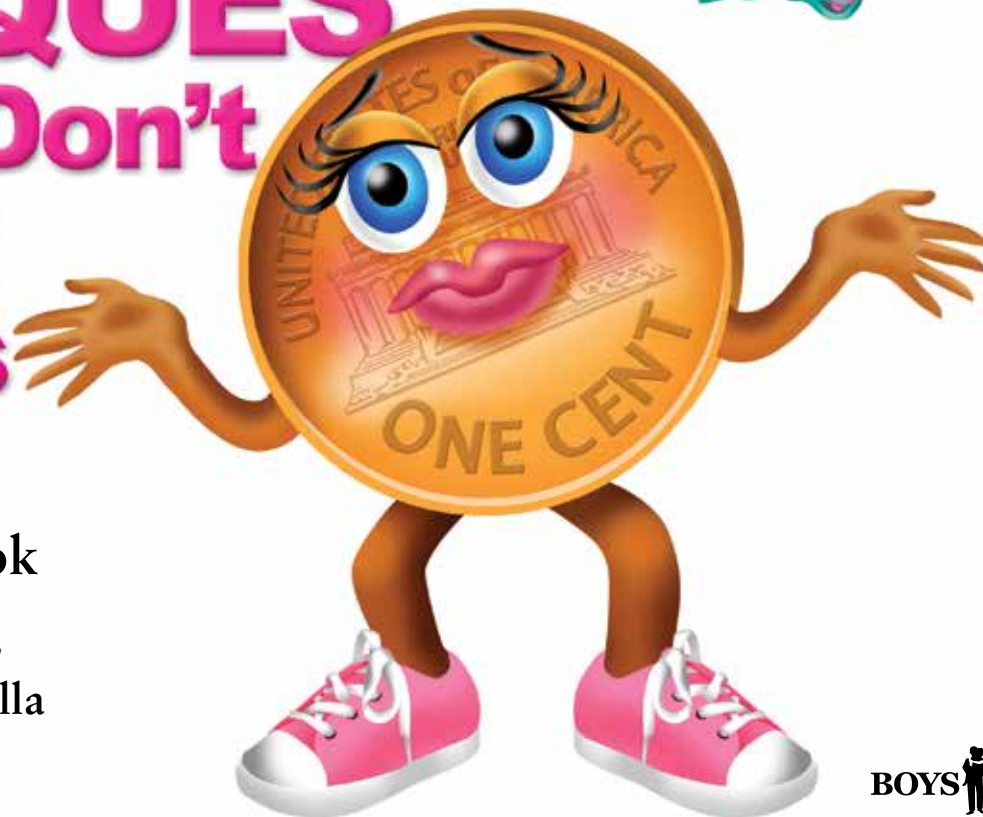


To Jennifer
for always believing in me
~ Julia



CLIQUEES Just Don't Make Cents



Written by
Julia Cook

Illustrated by
Anita DuFalla



Boys Town, Nebraska

Cliques Just Don't Make Cents!

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ISBN 978-1-934490-39-6

Published by the Boys Town Press
13603 Flanagan Blvd.
Boys Town, NE 68010

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or visit our website: BoysTownPress.org

Publisher's Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Cook, Julia, 1964-

Cliques just don't make cents! / written by Julia Cook ; illustrated by Anita DuFalla. --
Boys Town, NE : Boys Town Press, c2012.

p. ; cm.
(Building relationships ; 2nd)

ISBN: 978-1-934490-39-6

Audience: grades 1-7.

1. Cliques (Sociology)--Juvenile fiction. 2. Popularity--Juvenile fiction.
3. Self-esteem in children--Juvenile fiction. 4. Interpersonal relations in children--
Juvenile fiction. 5. Children--Life skills guides--Juvenile fiction. 6. [Cliques
(Sociology)--Fiction. 7. Popularity--Fiction. 8. Self-esteem--Fiction.
9. Interpersonal relations--Fiction.] I. DuFalla, Anita. II. Title. III.
Series: Building relationships ; no. 2..

