than is typical of this sort of coming-of-age adventure." -*Booklist*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Silverstein:

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Regina Schubert:

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