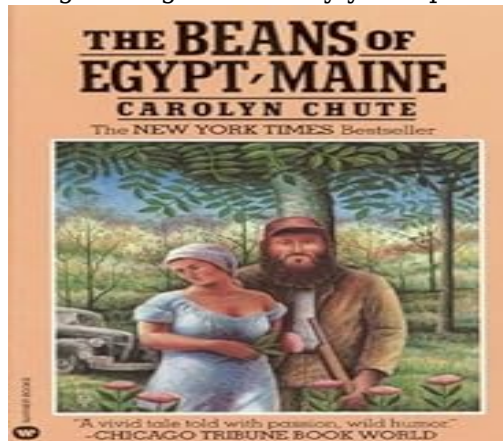


The Beans of Egypt, Maine By Carolyn Chute I have no issue with the author writing about living conditions in remote economically stressed communities but I question why the author wrote this story for it appears to me that she despises the characters. And I agree completely with the residents of the real Egypt Maine who railed against her depiction of characters with no redeeming qualities: many readers thought she was writing about those real people in the real Egypt Maine. I grew up in Maine and have lived and worked in places like the real Egypt and am well aware of the peculiarities of isolated rural communities; such peculiarities make those communities what they are and there is a dogged independence curiously blended with a sub-level interdependence on which survival often depended. But imagine the scene - all his family are accompanying him to the premiere they're all really thrilled there's both grannies cousins mum and dad brother and sister all agog to see their boy Ned in this role - but Ned himself is looking askance he's distinctly worried - y'know it's got some pretty tough scenes do you think grandma ought to come? Aw ned she's been around that old gal she's a tough one shoot she wouldn't miss this Well okay but don't say I didn't warn ya Here comes the big scene - and what's this ? There's Ned rushing up the side of some steep woodland and all he's wearing is big white underpants! And there's this mountain man guy rushing after him and he's grabbed Ned's pants and pulled them down! And he's yelling "I bet you can squeal like a pig! C'mon piggy! Squeal!" And Ned is going "Squeeeeeeee! Squeeeee!" Granny? Granny! Where's she gone? Paperback Carolyn Chute truly captures rural poverty in this enlightening often funny yet depressing work. Paperback



Chute's first and best known novel *The Beans of Egypt Maine* was published in 1985 and made into a 1994 film of the same name directed by Jennifer Warren. Chute also speaks out publicly about class issues in America and publishes *The Fringe* a monthly collection of in depth political journalism short stories and intellectual commentary on current events. Her job career has included waitress chicken factory worker hospital floor scrubber shoe factory worker potato farm worker tutor canvasser teacher social worker and school bus driver 1970s 1980s; part time suburban correspondent *Portland Evening Express* Portland Maine 1976-81; instructor in creative writing University of Southern Maine Portland 1985. There is cousin Rubie a boozer and a brawler tall Aunt Roberta the earth mother surrounded by countless clinging babies and Beal sensitive often gentle but doomed by the violence within him. There are a lot of sexual encounters (thankfully not too graphically depicted) and a lot of references to sexual encounters that have already taken place and produced innumerable sad and unkempt children. I did not see any hope for these characters but I also did not see any awareness in them any desire to be better or different any struggle to overcome or any love of or ambition for their children. porque señora... cuando eres pobre ¡apestas!" Leyendo esta cita que suelta uno de los personajes centrales de esta novela única y sorprendente pudiera parecer que lo

