



## *LUCKY GIRL* BY JAMIE PACTON

For ages 15+

Thrilling and relatable

What would you do if an enormous bundle of money awaited you, say, perhaps, almost \$60 million? Jamie Pacton's *Lucky Girl* centers around Fortuna Jane Belleweather, a local 17-year old high school senior who recently won the lottery. However, Jane is highly conflicted as she must keep it hidden, given that she is not of legal age to cash her ticket.

By the time Jane's home from school, everyone in her town is buzzing about this miscellaneous winner, as they're wondrous to the fractional possibility of a local citizen winning a prestigious check. As if she needed the additional pressure, her best friend, Bran, is an aspiring news journalist, and he's to crack the case behind this mysterious winner. Meanwhile, her ex-boyfriend, Holden, has an intense desire to re-attach himself to her, even though he was the one who broke up with her. With Jane feeling sandwiched in between her best friend and her ex-lover, a baring predicament has her questioning who to trust with this nail-biting secret.

But worst of all, her mother is an obsessive hoarder, buying anything and everything she can find in junkyards; it progressively grows worse as Jane grows older. Enmeshed within her ex-boyfriend's clinginess and her best friend's detective tendencies, she feels at a dead end. Plus, her mother's unhealthy junk obsession only increases by the day, which causes panic to arise within her, leaving her with a mini orange ticket and wildly limited options.

Now, Jane must make her ultimate decision: Will she discard her ticket, leaving \$58 million behind, or will she come forward towards those of age so that they can cash it for her?

*Lucky Girl* is a delightful and quirky work of fiction that can instantly snatch you out of a reading slump. I did enjoy the dialogue. It resembles a conflicted teen's diary, as it displays a thorough representation of finding the courage to maintain trust towards others. One of my main concerns about this story depicts the character development--it's a tad rushed. Although the dialogue was enjoyable, it did feel slightly fast-paced, which is lovely for those who want to get back into reading after a hiatus, but not so much for those who like to engage in plot-heavy stories. Overall, however, this is a pretty darn cute book, and I recommend it to those who have trouble articulating how they feel towards others, as this may be relatable to them!

