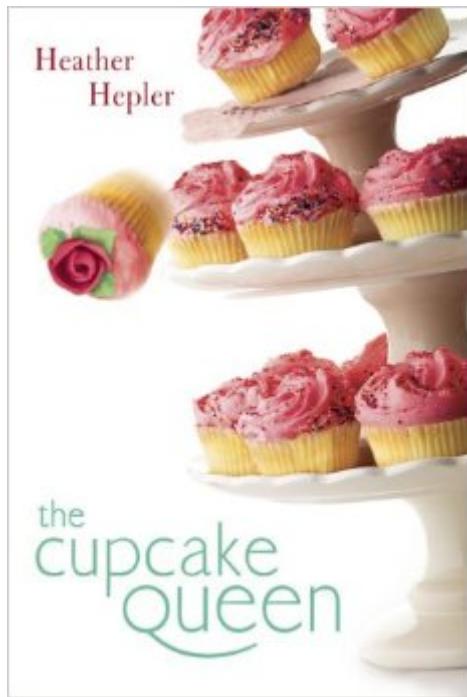


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# The Cupcake Queen



## Synopsis

A confection of a novel, combining big city sophistication with small town charm. When her mother moves them from the city to a small town to open up a cupcake bakery, Penny's life isn't what she expected. Her father has stayed behind, and Mom isn't talking about what the future holds for their family. And then there's Charity, the girl who plays mean pranks almost daily. There are also bright spots in Hog's Hollow-like Tally, an expert in Rock Paper Scissors, and Marcus, the boy who is always running on the beach. But just when it looks as though Penny is settling in, her parents ask her to make a choice that will turn everything upside down again. A sweet novel about love, creativity, and accepting life's unexpected turns.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 710L (What's this?)

Series: AWARDS: Truman Award Nominations 2012

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Dutton Books for Young Readers (September 17, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0525421572

ISBN-13: 978-0525421573

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.9 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (80 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #962,251 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #104 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Marriage & Divorce #464 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Marriage & Divorce #465 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Moving

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

A light, enjoyable read. Penny moves to small town Hog's Hollow from NYC with her mother when her parents separate. Like any new kid, Penny is trying to find her place in a new town and new school. She very quickly finds that her place is NOT with the popular girls, led by Charity. A little cupcake accident at Charity's birthday party and a lifelong grudge between their mothers makes Penny the target of the local mean girls. Their little stunts are pretty amateur and fun to read - a

locker full of pennies, dead fish in locker, etc. Her start in Hog's Hollow is pretty miserable. Thankfully, Penny does find a place in town. She loves working in her mom's new cupcake shop, has a close relationship with her grandmother, makes a great friend in Tally, and meets Marcus, the cute troubled boy. Penny is a very normal girl. She doesn't have the sophistication that many books ascribe to girls from NYC. I like her normalness. She's timid but not too much; an obedient daughter but sneaky enough to investigate her parents' secrets; a good friend but unwilling to share her troubles or feelings with anyone. I loved Tally - Penny's blue-hair, artsy, animal-lover best friend. I loved her creative way of getting back at charity, her devotion to the animals at ARK, her willingness to share her problems with Penny, how she's not afraid of what people think of her. Markus is a great love interest too. Cute, smart, nice, and funny, but also struggling with his family's past. The summary makes a big deal over a "choice" that Penny has to make regarding her family. I thought the big "to-do" was rather silly. This book is really about Penny growing up, making new friends, and adjusting to a new life. Her family's troubles seemed more like an excuse for a plot point than anything else.

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