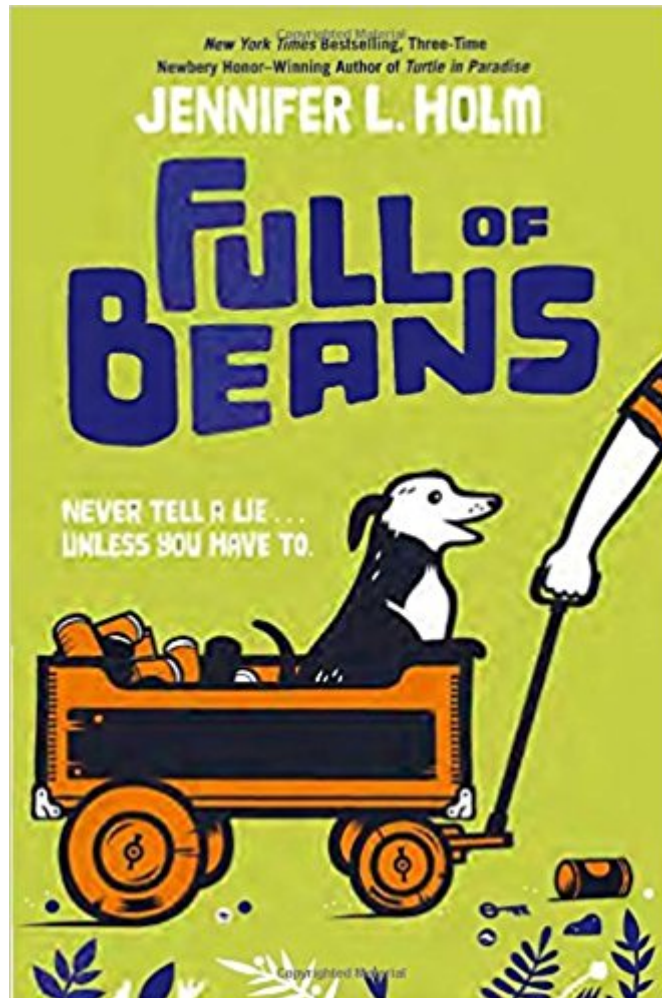




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Full Of Beans



Synopsis

Winner of the Scott O'Dell Award Five Starred Reviews! A New York Public Library Best Book for Kids, 2016 Grown-ups lie. That's one truth Beans knows for sure. He and his gang know how to spot a whopper a mile away, because they are the savviest bunch of barefoot conchs (that means "locals") in all of Key West. Not that Beans really minds; it's 1934, the middle of the Great Depression. With no jobs on the island, and no money anywhere, who can really blame the grown-ups for telling a few tales? Besides, Beans isn't anyone's fool. In fact, he has plans. Big plans. And the consequences might surprise even Beans himself. Return to the wonderful world of Newbery Honor Book *Turtle in Paradise* through the eyes of Turtle's cousin Beans! "A surprising coming-of-age story with a remarkably honest message." *The New York Times* "[Holm] captures this colorful slice of Depression history with her usual vivacious wit. . . . Children will love Beans." *Shelf Awareness*, Starred "A novel as entertaining as the motion pictures [Beans] loves to see." *The Horn Book Magazine*, Starred "Inspired by actual events, Holm's talent for writing historical fiction is on full display. . . . Interesting family and small-town dynamics further enrich this fascinating account of a young boy's life in Florida's Recovery Key." *Booklist*, Starred "Filled with humor, heart, and warmth." *Kirkus Review*, Starred "Entertaining and illuminating historical fiction." *Publishers Weekly*, Starred

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0490 (What's this?)

