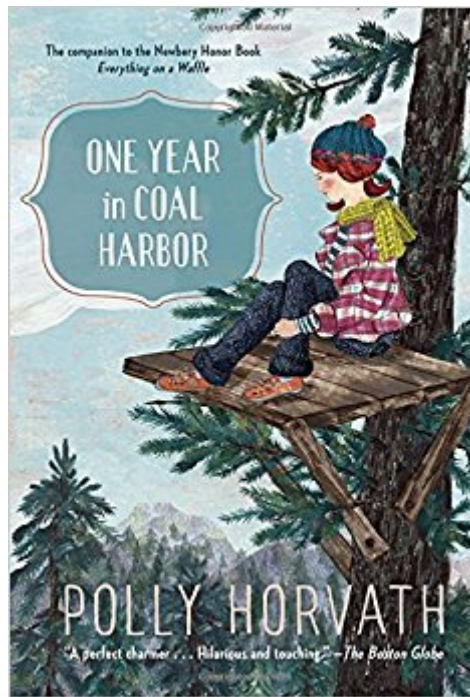


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One Year In Coal Harbor



Synopsis

Readers rejoice! Primrose Squarp is back! The wise and curious heroine of the Newbery Honor Book *Everything on a Waffle* is facing another adventure-filled year in Coal Harbor. Even though her parents, once lost at sea, are home, there's a whole slew of problems and mysteries to keep Primrose and eager fans busy. There's Uncle Jack and Kate Bowzer, who may (or may not) be in love. There's Ked, a foster child who becomes Primrose's friend. And there's the new development on the outskirts of town that threatens the Coal Harbor Primrose knows and treasures. From National Book Award-winning author Polly Horvath comes a masterful sequel to a beloved novel, sure to please old fans and gain new ones. A perfect charmer. |. Hilarious and touching. • The Boston Globe • Nobody does middle grade like Horvath. • The Horn Book Magazine

From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 880L (What's this?)

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Yearling; Dgs edition (September 9, 2014)

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,444,725 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #191 in Books > Children's

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

One Year in Coal Harbor drops us back into the oceanside town in British Columbia where you can play hockey at Uncle Jack's house or have Miss Bowzer fix you up something to eat-just know it's going to come on a waffle. It's been a year since Primrose's parents returned, and she to her home with them. She's more rich now than ever with her Uncle Jack staying on in town, as well as Bert

and Evie, her temporary foster parents who had moved to Coal Harbor all sticking by her. She visits all of them regularly, along with keeping up her regular sessions at The Girl in the Red Swing learning to cook all variety of dishes with Miss Bowzer. I observed in the last novel that Primrose Squarp is surprisingly resilient and full of faith, but also lacking in companions her own age. This is rectified in *One Year in Coal Harbor* when Bert and Evie take on a new foster child, Ked, who Primrose quickly comes to think of as her best friend (even though she'd never tell him that). Primrose recognizes in Ked the loneliness and thin places she herself was in when her parents were missing and instinctively finds he is someone she can relate to and wants to protect, despite his reluctance to reveal anything about his own past. As in its predecessor, the problems in *One Year in Coal Harbor* are very real and bigger than the little girl telling the story. However, because of that little girl the story feels cozy and personal. Primrose is able to gauge issues the way we adults let slip from our perspectives at times.

Yikes! I looked forward to reading this 'sequel' to "Everything on a Waffle"; after all, "Everything" is a Newbery Honor book, and Polly Horvath is almost a household name. Readers may have a difficult time getting into the story—there is no relevant plot except Primrose Squarp's determination to play Cupid to her Uncle Jack and Miss Bowzer. Almost halfway through there is a semi-important reference to Miss Honeycut, and I thought, Did I miss something here? I thumbed back and reread the book, but I couldn't pick up the thread for Miss Honeycut, so I decided to read "Everything on a Waffle". Double yikes. First of all (for both books), the issues and philosophizing are above the heads of the age of readership; further, it's just not funny. In "Everything", Primrose nonchalantly loses part of a finger and a toe. In the second book, she unleashes a dog in her care, and it gets hit and killed by a car. The characters, for the most part, are awful people and unlikeable. Kudos, though, to Bert and Evie, to Ked, and to the Seer. These characters are at least genuine. Unfortunately, Ked is introduced this way--why?"He was about twice as tall as Bert and Evie and had a strange face. It was too flat and his eyes were a bit too wide apart and the bridge of his nose, like the planes of his face, was a little too flat. It gave him the look of someone who had been hit head-on by a frying pan. He also looked like he was about to cry... but I realized it was just the configuration of his features. I thought this was unfortunate for him until I realized it might work in his favor among people who are quick to pity. I wondered if a kindly universe had taken this into consideration upon his birth and declared, He will have a childhood that sucks, but he will be given a face that inspires pity.

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