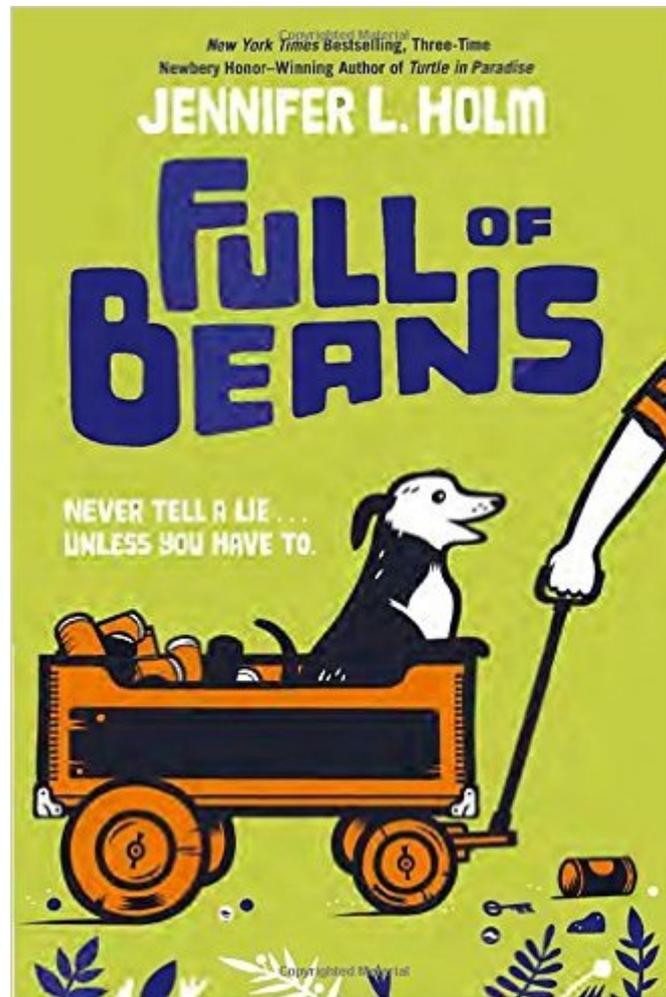


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Full Of Beans



Synopsis

Newbery Honor Book *Turtle in Paradise* is beloved by readers, and now they can return to this wonderful world through the eyes of Turtle's cousin Beans. The 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. Praise: "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

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0490 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 208 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.8 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,370 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > United States](#) #10 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s](#) #159 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

I like books with a strong sense of place and time. It's easier to anchor the characters and get a sense of what's really going on. This book delivers. I've never been to Key West and I was

born years after the Great Depression ended, but Ms. Holm makes us feel so much like weâ™re there that we can practically smell the garbage piling up and we almost feel the urge to slap at mosquitos. As the story opens, our narrator and main character, Beans Curry, is starting to feel the desperation. His father has been unemployed for a while, so his mother takes in washing to get by. Beans and his younger brother Kermit spend their days scrounging for cans to bring to Winky for a dime. But then he only gives them a nickel. Well, all grown-ups are lying liars anyway. And now Poppy is leaving for New Jersey to look for work and Nana Philly wonâ™t give his mother the money to buy that sewing machine to make that dress for Mrs. Higgs. So maybe he can be forgiven for running some âœerrandsâ• for Johnny Cakes. Until one of those errands ends up costing his best friend and his family their home. Maybe kids can be lying liars too. Into the midst of this desperation come the âœNew Dealersâ•, government workers sent to fix up the town under President Rooseveltâ™s New Deal. Soon the garbage is getting collected, the houses are getting painted pink, blue and yellow and artists are painting the local scene for advertising brochures. The first tourists should be showing up any day now. Except that some people in town arenâ™t too happy about those outside meddlers sweeping in. The dogs arenâ™t too happy either. This is a great story of desperation and recovery, both individual and community. Beans is a likable, resourceful kid with a knack for dealing with people.

This companion novel to Holmâ™s Newbery Honor Book, *Turtle in Paradise*, returns readers to the world of Depression-era Key West. The main character is Beans, Turtleâ™s cousin. Itâ™s 1934 and the streets of Key West are filled with piles of garbage since there isnâ™t any money for trash pick up anymore. There are no jobs on the island, especially for a kid. Beansâ™ mother takes in laundry to make ends meet and his father heads north to New Jersey to see if he can find work there. Beans needs to find a way to provide for the family and for himself, so he tries jobs like searching the stinking garbage piles for cans. But when he doesnâ™t get paid what heâ™s been promised, Beans realizes that all adults lie. His best option seems to be working in the smuggling business, but that will have consequences that Beans is not prepared for at all. Holm writes with a natural ease that is deceptively easy to read. Her writing allows readers to explore Key West in a time just as it is becoming a tourist destination due to the New Deal and its workers. Beansâ™ personal story is clearly tied to the story of Key West with his own despair and lack of money mirroring the cityâ™s. His own journey through to honesty and truth follows that of the city as well. Itâ™s a clever dynamic that makes both roads to change all the easier to relate to and believe. Beans is a dynamic and wonderfully funny character. He cares deeply for his family even as

he spends time avoiding his baby brother and feeling burdened by his younger brother, Kermit. Still, when others are hurting, Beans is there to help in his own way, one that is so deeply himself that readers will adore it. Throughout Beans grows and matures but steadfastly remains the same character, just a little older and wiser.

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