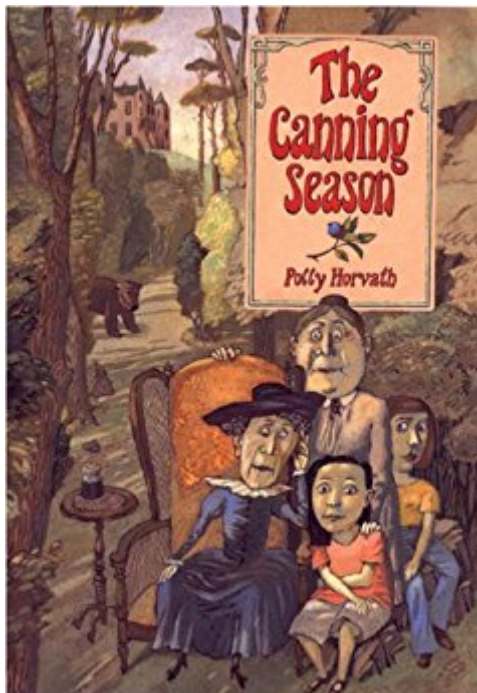


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The Canning Season



Synopsis

Love under trying circumstances One night out of the blue, Ratchet Clark's ill-natured mother tells her that Ratchet will be leaving their Pensacola apartment momentarily to take the train up north. There she will spend the summer with her aged relatives Penpen and Tilly, inseparable twins who couldn't look more different from each other. Staying at their secluded house, Ratchet is treated to a passel of strange family history and local lore, along with heaps of generosity and care that she has never experienced before. Also, Penpen has recently espoused a new philosophy "Whatever shows up on your doorstep you have to let in. Through thick wilderness, down forgotten, bear-ridden roads, come a variety of characters, drawn to Penpen and Tilly's open door. It is with vast reservations that the cautious Tilly allows these unwelcome guests in. But it turns out that unwelcome guests may bring the greatest gifts. By turns dark and humorous, Polly Horvath offers adolescent readers enough quirky characters and outrageous situations to leave them reeling! The Canning Season is the winner of the 2003 National Book Award for Young People's Literature.

Book Information

File Size: 385 KB

Print Length: 213 pages

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR); Reprint edition (May 7, 2003)

Publication Date: May 7, 2003

Sold by: Amazon Macmillan

Language: English

ASIN: B005GXPCM2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #347,672 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #14

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Customer Reviews

Loved this book, it's a very good book for any age. I bought it for my 13 yr. old grand daughter and when she was finished reading it, I read it and could not put it down. Touching and tender story where youth and elderly come together.

When you finish a novel you should be left with a good feeling--yes, it could be sad, but still with a longing feeling about the characters that leaves you with a good taste in your mouth. This novel does. However, when I first started reading I really thought it would be only an average novel. The author sets up the situation and introduces us to those "colorful characters" talked about in summary. And it was somewhat cliché about a child not wanted by her or his parent and sent to eccentric old relatives--as Ratchet is sent to her "Old Aunts." But the second half is riveting, and it soon became hard to put the book down. A new unwanted girl, Harper, joins Ratchet, and the two of them are complete opposite personalities. By the end we really do love all four of the characters, and I was actually hoping there would be a sequel. But, alas, no. Therefore, I give the first half three stars and the second half five stars, for an average of four. Some of the one star reviewers complain about some of the scenes--too sexually or about drinking, and couldn't see reading this aloud to a fifth grader. Well, I would have loved this read to me when I was ten years old. I wouldn't have cared about those brief early scenes, and, anyway, the adult reader good skip this brief scenes, if they wanted, and read on. I do recommend this book for anyone fifth grade or higher.

Fantastic book- some subject matter slightly mature for age 10 reader, however Polly's writing is eloquent, humorous, honest and an overall fantastic read for readers looking for a story about zany family members and a coming of age tale-

I really liked the character development in this book. There was not much action, but the characters were really great.

Excellent and oddball. My granddaughters love it.

A fun story for 10 year-old. My daughter loves the story, enjoys the humor, and would definitely recommend the book to her friends.

I'm a librarian in a small rural library always looking for books that will grab reluctant teen readers. I

just discovered this gem. Yes, it has some profanity. Yes, it can be a bit grizzly but the characters and their stories are so endearing and fascinating it doesn't matter. I understand why it won The National Book Award. This is a unique book for intelligent young adults with a sense of humor. I will be recommending it often.

This author used to pen truly truly wonderful books. They all had in common acceptance of eccentricity and death and estrangement. This book had these themes. But I am afraid there was no need to use the F word or other unfortunate words or to write about a woman who cut her own head off.

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