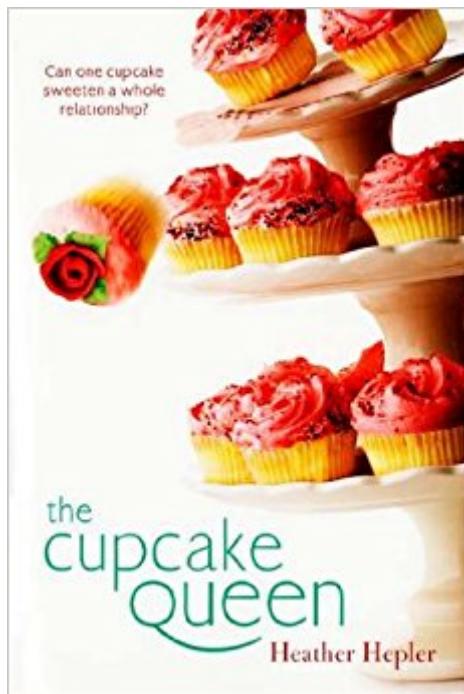


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# The Cupcake Queen



## **Synopsis**

When Penny moves to Hog's Hollow from New York City, her life changes drastically. Penny's mom now runs a cupcake bakery, and Penny is stuck helping out. But that isn't the worst of it. Not only did she leave her friends back home, but her dad stayed behind too. And then there's Charity, resident mean girl who's out to get Penny. With all this, Penny still finds some things to like: Tally and Blake...and Marcus - the cute, quiet boy who runs on the beach every night. But just when Penny begins to accept her new life, she's forced to make a choice that will change everything.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 710 (What's this?)

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Speak; Reprint edition (May 27, 2010)

Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-0142416686

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.7 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 85 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #88,701 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Marriage & Divorce #50 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Marriage & Divorce #58 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Moving

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Genuine voice and emotions. "Kirkus Reviews"?Genuine voice and emotions.??"Kirkus Reviews""Genuine voice and emotions." - "Kirkus Reviews""Genuine voice and emotions." - "Kirkus Reviews"

Heather Hepler grew up in North Texas. She has lived in Reno, on the coast of Maine, in the interior of Alaska, and near Death Valley, but she currently is being held against her will in Tyler, Texas. She holds a Master's in Library Science from the University of North Texas and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Southern Maine. She works as a reviewer for VOYA, Kirkus Reviews,

Publisherâ™s Weekly, Library Media Connection, and The New York Times. Her first novel, Scrambled Eggs at Midnight (Dutton) is set for release in May 2006. The second, The Dream Factory (Dutton) will be released Spring 2007. Her writing has also appeared in the Southwest Review and the Cincinnati Review.

I must admit that I was very excited when I heard just the title of the book, I mean, how could you possibly go wrong with cupcakes?! I loved everything in the book from the strong bonds of the characters to the writing style Heather displays in this piece. However, I do have my reasons why I rated this book as a 4 instead of a 5: To kick things off, the grammar. A few parts of the book were not exactly grammatically correct. I'm talking about punctuation more than I am about spelling. Although some were less obvious than others, that's still not an excuse for most of the chapters being kicked off with a mistake. Second, I know that Heather probably meant this to happen but the plot doesn't really go anywhere. Penny doesn't result with a better relationship with Charity, Penny's parents are still on bad terms, and she hasn't taken the next step with Marcus. Yes, I know about "cliffhangers," but it would make the book have 5x more grande of an ending. Overall, I'd say that this book is a very good book besides the flaws I mentioned above. All I have to say is one thing; make sure you don't have a box of cupcakes next to you while reading this, because they'll be gone within a nano-second!

Purchased for a 12 yr old who loves to read and bake!! Perfect book for her!!

I loved this book because it outlined all the troubles or hard times a lot of people go through, and I also rated five stars because it didn't end all fairytale- ish. Nobody kisses. But new friendships are made. And the moral of this book is not to sugar- coat reality, because often, you just have to accept life. Even if it sucks.

I loved this book sooooooooooooo much and I hope there will be a sequel to this book. I will tell all my friends about it, hoping they will read it. Thank you for writing this book. It totally explains my life. I am glad how Penny would understand how hard my life is at this point, because of a girl at school.

This is one of my favorite books. Lots of humor and you can really get lost in it and associate with the characters. I finally decided to buy it instead of always going to the library when I wanted to read it. Worth it!!

I really enjoyed this book because it made you guess and find out. It was really sweet and it just made me warm inside. The book also made me hungry. The title has the word cupcake in it what else do you expect. I really enjoyed this book and I hope you do to!

Heather Hepler has come out with a book for all those artists who love to decorate with frosting on a 2" circular canvas made of cake. "The Cupcake Queen" tells the story of the new bakery Penny's mom has opened, which is good news. The bakery is 300 miles from civilization as Penny knows it, which is bad news. Our main character, Penny Lane (yes, the Beatles were involved), is horrified that her parents are apart, that she is far from everything she knows, and all the adults are silent, which is definitely not good. Oh, and do add heaping mounds of embarrassment that she was at the ruined birthday party of evil-one-all-in-pink, named Charity. Throughout this story, Penny is unique and tries to define her sense of self. She does so with the help of her friend Tally, who "gets" her, even when Penny doesn't get herself, not to mention that Tally helps to exact a fun sense of revenge on Charity and her gang's pranks. Then there's Marcus, a boy who survives a tragedy and holds life together for himself and his dad. He has a fabulous theory on Jolly Ranchers, as well. As Marcus puts it, "The flavor you pick says a lot about a person" and he goes on to explain: "Grape people are artistic and like to be alone a lot. Cherry people are nice. Raspberry people are adventurous. Risk takers. Watermelon people are popular. Apple people try too hard. Lemon people are mean. You don't want to get on the bad side of lemon person." Jolly Rancher Original Flavors Hard Candy, 7-Ounce Bags (Pack of 12) In the end, Penny finds her way with this new life with its good news and its bad news all jumbled together. It's a story filled with the sweetness of cupcakes, friendship, and love.

I bought the book for my sister and she enjoyed it

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