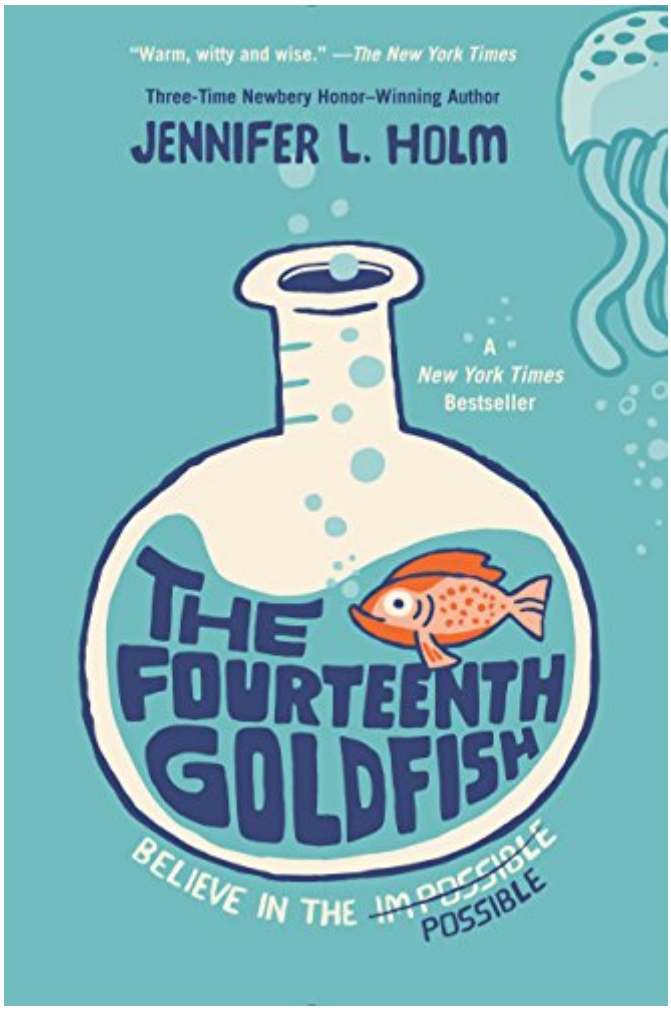
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The Fourteenth Goldfish



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Synopsis

Believe in the possible . . . with this "warm, witty, and wise" New York Times bestselling novel from three-time Newbery Honor winner Jennifer L. Holm. A perfect Father’s Day read about a child’s relationship with her grandfather!Ã Â Galileo. Newton. Salk. Oppenheimer.Science can change the world . . . but can it go too far?Ã Â Eleven-year-old Ellie has never liked change. She misses fifth grade. She misses her old best friend. She even misses her dearly departed goldfish. Then one day a strange boy shows up. HeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s bossy. HeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s cranky. And weirdly enough . . . he looks a lot like EllieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s grandfather, a scientist whoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s always been slightly obsessed with immortality. Could this pimply boy really be Grandpa Melvin? Has he finally found the secret to eternal youth?Ã Â With a lighthearted touch and plenty of humor, Jennifer Holm celebrates the wonder of science and explores fascinating questions about life and death, family and friendship, immortality . . . and possibility."Warm, witty and wise"Ã¢â ¬â •The New York Times"Awesomely strange and startlingly true-to-life. It makes you wonder what’s possible." -- Rebecca Stead, Newbery Medal-winning author of When You Reach MeSUNSHINE STATE AWARD FINALIST!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I wish I had had this book when I was younger. I never really liked science that much and I think books like this would have changed that. (I never thought about the ways that science actually changed the world or, as Ellie said, viewed it as a love story involving people and possibility. Isn't that an awesome way to look at it?)And while there's nothing wrong with girls liking English (as I did all throughout school) or music or art, there's also something fantastic about showing girls in love with science. It's scary how easy it is to internalize that girls don't like math or science or aren't good at it. And yes, in my case that's actually true, but how much of that has to do with the fact that we're subtly taught that we suck at it? And how easily that becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy?)ANYWAY.I loved Ellie and her family (her parents are both artistic and Ellie never really thought of herself as being into science until she and her grandfather start doing these experiments together). And I especially love her grandpa who (God love him) stays elderly even when he has the body of a teenager.I really enjoyed this novel and look forward to reading more by Jennifer L. Holm.Highly recommended.

Wonderful story about discovering your passion, connecting with the least expected, understanding where you fit in and where you don't and that the result of that understanding is the first step to self-acceptance and self-love. We are all gifted with unique talents that are taylor made for us. The journey of discovery can be terrifying but also so satisfying. This story helps see this journey in a wonderful way.

