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# LUNCH MONEY

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BOOK

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2



A NOVEL BY

5.5 million-copy bestselling author of FRINDLE

# Andrew Clements

Illustrated by Brian Selznick



## Chapter 1



### TALENT

Greg Kenton had heaps of talent. He was good at baseball, and even better at soccer. He had a clear singing voice, and he also played the piano. He was a whiz at sketching and drawing, and he did well at school—reading, science, music, writing, art, math, gym, social studies—the whole deal. But as good as he was at all these things, Greg's greatest talent had always been money.

Greg had never taken money lessons. He hadn't had a money tutor or gone to money camp. His talent with money was natural. He had always understood money. He knew how to save it, how to keep track of it, how to grow it, and most of all, how to make it.

It takes some kids years and years to figure out that everything is worth something. Not Greg. Sitting in a grocery cart by the door of the supermarket, he had watched with sharp

brown eyes as his mom dropped a small metal disk into a red machine. Then she'd turned the crank, and a handful of M&M's had rattled out into her hand. Greg loved the sweet, crunchy taste, but it wasn't the candy that had captured his imagination. It was that shiny silver coin.

While he was still a skinny preschooler with curly brown hair, Greg had learned to keep his eyes and ears open. One day at breakfast his biggest brother, Ross, griped, "How come I have to make my bed? I'm just going to mess it up again tonight."

His other big brother, Edward, chimed in, "And cleaning up our rooms every single morning? That's not fair. Besides, they're *our* rooms."

His mom had answered, "Yes, but your rooms are in *my* house, and I like my house tidy. So if you want to keep getting your allowances every Friday, get back upstairs and fix the mess."

Ross and Edward had grumbled all the way back to their rooms. Their little brother followed them, and two minutes later Greg had started a housekeeping business: making a bed,





ten cents; putting dirty clothes in the laundry, five cents; putting clean clothes away, two cents; and hanging up used towels, three cents each.

If both his big brothers were complete slob, and they usually were, Greg earned a little more than two dollars a week—so it was certainly not a get-rich-quick scheme. But that wasn't what Greg was trying to do. He was perfectly happy to get rich slowly, because being patient is a big part of having money talent. Greg understood that a year has fifty-two weeks. So between the ages of four and six Greg transformed rumpled sheets, used underwear, smelly socks, and soggy towels into beautiful, spendable cash—more than two hundred dollars. Then his mom shut down his



## MEET GREG KENTON, BILLIONAIRE IN THE MAKING.

Greg Kenton has two obsessions—making money and his long-standing competition with his annoying neighbor, Maura Shaw. So when Greg discovers that Maura is cutting into his booming Chunky Comics business with her own original illustrated minibooks, he's ready to declare war.

The problem is, Greg has to admit that Maura's books are *good*, and soon the longtime enemies become unlikely business partners. But their budding partnership is threatened when the principal bans the sale of their comics in school. Suddenly, the two former rivals find themselves united against an adversary tougher than they ever were to each other. Will their enterprise—and their friendship—prevail?

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Cover designed by Greg Stadnyk

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**US \$5.99 / \$6.99 CAN**

ISBN-13: 978-0-689-86685-2

ISBN-10: 0-689-86685-2

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