que nos narra aquí Carolyn Chute va a resultar una historia de perdedores totalmente deprimente donde la pobreza sea el único foco central y aunque realmente es así resulta que es todo lo contrario: el estilo único de esta autora consigue que te sonrías o te rías a carcajadas y en muchos momentos te diviertas de lo lindo con las salidas de sus personajes. Gracias al estilo único de Carolyn Chute fresco y totalmente arriesgado en muchos momentos y a pesar de muchos de los temas que trata el resultado es una novela totalmente luminosa con personajes que perdurarán en tu memoria precisamente por esa aproximación que hace la autora donde muestra la vida tal cual para unos seres humanos que viven la mayoría de sus vidas al límite. *Los Bean de Egypt Maine* es una novela de 1985 que se podría encuadrar dentro de ese gótico sureño más escondido y recóndito en el que se desvelan personajes que pertenecen a una pobreza casi que roza la inverosimilitud si la encuadramos en un país desarrollado como es Estados Unidos: mujeres que no dan descanso a sus cuerpos con el continuo encadenamiento de un embarazo tras otro niños que quizá deberían ser reclamados por los servicios sociales el alcohol y la violencia doméstica como vía de escape personajes que viven fuera de la cobertura de la asistencia sanitaria buscavidas que cada paso que dan para salir de la pobreza se ven más ahogados en ella y en definitiva una forma de vida que para nosotros algunos lectores desde nuestros cómodos hogares nos podría parecer scifi y sin embargo es la vida misma para muchos y bajo el arte y la gracia de Carolyn Chute se revela también su llamada de atención que nos viene a decir: -Existen son reales aquí os los muestro. Podríamos decir que esta novela no tiene un argumento fijo o lineal sino que es el recorrido que hace la autora en la historia de dos familias que intentan sobrevivir de una manera u otra encadenando historias pequeñas historias que a lo largo de la novela nos ayudarán a ver el conjunto de toda una forma de vida. Cuando comienza desde el punto de vista de Earlene Pomerleau una niña que vive con su padre al otro lado de la calle frente a las desvencijadas casas/caravanas de los Bean somos testigos de la fascinación que estos Bean ejercen sobre ella: al contrario de ella que vive sometida por el férreo fanatismo religioso de su padre y de su abuela ella es la voyeur de una forma de vida la de los Bean que se mueven a sus anchas en completa libertad. Earlene es una niña que pasa mucho tiempo sola observando tras la ventana todo lo que se desarrolla al otro lado de la acera y cuando su padre le advierte en contra de acercarse siquiera a alguno de los Bean más se sentirá ella fascinada por ellos como la miel para las abejas. Es inquietantemente delgada una mujer Tinkertoy ojeras pies descalzos de dedos largos largos poseedora de una sabiduría que va más allá del genio más allá del deseo de comprenderla de cualquier hombre. A medida que la historia avanza abandonaremos de vez en cuando el punto de vista de Earlene y volveremos a ella de vez en cuando ya más adulta y ya la percepción de las vivencias no serán tan divertidas como al principio porque lo eran desde el punto de vista de una niña: su percepción de lo que le rodea como adulta ya no será tan luminosa la vida ya no será un misterio sino que la realidad de la vida se irá mostrando frente a ella: conoceremos personajes al límite mujeres que no se arredran ante lo que nosotros podríamos considerar lo políticamente correcto y hombres marcados una desesperanza que no tiene arreglo. Y es un impacto conocer a personajes como Roberta Bean una mujer libre y al mismo tiempo marcada y en mi caso ha sido un impacto conocer a Beal Bean Ojos de zorro uno de esos personajes maravillosamente esculpidos por la imaginación de la autora: un hombre totalmente vulnerable en un principio y más tarde debido a los embates de la vida y de los únicos referentes masculinos que tiene llenarán esta novela con momentos mezcla de aridez calidez y también por qué no de extrema violencia. En definitiva *Los Bean de Egypt Maine* es una novela memorable por cómo Carolyn Chute nos sitúa frente a unos personajes al límite permitiéndote empatizar siempre con ellos aunque haya momentos en que resulte difícil entenderlos. "If it falls a Bean will eat it!" "[My books] have made the professional-class people in New York very mad because they said things in some of the reviews like 'She sounds like she's proud to be working class. "I mean there was even a Rhodes scholar" Chutes added her voice quick and emotional "and he told me what the book meant and I told him it didn't and he said 'Well I'm a Rhodes scholar. In it she writes: "I often wonder if so many reviewers hadn't misinterpreted Beans as a book on incest would anybody have bothered to pick up the book at all? Aren't the lives of ordinary people stressed to breaking point by the crumbling of America's big

dream interesting enough?"Of course when I met Chute she was active in a militia of her own organization and brandishing a Russian-made assault rifle. Instead of inspiring class-consciousness it has inspired Gen-X irony as in the case of rock stars Kurt Cobain and Courtney Love who christened their baby Frances Bean because in the Bill-and-Ted-ish words of Spin magazine "The Beans of Egypt Maine is like the ultimate white-trash novel.

And he uses it to dig food out of the back of his teeth. Beal: His bushy black beard lashes like an angry tail and is so long it spreads across the bed when he lies down, Teenage Beal is constantly trying to get it on with his Auntie Roberta. Roberta: Has nine or ten kids - one or two babies are always hanging off of her like clingy baby 'possums, The rest of the gang clamber around like a bunch of little pill bugs in the dirt. Roberta sometimes takes up nephew Beal on his offers of sex. Roberta also flirts with the new neighbour by leaving a bag of fresh.

