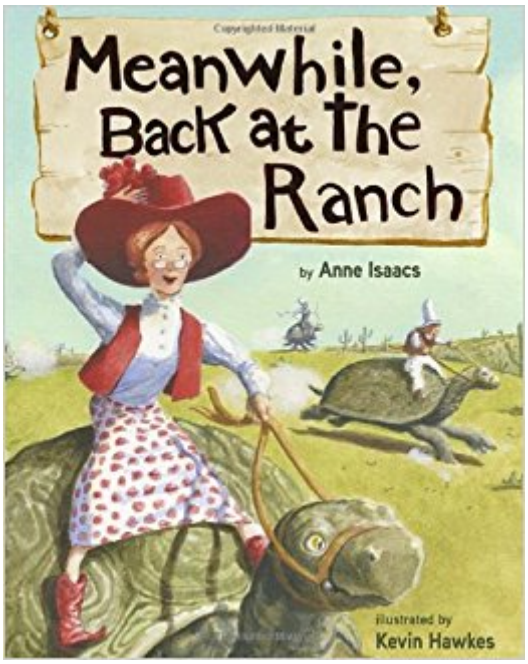
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Meanwhile, Back At The Ranch



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Synopsis

When Widow Tulip Jones of Bore, England, inherits a ranch in By-Golly Gully, Texas, and moves in with two trunks of tea, twelve pet tortoises, and three servants, hilarity ensues. The peaceful life suits the wealthy widow fine until word gets out and every unmarried man in Texas lines up to marry her. Widow Tulip and her small staff of three can’t possibly run the farm and manage all the suitors, so she devises a planÃ¢â ¬â •and it just might work. This story filled with giant tortoises, 1,000 brides, bad guys, a smart widow, and even a little romance is sure to get kids laughing.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD970L (What’s this?)

Hardcover: 56 pages

Publisher: Schwartz & Wade (February 11, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375867457

ISBN-13: 978-0375867453

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.5 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #646,194 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #198 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Westerns #592 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Farm Life #10237 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic

Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

Customer Reviews

Gr 1Ã¢â ¬â œ4Ã¢â ¬â •Isaacs excels at writing tall tales, and readers will not be disappointed by her newest yarn. In 1870, the widow Tulip Jones inherits millions of dollars and a ranch, so she moves from England to By-Golly Gully. She quickly learns that everything is bigger in Texas, including her garden vegetables and her beloved pet tortoises. But her blissful peace is disrupted when word gets around about her rich and unmarried status. Hilarity ensues as the widow comes up with a variety of ways to get rid of the 1000 suitors who line up at her door. Exaggeration is the name of the game from text to illustrations. The story is told in a linear, yet compelling way, and the delightful tongue-twisting narration uses a variety of fun and folksy phrases. Isaacs takes her time,

humorously setting the scene through the first few pages, which prepares readers to expect larger-than-life problems and solutions. The characters are exaggerated as well, from the odious suitors to the spunky and independent widow Jones, who takes a proactive approach to solving her problems. Hawkes's painterly illustrations, rendered with acrylic and pencil, feature vast blue skies, fluffy white clouds, and sun-drenched landscapes that firmly establish the setting. These exaggerated visuals match the humorous tone set by the text. At its best when read aloud, this story will also appeal to elementary school kids who will be inspired to create their own tales with over-the-top characters.Ã¢â ¬â •Amy Seto Musser, Denver Public Library

English widow Tulip Jones is off to America, having inherited $35 million and an entire ranch in Texas, with a lot of tea, her three ranch hands (nÃƒÂ©e house servants), and 12 pet tortoises in tow. With pluck and verve, they establish themselves in the Texas heat but soon find their efforts interrupted by more than 1000 marriageable fortune hunters. Widow Jones has to hire her own baker, one Charlie Doughpuncher, just to feed them all. At her wits end, she hatches a few impossible contests, promising to marry the winner. Meanwhile, the ranch hands solicit 1000 brides from across the country. And voila, dastards are caught, vows exchanged, and everyone, even the ranch hands, departs. Except Charlie, of course, who has a proposal of his own. IsaacsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ tall-tale plotting and over-the-top language are matched by HawkesÃ¢â ¬â„¢ bright, comic paintings, brimming with spirit and detail. An opening endpaper signpost warns against exaggeration in Texas, promising just the outsize adventure that Isaacs and Hawkes deliver. Grades K-3. --Thom Barthelmess

what a fun read even if you are a seventy two-year old grandma like me. It is a fun short story that every Texas born child will use to make Texas pride swell to new preposterous limits. Of course kids from other places will pick at it for flaws in reality but most will like it for what it is, a fun read.

Unique story. Older grandson wasn't too sure about content at first but thought it was ok. Appealed more to the 4 yo.

My granddaughter loves it. Jane

I had this sent to my grandson. His Mom says it's a favorite!

the children enjoyed this book

My elementary students enjoyed the pictures and story. Worth buying.

K picked this book up from his school library.Even though I enjoyed the book I do not think K did. I didn't read the blurb when he brought the book home I just looked at the cover and was like oh wow giant tortoises how fun will this book be.You have Widow Tulip who has a farm and the farm grows BIG things which I thought was awesome. But then in comes the talk about marriage, suitors are coming up to marry this Widow and she sets them on tasks which are pretty cool. K only thought the giant tortoises, the food and how the millions of ducks were in the river was awesome. Other than that I think the story kind of flew over his head as to what it was about. Overall a fun read for those that like Tall Tales!

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE RANCH is straight out of Texas, where, under the full penalty of the law, exaggeration is forbidden to every person (unless that person is an elected official or anyone who has ever ridden a horse), so the reader can take sometimes unbelievable tale as fact. It's 1870 When Tulip Jones, a widow from Greater Bore, England, inherits a ranch in By-Golly Gully, Texas. She sets off to set up residence, armed with plenty of tea, twelve pet tortoises (named January, February, March, and so on), and her three capable servants, Linsey, Woolsey, and Calico. Tulip quickly learns everything is bigger in Texas, including vegetables, tortoises, and the lines of bachelors who line up to marry eligible ladies. As a swarm of unmarried men descend upon By-Golly Ranch, Tulip and her ladies struggle to run the ranch and entertain the endless stream of suitors. It takes Tulip no small about of wit and cleverness to rid herself of the gold-digging suitors and, along the way, she just might find true love.

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