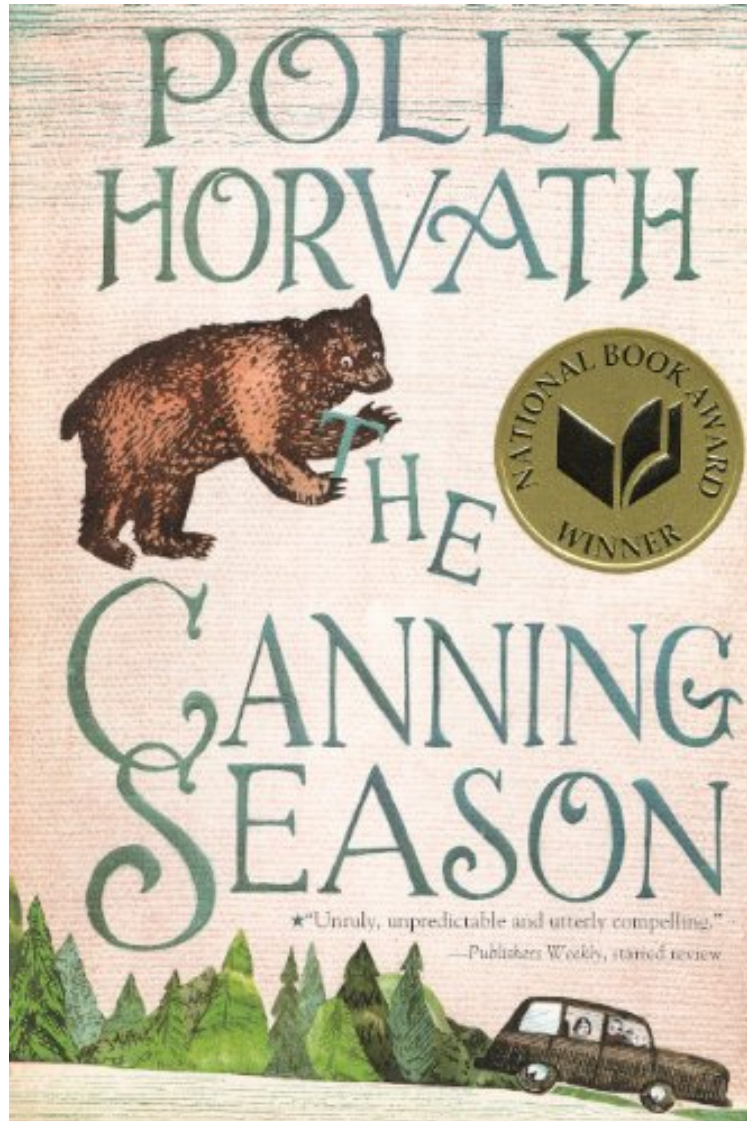


[Pdf free] The Canning Season (Turtleback School Library Binding Edition)

The Canning Season (Turtleback School Library Binding Edition)

Polly Horvath

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Polly Horvath : The Canning Season (Turtleback School Library Binding Edition) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Canning Season (Turtleback School Library Binding Edition):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Loved this book By **Bunnie** 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. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. ... finish a novel you should be left with a good feeling--yes, it could be sad By **Brian L. Blank** 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. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful summer read for 5-6 the grade readers By alicia childers 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-

FOR USE IN SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES ONLY. Thirteen-year-old Ratchet spends a summer in Maine with her eccentric great-aunts Tilly and Penpen, hearing strange stories from the past and encountering a variety of unusual and colorful characters.

.com As in Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach*, Polly Horvath tells the story of an abandoned child who is sent to live with two distant relatives in a big, lonely house. The magic in Horvath's story, however, lies not in talking bugs but in the hearts and minds of its characters. Thirteen-year-old Ratchet Clark, a girl with a deformity on her shoulder blade her breezily cruel, self-absorbed mother calls "That Thing," is unceremoniously kicked out for the summer while her mom attends to important things, like how to gain entry into the prestigious Pensacola country club. Mom drops Ratchet off at her great second-cousins' enormous, turreted house in Maine, a remote seaside estate surrounded by oily blueberry bogs and bears. What starts out as a fairly grim proposition transforms as Ratchet befriends the endearing, downright hilarious 91-year-old twins Aunt Tilly and Aunt Penpen who are "as different as chalk and cheese" and learns the ways of rural Maine. When another unwanted teenage girl named Harper ("obnoxious, but strangely compelling") enters the scene, the household dynamic changes yet again. Though fairytale-like in its setting and its charm, do not be fooled. Suicide, decapitation, wretched mothers, and a sprinkling of profanity pepper this poignant, philosophical, darkly humorous novel that dips into subjects from technology to love to death. In Horvath's capable hands, readers are left believing in the best of human nature as she switches effortlessly from the sublime to the ridiculous and back again. Wild stories, brilliant dialogue, and vats of compassion distinguish Newbery Honor author Horvath's latest offering. (Ages 12 and older) --Karin Snelson From School Library Journal Grade 6-9-Horvath outdoes herself in this tale of lonely, friendless Ratchet Clark, who lives with her uncaring mother in Pensacola, FL. One night, out of the blue, Henriette packs her daughter onto the train to spend the summer with two elderly relatives, twins Tilly and Penpen, who live in an area of Maine so remote that servant-eating bears are a constant menace. Here, with her outlandishly eccentric great-aunts, Ratchet hears gruesome yet darkly humorous stories of family lore while experiencing, for the first time, some love and care. Harper, another parentless girl, soon joins Ratchet. The approaching canning season becomes not only a metaphor for that moment in each life when everything is ripe, but also provides Ratchet with the self-confidence found in working with others and with a means to support herself. Offbeat, slapstick humor is mitigated by poignancy in Horvath's distinctive rollicking style. There is occasional use of strong language, and the family stories are woven with death, often gruesomely described. Parents take a big hit in this novel, leaving Ratchet and readers with the message that one finds happiness and peace in oneself. The Canning Season, like Horvath's *Everything on a Waffle* (Farrar, 2001), reads like a tall tale with fantastic and realistic elements interwoven. And, as in a tall tale, Ratchet, Tilly, and Penpen become larger than life and unforgettable. Readers are in for a wise and wacky ride when they open this novel. Connie Tyrrell Burns, Mahoney Middle School, South Portland, ME Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Gr. 6-9. Horvath's 2002 Newbery Honor Book had a sprightly title, *Everything on a Waffle*. This title is more mundane, but both books follow the pattern Horvath set in *The Trolls* (1999): a young person is in some sense orphaned and put in the care of an older relative with stories to spin. Here the girl is 13-year-old Ratchet, who is sent by her boorish mother to the wilds of Maine, where Ratchet's twin great aunts, Tilly and Penpen, live in splendid isolation, gardening, fending off bears, and reminiscing about the old days, like the time Penpen tripped over her mother's head (the depressed woman had managed to chop it off). But this is more the aunts' story than Ratchet's; the girl is primarily a "talk-to" character until another unwanted teen, Harper, arrives. The girls are the filler in a sandwich that is both dark and wry, with most of the pages taken up by the problems of various adults. Will the intended audience appreciate the truths and idiosyncrasies contained in the tales of the two sisters? Horvath is a winning writer, luxurious in her descriptions, so perhaps she can overcome the problem

of audience appeal. A caveat: the term "little fucks" is used at one point; otherwise, the language is sometimes salty but not vulgar. Ilene Cooper Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved