

## Jennifer Murdley's Toad (Magic Shop Book Book 3)

By Bruce Coville



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#### **Editorial Review**

#### From Publishers Weekly

This fanciful story questions the value of beauty yet spins out of control after a promising start. Jennifer, a fifth-grader, agonizes over her appearance--"I'm just a kid in the plain brown wrapper"--and her schoolmates' taunts are doubly painful. After purchasing a toad from a mysterious shopkeeper Jennifer is amazed to discover that not only can Bufo talk, he can mimic voices unerringly. At school the canny amphibian inflicts vengeance on Sharra, a nasty classmate. When a gorgeous witch kidnaps Jennifer's youngest sibling, her evil intentions are thwarted by teamwork--and by Jennifer's sacrifices that reveal qualities surpassing mere beauty. Coville's (Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher) comical classroom scenes lapse into a convoluted web involving Bufo's long-lost sweetheart and the belabored idea that pulchritude denotes cruelty; unattractiveness, humanity. The book's laudable message, however, is clearly delineated, and as kind, loyal Jennifer endures a poor self-image, one hopes readers will see the light. Ages 8-12. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

#### From School Library Journal

Grade 3-6--As is this series' pattern, a child who is having a problem runs away and finds herself in the magic shop with Mr. Elives. Jennifer believes she is ugly and has trouble making friends. Wanting a pet, she buys Bufo, a toad hatched years before from the mouth of a witch who spewed out frogs, snakes, and other nas ty items. He has spent his recent life looking for his lost love, another toad. Naturally, he helps Jennifer see her in ner self. In the process, she, her brother, and a school enemy are all turned into toads. Meanwhile, the witch is out to find Bufo. It all gets somewhat confus ing, but as in earlier books, an adult steps in, and all turns out for the best. Very similar in plot to Coville's Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher (HBJ, 1991), the story moves well, with realistic char acterizations. Fans of Coville's earlier books will probably like this as well, es pecially when the children-cum-toads discover their appetite for bugs. The black-and-white illustrations go well with the text, featuring an expressive toad and an unattractive Jennifer and witch. The theme of inner beauty is par ticularly well handled for this age group.

-Margaret C. Howell, West Springfield Elementary School, VA Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

#### From Kirkus Reviews

Snagged immediately with ``If Jennifer Murdley hadn't been forced to wear her brother's underpants to school, the whole thing might never have happened," readers will find this latest escapade featuring Mr. S. H. Elives and his quirky magic-shop endlessly funny. Painfully aware that she's plain, fourth-grade Jennifer endures underwear taunts all day before bolting from pretty, obnoxious Sharra Moncrieffe and friends into Elives's odd little store. The creature she buys there turns out to be a no-nonsense talking toad (Bufo) who does Bogie imitations and puts Sharra in her place. Chaos ensues. How Jennifer has the chance to become even prettier than Sharra and how a series of shape-changing spells are broken adds up to a roller-coaster ride of a story, full of humor and even wisdom. Coville's motley siblings, rivals, friends, and braggadocio Bufo all come alive in delicious banter and turns of phrase (a few gross ones, too). The author weaves in Jennifer's yearning to be beautiful from the first, ensuring that readers will identify with her anguished decision when she finally comes face to face with what she longs to be. An unusually felicitous blend of lighthearted wit and imaginative plotting. Illustrations not seen. (Fiction. 8-12) -- Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

#### **Users Review**

#### From reader reviews:

#### **Randy Gable:**

Book is actually written, printed, or descriptive for everything. You can understand everything you want by a reserve. Book has a different type. As you may know that book is important matter to bring us around the world. Next to that you can your reading ability was fluently. A guide Jennifer Murdley's Toad (Magic Shop Book Book 3) will make you to end up being smarter. You can feel far more confidence if you can know about everything. But some of you think that open or reading a book make you bored. It is not make you fun. Why they could be thought like that? Have you trying to find best book or suitable book with you?

#### **Kathe Waller:**

Do you considered one of people who can't read pleasant if the sentence chained inside the straightway, hold on guys this aren't like that. This Jennifer Murdley's Toad (Magic Shop Book Book 3) book is readable by you who hate the straight word style. You will find the data here are arrange for enjoyable reading experience without leaving perhaps decrease the knowledge that want to deliver to you. The writer associated with Jennifer Murdley's Toad (Magic Shop Book Book 3) content conveys thinking easily to understand by lots of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content but it just different in the form of it. So, do you continue to thinking Jennifer Murdley's Toad (Magic Shop Book Book 3) is not loveable to be your top collection reading book?

#### **Colleen Edwards:**

You could spend your free time to study this book this publication. This Jennifer Murdley's Toad (Magic Shop Book Book 3) is simple to create you can read it in the playground, in the beach, train and also soon. If you did not include much space to bring the actual printed book, you can buy typically the e-book. It is make you better to read it. You can save often the book in your smart phone. Thus there are a lot of benefits that you will get when one buys this book.

#### **Mamie Salinas:**

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