

#38 Boyds Bear



Boyds Bears Retired Teddy Bear Bean Bag White 1985 Cute

Description:

This is a darling Boyds Bear Bean Bag Teddy Bear from 1985. Originally copyrighted in 1985, it is marked "Boyds Collection Ltd. Hand made in China." White with a red bow. About 12" tall. In great condition from a smoke free home.

Winning Bid:

\$54.78

Ended: 12/1/06

History: 4 bids

Starting Bid: \$9.99

Winner: Gilroy, CA

Viewed

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The Story

We carried Boyds Bears in our antiques store (remember, my mom's high school bedroom became our gift room?). This bear was in the store when I arrived to run it in 1993, and my ex-husband (well, he was my husband at the time) had to have it. It reminded him of his childhood bear that he called "Snowy."

Both my kids were given Steiff bears by my grandmother when they were born. Houston's bear never got a name (typical boy) and Indy christened her pink Steiff "Berry." Indy still takes "Berry" with her when we travel.

William sold me a bunch of stuff and I think the bear cost me about \$2. I put it on eBay thinking I would be lucky to get \$9.99 for it. I immediately received an email from a potential bidder: "The bear looks like the original Binkie. Does she have her hang tag? Thanks!"

I had no idea, so I just said "I don't really know." Even with that answer, the bear ended up selling for a lot of money!

When I decided to include this bear in my book, I started to do some research to find out if it really was "Binkie." I found an expert named Beth Phillips (on eBay—where else?) who writes for *Teddy Bear Review*. What a nice gal! She was more than happy to help me.

Beth's email said:

Lynn, your mystery bear is in fact the elusive gray-nosed Binkie B. Bean. Binkie with the gray nose came out in 1989, style number 5115. The gray nose was only

used for a year or two—then he was made with a black nose. There is a third version named Binkie II that is more of a cream color and has gold velveteen paw pads instead of the white felt used on the first Binkie. The Binkie with the gray nose is hard to find and usually sells for a premium.

By far the most valuable of the older Boyds are the Himalayan Dancing Bears, the first three Bailey Bears, some of the old Limited Edition dressed sets, the Bubba bears, and a few other hard to find Boyds. Beth

What great information!

Here is a little background on Boyds. Boyds' founder, G. M. Lowenthal was born in New York in 1949. After a career in retail with Bloomin's, G. M. and his wife, Justina, opened an antiques store in their home (just like my grandma). They soon found that they were doing better selling antique reproductions than true antiques.

In 1984 they introduced their first jointed bear. In 1993, they introduced their resin figures. The rest is history.

Snowy, Binkie, and Berry. Amazing what a sentimental item can mean to you as an eBay buyer or seller! At least a \$50 profit. And this bear had sat in my grandmother's store for at least two years without finding a buyer. How funny that my grandmother's antiques store (founded in her home) did better than the Lowenthal's antiques store in their home, and we sold Boyds Bears out of my mom's high school bedroom. Crazy!