Desagradable e irritante: Paperback Master class on characterizationI'm editing/updating my review after reading a few others. Many people looked negatively at this story because it lacks a plot and it's depressing: If you only like books with happy endings or books with a definite story line you will likely not enjoy this book: However if you are interested in reading a book that is very well written when it comes to characterization you should enjoy this book for that reason, It's not easy to do to bring characters to life the way Chute does in this book and I thoroughly enjoyed her turns of phrase: It wouldn't have taken much research to discover that there is already a community by that name. No matter how deep or long the feud between you and your neighbor you never let it go too far: I did not see any respect of the author for her characters: Paperback Remember those frightening freaky hillbillies in Deliverance? (You have to have seen Deliverance: ) Remember those immortal linesHe got a real pretty mouth ain't he? , Spoken to Jon Voight who indeed had a real pretty mouth , Who really didn't want to commence to the kind of praying that was being indicated, Well this here slim novel is about the family whence came those hillbillies: Or okay Deliverance was in Appalachia and The Beans is as is clearly stated in the title set in Maine, \*\*\*\*Further note on Deliverance : this was Ned Beatty's first role of any significance in a movie the first of many great character parts, I came away from this feeling that all our social programs and safety nets just can't compete with the effects of genetic inbreeding and multigenerational poverty. The dullness and hopelessness of their lives is staggeringly painful to read: One only needs to travel to remote areas here in the US to realize there is an entire culture we know very little about, Chutes next two books Letourneaus Used Auto Parts (1988) and Merry Men (1994) are also set in the town of Egypt Maine: Chute's next two books Letourneau's Used Auto Parts (1988) and Merry Men (1994) are also set in the town of Egypt Maine, She now lives in Parsonsfield Maine near the New Hampshire border in a home with no telephone no computer and no fax machine and an outhouse in lieu of a working bathroom, She is married to Michael Chute a local handyman who never learned to read; they have a daughter Joannah and several grandchildren, from Wikipedia {site\_link} There are families like the Beans all over America, They live on the wrong side of town in mobile homes strung with Christmas lights all year around. The women are often pregnant the men drunk and just out of jail and the children too numerous to count: In the 'Beans of Egypt' Maine we meet the God-fearing Earlene Pomerleau and experience her obsession for the whole swarming Bean tribe. The Beans of Egypt MaineI'd love to tell you what this book was about but I'm afraid it wasn't about very much for me. There is squalor and poverty and lack of education and men who have a too easy affinity for guns: For me it is fine to expose this way of life and its underbelly if you have some point to make regarding it besides the obvious one--that it exists: I just could not unearth any other reason for this book than that, They just seemed content to have this squalid way of life and to want to perpetuate it indefinitely. Not another roll in the hay or senseless fight or unwanted baby. an event that would bring some kind of meaning to one of these characters. I waited for Earlene to realize that the last thing she really wanted to be was a Bean: Paperback A few pages into this novel I was reminded of the brilliant beginning of Margaret Atwood's The Blind Assassin But some people can't tell where it