PZ7.C76984 C55 2012

E 1208

Printed in the United States
10 9 8 7 6 5 4



Boys Town Press is the publishing division of Boys Town,
a national organization serving children and families.

My name is **Penny**.

I'm one of the coins.



Being a coin can be fun. We get flipped and tossed and jingled.

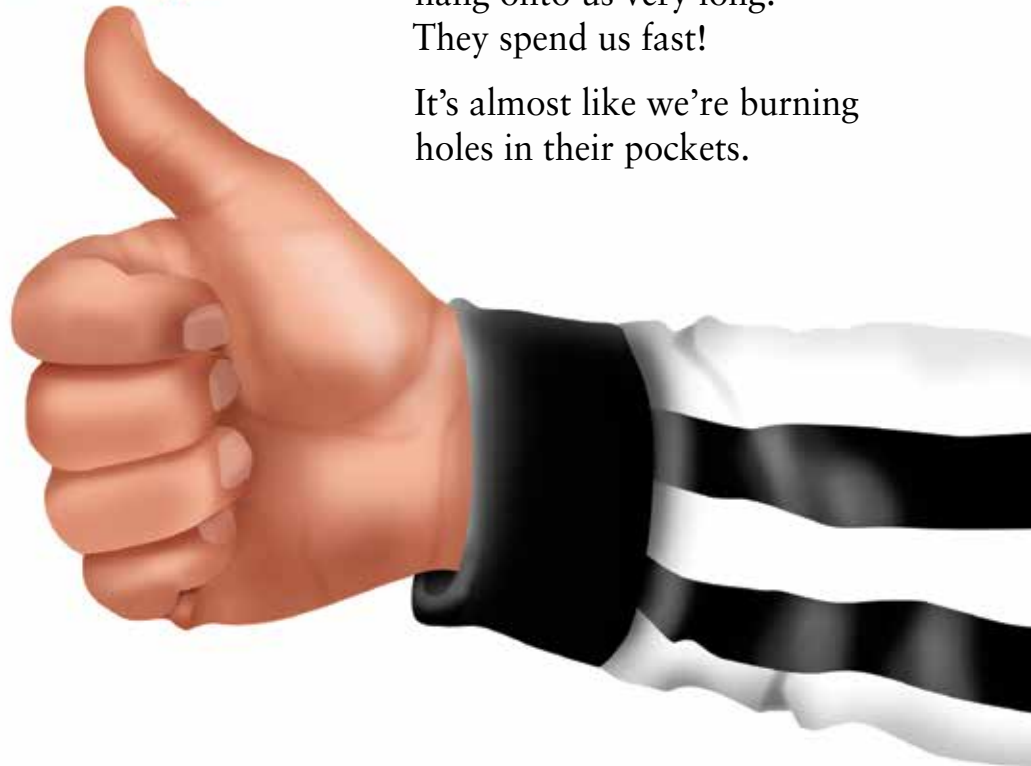
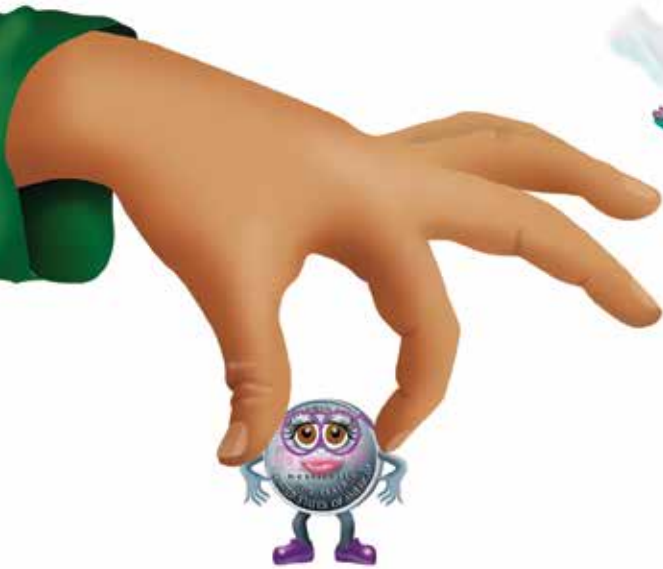
We get to travel a lot... mostly in pockets.