My 10 year old LOVED this book. She wants a sequel to read now! Teaches, but not to the point of boring, entertaining full story. A good length. Good story for 9-13 year olds.Main character is a girl, but not a girlie-girl, so boys would enjoy it too. I like that it was science topic for girl. Addresses a number of issues kids at this age face with old friends and making new friends.

Ellie is a young girl who's life completely changes when her grandfather shows up at her doorstep, looking like a 14 year old. Imagine having a grandfather who does experiments into the science of aging. Imagine having a grandfather that goes to school with you. Ellie on the other hand has had

13 goldfish and wants another one. She is a brave teenager who loves to do jigsaw puzzle's and learn about science. Ellie, her grandfather, and her best friend Raj go on a mission to get something. What will they get? Is it Ellie's 14th goldfish? Read to find out all the crazy adventures Ellie and her grandfather go on!!

First, let's talk about the cover. Let's face it, goldfish and test tubes just aren't all that attractive. Now that I've read the novel, I can appreciate the cover art, but it didn't draw me in. My anticipation of reading this was tempered by the title and cover. However, since the author's reputation precedes her, I was undeterred. I've never met a Jennifer L. Holm book I didn't love, and The Fourteenth Goldfish is no exception.Now, let's talk about the book! Ellie and Melvin are some of the most interesting people I've met in a while. Ellie's life is in flux. Sixth grade isn't going so well since her best friend is slowly becoming her ex-best friend. Things get even weirder one night when her mother comes home with a teenage boy who bears a strong resemblance to her grandfather, Melvin. Turns out he is her grandfather Melvin, a scientist who has devoted years of research to searching for the fountain of youth -- and, evidently, he's found it.Holm has a talent for characterization, and she's crafted some doozies with Ellie and Melvin. Melvin ranks high on my list of coolest grandfathers ever. Given that he's at once a cantankerous old man and a teenager who marches to his own drum, he occupies a place all his own. It's interesting how advanced age creates a non-conformist, individualist attitude that translates into a bizarrely funny yet totally awesome form of swagger. This can be seen in Melvin's fearless fashion sense. Throughout the course of the book, he wears anything from miniature versions of old-man polyester pants, Ellie's pink ponytail holder, and, when he has nothing clean, he even dips into his "mother's" closet.Ellie's a smart girl in a completely believable way. She's not a geek or a prodigy, but she's always felt a little out of step since her parents -- who've split, albeit amicably -- are both artistic, creative types. When Melvin comes into her life, she discovers that she does share family traits after all. Turns out she likes to cook, and Melvin shows her how things like food and cooking are actually everyday science. He opens her eyes to the possibilities contained in science and the passionate way that scientists question the world around them. In science, Melvin explains, failure is nothing to fear. It's failure that results in answers that can eventually lead to breakthroughs. And scientists are willing to risk failure attempting to prove that what others may believe impossible is, in actuality, possible.The characters who inhabit the pages of The Fourteenth Goldfish are so alive that suspension of disbelief at the far-fetched premise never presents a problem. Indeed, you accept these people and their world with such alacrity that you allow yourself to become completely submerged.

Thematically, Holm manages to defy gravity, using humor to make weighty topics like the ethical ramifications of science and the potential downside when it pushes those limits seem light as a feather. Kids will happily plunge in with Ellie as she discovers her passion and gains both new friends and a deeper understanding of the circle of life. And until they turn the last page, they'll not likely want to come up for air!Verdict: 4.5 of 5 hearts. A Uniquely Humorous and Human Breakthrough Victory For Science. With its combination of strong characterization and easy humor, Jennifer L. Holm's latest work, The Fourteenth Goldfish, will have kids -- even girls -- seeing science and life through brand new eyes.*Disclosure of Material Connection: I would like to thank NetGalley and Random House Books For Young Readers for providing me access to this title. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Imagine that your grand father is a fourteen year old teenager, who wears polyester pants every day to your school. Imagine that your mother hates him. If you feel this way you know how Ellie feels. Ellie is a young girl who's life totally changes when her grandfather comes home looking like a fourteen year old. Her grandfather is funky and is a scientist with fan club. Ellie on the other hand has had 13 goldfish and wants another one. She is adventurous and loves jig saw puzzles. Anyway Ellie, her grandfather, and her best friend Raj go on mission to get something back. What do they get back? Will Ellie find or get a 14 goldfish? Read this book to find out!

I liked the book but im now 3rd grade and it's a little complicated to me. But it's still pretty good

Great story, it is funny and good introduction to science. Our son loved it. I would check out the other books by this author.

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