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Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers (August 30, 2016)

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 37 customer reviews

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 4—Beans Curry and his family are down on their luck. Their whole town of Key West is; it's the Great Depression, and jobs and opportunities are scarce. Beans learned at an early age that adults lie to children, and he goes on to apply that logic to the New Deal stranger who shows up in town one day, claiming the government sent him to make their dumpy town a tourist destination. Sure that the man is a lunatic, Beans ignores him as he tries to find ways to make money for his family, and sometimes even for himself. Beans evolves as a character when he realizes the role he played in a tragedy. In an effort to make up for it, he spearheads his gang into helping the New Dealers make tourism successful in Key West. Those who have read Holm's *Turtle in Paradise* may remember Beans as Turtle's cousin. However, familiarity with the companion book isn't necessary to enjoy this new novel, which is told in a series of vignettes that build on one another, some humorous and others poignant. The book's younger characters have an "Our Gang" feel to them, with adult characters playing decidedly backseat roles. Holm peppers the characters' vocabularies with phrases and slang from the time, which may take some getting used to. The most surprising thing about the work is that it is based on real history. Holm weaves a charming combination of old family stories into the history of the New Deal's Key West experiment, including further information about the history of the project at the end of the book. VERDICT Young readers will enjoy this heartwarming, humorous introduction to a challenging time in American history. —Juliet Morefield, Multnomah County Library, OR

—“Inspired by actual events, Holm’s talent for writing historical fiction is on full display. Interesting family and small-town dynamics further enrich this fascinating account of a young boy’s life in Florida’s Recovery Key. —“Filled with humor, heart, and warmth; readers can only hope to hear more about the Curry clan.” —Kirkus Review —“Period details—like keeping Sears and Roebuck catalogues handy in outhouses, —“marble mania, —people with leprosy hidden by their families, and the Shirley Temple craze—make for entertaining and illuminating historical fiction.” —Publishers Weekly —starred review” Multifaceted supporting

characters— an intrepid group of friends (all with nicknames such as Pork Chop and Too Bad), a fussy baby brother, a pushy girl nemesis, a mean grandmother, a Key West resident afflicted with leprosy—are all seen through Bean’s refreshingly honest eyes and create a novel as entertaining as the motion pictures he loves to see.” The Horn Book Magazine’s starred review “Holm, who has family ties to Key West, captures this colorful slice of Depression history with her usual vivacious wit and colorful expressions...” Shelf Awareness, starred review “Praise for Jennifer L. Holm: “As a storyteller, Holm is superb.” School Library Journal “Holm impressively wraps pathos with comedy.” Booklist “Anyone interested in learning to write crowd-pleasing historical fiction for elementary school readers would be wise to study Holm’s work.” Publishers Weekly, starred review “Sweet, funny and superb.” Kirkus Reviews, Starred Review

Jennifer Holm has written another really appealing historical fiction novel based on her family history. While I don’t normally have much luck getting students to read historical fiction, I think I could get them to read this since Beans is such a likeable, interesting character. I also loved Key West as a setting and watching it change for the better. Beans willingness to work to earn money to go to the movies and help out his mom is a major plot point that leads to conflict when Beans starts working for a bootlegger who asks him to set off fire alarms to help him transport contraband. The pay is good but the consequences are not and Beans is left trying to make up for his mistakes. The friendships as well as the other people Beans interacts with make the story an interesting one. Beans’ little brother Kermit, his grandmother Nana Philly (the meanest woman in Key West), and his feud with Dot (a girl!) all play a role in the choices Beans makes and who he ends up deciding to be. Holm has written another winner with great characters, a fabulous setting, and an interesting plot.

This is a good continuation of Jennifer Holm’s other book, “Turtle in Paradise”. I was born and raised in Key West and she paints a very good picture of the way it was there during the depression. My Mom and Dad lived thru it and told me stories. Wonderful children’s book , as are all of Jennifer Holm’s works.

Does building resilience in kids mean they have to be able to handle everything by themselves? Or that they can weather the hard times, with their sense of self intact? I adore Jennifer Holm’s newest novel Full of Beans precisely for the way that Beans struggles through hard times, learning about

the consequences of his decisions, yet never losing his sense of humor or his loyalty to his family and friends.

My daughter loves all of Jennifer L Holm's books. We like that she includes science/history into very interesting stories. I recommend all of her books.

Another Great Jennifer Holm book! Beans is a "hoot" also love the history of the "Keys" embedded in the book!

My 9 year old daughter LOVED this book!! We will be ordering all of them by this author.

Great book

Loved it....remembering the times

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