Some people like to save us. They sometimes keep us in banks that look like pigs. People are weird!



But most people don't hang onto us very long. They spend us fast!

It's almost like we're burning holes in their pockets.



I hang out with the other coins.
They are my friends ... well, kind of.

There's **Half Dollar** – she's bigger than me,
and shinier than me.

All of the coins look up to her. She likes to
tell everyone what to do and how to roll.
She has cool ridges.



When we get stacked, **Half Dollar** is always on the bottom.
She says it's because she's worth the most.

Then, there's **Quarter**. She has ridges too.
She and **Half Dollar** are best friends. They do everything together.

Quarter tries to be just like **Half Dollar**.

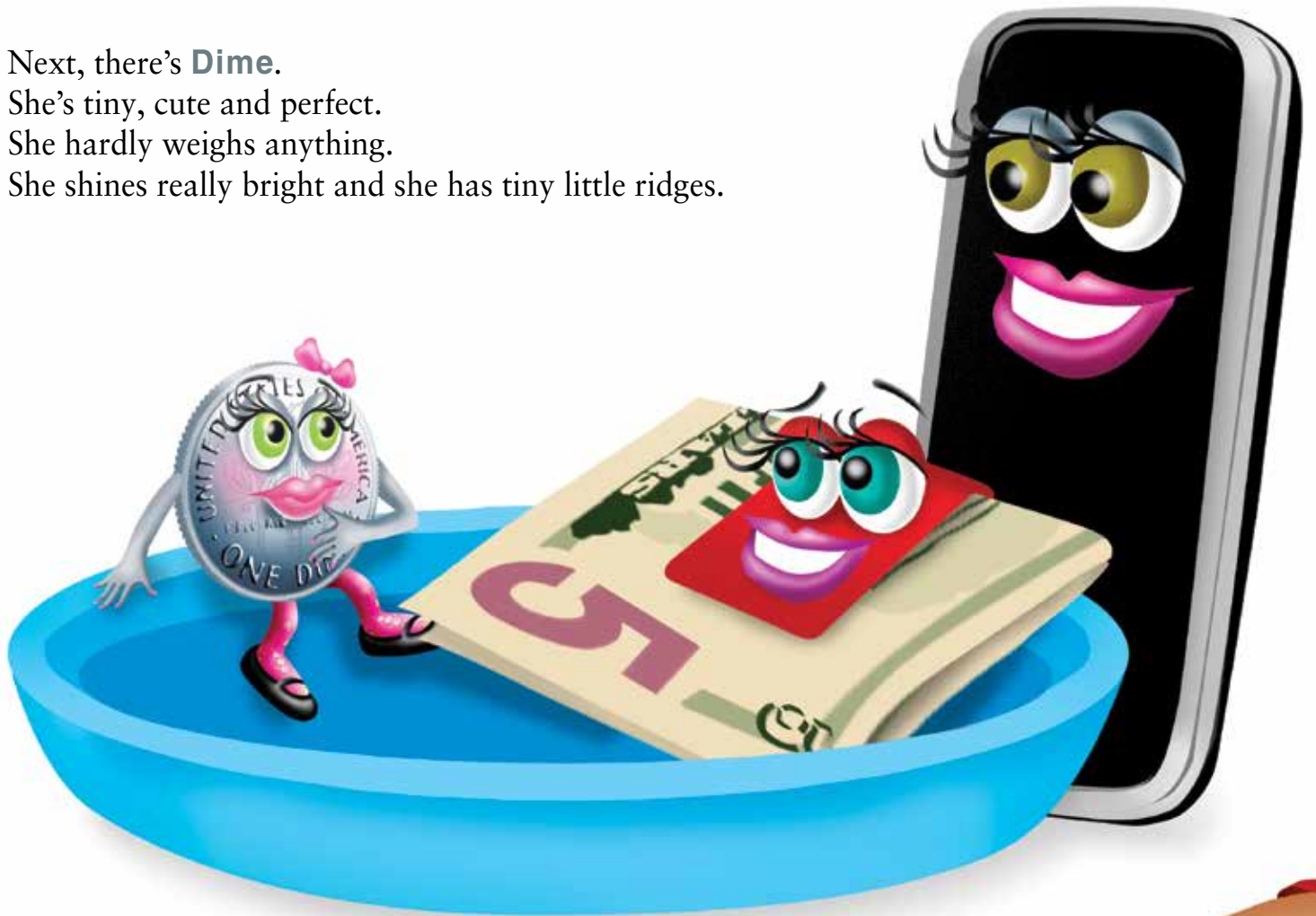
She tries to roll like her.