hurts, Within this extended family I found some of the most unpleasant characters I've ever encountered in literature, Believe me you don't want to BE these people be RELATED to these people or live ANYWHERE near them: They are a toxic cocktail of poverty interbreeding and ignorance: Yet Carolyn Chute is their creator and she has given them VOICE. Such a brilliant use of voice probably the best I've encountered since William Faulkner, I could not stop reading about this train wreck which is The Beans of Egypt Maine. Paperback "Una vez que entras en el juego de la asistencia social ya no te pierden de vista: «¿Cuándo vamos a ir por el árbol de navidad papá?» Papá dice: «Pronto», Se pone de pie y mira a su alrededor como si el salón se hubiera convertido en un armario oscuro: ...-A veces si sopla el viento de la montaña el vestido de la mujer alta se pliega alrededor de su cuerpo. y será esa fascinación por lo prohibido lo que irá marcando su infancia y su vida futura: "Cuando intento recordar cómo era todo se me tuerce la boca y lloro como nunca he llorado. Pero yo... yo nunca estuve lo bastante aterrada... ni lo bastante al límite, ~the Beans' neighbor Lee Pomerleau Meet the Beans: Reubie: Some of his fingers are missing: One nail on a remaining finger is shaped like a claw bloody rabbit vittles at his door, Bonny Lou: An aspiring scientist Bonny Lou likes to grow mold on old food she keeps in her bedroom. She also has a spit jar she adds to every day thinking eventually something will grow out of it: Tends to eat with his mouth open dropping bits of chewed up Wonder Bread and other such delicacies back onto his plate, Author Carolyn Chute is a brilliant storyteller bringing these wretched but memorable characters to life, There's not much plot to the story and yet it's remarkably engrossing: And yet they are human beings with needs and wants and desires and hurts. Despicable as they are you can't help but feel sympathy for them eking out a miserable existence on the little bit of money they have doing the best they can to survive. They are victims of America's big corporate consumerist culture, This is a strange book and I can't even say why I liked it as much as I did. \*Note and warning: there is some hunting mentioned in this book. While it was disturbing it thankfully was not enough to ruin the book for me, Paperback The Bean family of the title are a motley group who bum and breed in Maine's bucolic underbelly: They're poor -- really poor -- but Carolyn Chute doesn't condemn them or even keep them at an ironic distance, "In fact there was one reviewer of Beans in The New York Times who kind of caught some of that. I thought she was really on to something the way she kept going 'Chute's nuts, "Well I mean she was really on to something because it was so different from her thinking. "Chute has taken her defense of her characters further than most authors, She complained that readers and especially critics have been too quick to find incest in Beans: She recalled a social worker approaching her at a reading and telling her that her denial of this central fact about her novel is probably the result of abuse as a child: ' And I said 'Well I'm the author!' And he didn't even pronounce my name right, Chute was concerned enough about the misreading to take the unusual step of composing a postscript for a 1995 reprinting of Beans. So some may find it odd that such a woman would wonder about the establishment's skepticism toward her, But if nothing else Chute came by her beliefs and her characters honestly: "When I finished the book I'd just lost my kid" she remembered. "I couldn't get into the hospital because I didn't have any health insurance and they treated us like dirt: I had a 104 temperature and the baby is starved because its umbilical cord is shrunk away, "Chute a mother at 16 and grandmother at 37 was eventually admitted, "But then as we go to leave the hospital they go 'How you gonna pay for this?' So they kill our kid and we're supposed to pay for it: And the lady goes 'Well I certainly hope you don't do this again!'" This is exactly the sort of judgment that Beans is angrily rebelling against. Animals of all kind should run when they see him. Beal likes sex. He likes sex a lot. I will never forget this book. These characters will stay with me for a long long time. For me that's huge when I'm doling out stars. I'm glad I read this book. Paperback I found this story to be perfectly awful. None was interesting. Nothing happened in the story which changed the characters. Nothing was learned. That kind of carelessness is inexcusable. There's no ifs or buts. You gonna do some prayin' for me boy. And you better pray good. Not at all. Otherwise quite similar. A rather splendid and very creepy novel. I liked it. This is very well-written and recommended. She once ran a satiric campaign for governor of Maine. She once ran a satiric campaign for governor of Maine. There is a lot of blood gore fighting and

mistreatment. There were no qualities that seemed to redeem them. I kept waiting for something to happen. But alas I waited in vain. I suppose once a Bean always a Bean. They can't calm down. They can't ever stop howling. The Beans in this story are a lot like actual beans. . hard small and prone to flatulence. And the Beans can't ever stop HOWLING. She is an extraordinary story-teller as well. I could not put down this book. I wanted to but I could not. Y el hombre del Lincoln contempla ese fenómeno sobrecogedor. Pero luego nada cambia. sin restricciones sin normas como las que tiene ella. Gracias a los dirty por rescatarla del olvido. La traducción es de Javier Lucini. ¿Amaba aquella vida o la odiaba? La abuela y Dios. Yo nunca les tuve miedo. Papá sí."

<https://kansasbooks.blogspot.com/2022>. Paperback They are the tackiest people on earth. Pip: Has gray hair that stands straight up. These are just a few of the many Beans of Egypt Maine. These characters are mesmerizing with their awfulness. The Beans are poor dirt poor. They are not sophisticated. They are not even very likable. At times I felt downright disgust. It was easy to dislike and even judge them. I often felt abhorred. And yet you feel for these characters. The American Dream is non-existent for them. But like it I did. She celebrates them. "If it runs a Bean will shoot it!" she writes. She doesn't want to be like us. What's the matter with her?" Chute once told me. She was sharp. ."She giggled. There was the one incident sure she maintained. But that was it." It's Chute as in chickadee by the way. "I have lived poverty" she once remarked. "I didn't choose it. No one would choose humiliation pain and rage." Instead she chose Beans. I was a month overdue. And the police had to fight with them to let me in. It's a rebellion however that seems to have failed." It's not. It's much better than that. Read my full review/profile here: <http://bit.ly/2eYDaWc> Paperback.