She tries to shine like her.

She even says everything that
Half Dollar says and she
always tries to say it
the exact same way.



Next, there's **Dime**.
She's tiny, cute and perfect.
She hardly weighs anything.
She shines really bright and she has tiny little ridges.



Everyone likes **Dime**.
She even has friends that aren't coins.
She talks to the money clip and even hangs
out with the cell phone sometimes.

Dime is so little that once in a while,
she accidentally gets tossed out of our pocket
and lands on the floor ... but she always gets picked up.



My other friend is **Nickel**. She's kind of like the rest of the coins because she's silver, but she's a little bit like me too because she doesn't have ridges.

Nickel and I are the only two coins with the smooth edges. We both wish we had ridges, but we don't.



Nickel is my best friend, but sometimes she hangs out more with **Dime** and **Quarter** than she does with me.

I try to hang out with the silvers.

I do everything that **Half Dollar** tells me to do, and I try to roll like the others.

But since I don't have ridges and I'm not silver, I just can't seem to roll like they do.

Nickel can't roll like the rest of the coins either, but since she's silver, it's easier for her.



Pages 10-31 are not included in this excerpt.

Penny usually feels left out...

when she tries to hang with the silver Coin Clique. The other coins, especially Quarter and Half Dollar are best friends, do everything together, and tell Penny she isn't worth much.

One day, Penny lands in a pocket with the beautiful, gold dollar coin. Dollar is different from the silver coins too, and she starts to teach Penny how special and valuable she really is. With Dollar's help, Penny learns to feel as shiny on the inside as she looks on the outside.

Cliques Just Don't Make Cents is a book that helps kids understand the emotional toll that cliques can have on those who are excluded from popular social groups. It also teaches them how to build better relationships. Included in the book are tips for parents, teachers, and counselors on how to help young people who often feel left out by others.

"Finally – there's a delightful and clever way to reach all students when teaching about cliques! It's especially useful for small friendship groups when talking about exclusion, what it feels like not to belong, and the joy of finding out that everyone of us is important to this world. Thanks, Julia, for another great book!"

– Jane Balvanz, MSE, RPT, Professional School Counselor
Co-author, *When Girls Hurt Girls*®; *AWayThrough.com*

"Julia Cook delivers another brilliant lesson to children. Penny's transformation speaks of the level of self-confidence and self-worth we would like for all our little ones to have ... even for teenagers, who can struggle sometimes with fitting in."

– Deirdra C. Williams, Past President
North Carolina School Counselor Association
Dean of Counseling and Student Services
Heritage High School



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JULIA COOK



JULIA COOK, a former educator and school counselor, has written many books for children and teachers, including the popular page-turners *I Just Don't Like the Sound of No!*, *Making Friends Is an Art!*, and *The Worst Day of My Life EVER!* Her activity guides for teachers offer classroom-ready fun to reinforce the life lessons shared in her storybooks. Among her many awards, Julia has received the Association for Educational Publishers Distinguished Achievement Award, and her books have been honored by The National Parenting Center, Mom's Choice Awards, and Teachers' Choice Awards.

ANITA DUFALLA is an award-winning illustrator, editorial art director and university adjunct faculty member in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

