



Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty

By Christine Heppermann



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Every little girl goes through her princess phase, whether she wants to be Snow White or Cinderella, Belle or Ariel. But then we grow up. And life is not a fairy tale.

Christine Heppermann's collection of fifty poems puts the ideals of fairy tales right beside the life of the modern teenage girl. With piercing truths reminiscent of Laurie Halse Anderson and Ellen Hopkins, this is a powerful and provocative book for every young woman. E. Lockhart, author of *We Were Liars*, calls it "a bloody poetic attack on the beauty myth that's caustic, funny, and heartbreaking."

Cruelties come not just from wicked stepmothers, but also from ourselves. There are expectations, pressures, judgment, and criticism. Self-doubt and self-confidence. But there are also friends, and sisters, and a whole hell of a lot of power there for the taking. In fifty poems, Christine Heppermann confronts society head on. Using fairy tale characters and tropes, *Poisoned Apples* explores how girls are taught to think about themselves, their bodies, and their friends. The poems range from contemporary retellings to first-person accounts set within the original tales, and from deadly funny to deadly serious. Complemented throughout with black-and-white photographs from up-and-coming artists, this is a stunning and sophisticated book to be treasured, shared, and paged through again and again.

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Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty By Christine Heppermann Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

“Caustic, witty, sad, and angry, Heppermann articulates . . . the false promises, seductions, and deathly morass of popular culture’s imagery of girls’ bodies. What makes Heppermann’s poetry exceptional, however, is not the messages it carries but the intense, expressive drive that fuels it.” (Horn Book (starred review))

“Lacing traditional fairy tales through real-life perils, Heppermann produces short poems with raw pain, scathing commentary and fierce liberation. . . . Full of razors that cut—and razors to cut off shackles: a must.” (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))

“Revisionist views of such traditional fairy tales as Snow White, Rapunzel, Little Red Riding Hood . . . offered in the context of the modern lives of young women, who must confront the difference between the promises of sugar-coated fantasy and the bitter lessons of real life.” (Michael Cart, Booklist (starred review))

“It’s a bit of a mystery how a slender, subversive book of flayed fairy tale poetry can chronicle how the world tries to rob young women of power, while at the same time handing them back that power. Teen girls should read this—so should their mothers, their aunts, their grandmothers...” (Gayle Forman, author of the New York Times-bestselling *Just One Day/Just One Year* duet)

“A bloody poetic attack on the beauty myth that’s caustic, funny, and heartbreaking.” (-- E. Lockhart, author of *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks* and *We Were Liars*)

“Many of the poems read like something you might find on a smart, funny contemporary women’s website, probably going viral. . . . They each pack their own literary punch; she is, after all, a poet riffing on fairy tales.” (Elle.com)

“Deft deployment of fairy-tale motifs and sharp-edged humor . . . Accompanied by stylized fantasy photographs as piercing as the poems themselves, this is sure to be passed around among readers thoroughly tired of being picked, prodded, pimped and primed to achieve an impossible perfection.” (Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books (starred review))

“Over and over again, Christine Heppermann’s poems reveal the worm in the messages young women get about love, sex, food, and bodies. These poems cast a harrowing but irresistible disenchantment.” (Sara Zarr, author of National Book Award finalist *Story of a Girl*)

“Simply phenomenal. Heppermann’s honest voice grabs the reader with urgency. This collection is a champion for teens and adults who see our world as an advertisement for perfection that doesn’t exist. Readers will want to read these poems aloud over and over again.” (A.S. King, Printz Honor author of *Reality Boy* and *Ask the Passengers*)

“Heppermann’s collection of teen angst is like a velvet bag full of gems to be poured out into the palm, held up to the light, studied, and saved to be brought out again and again on fitting occasions.” (Karen Hesse, Newbery Medal-winning author of *Out of the Dust*)

“This powerful and provocative exploration of body image, media, and love broke my heart and made me gasp aloud with its relentless truth. Dark, unsettling, and altogether brilliant, *Poisoned Apples* is not to be missed.” (Rae Carson, author of the best-selling *Girl of Fire and Thorns* trilogy)

“Anyone can read these wonderful poems, but I know women and girls especially will open *Poisoned Apples* and immediately tell their friends, show their friends, loan the book out, get it back, read it again and again until the cover falls off .” (Ron Koertge, author of *Stoner & Spaz*)

From the Back Cover

Once upon a time . . .

you were a princess,
or an orphan.

A wicked witch,
fairy godmother,

prom queen,
valedictorian,

team captain,
Big Bad Wolf,

Little Bo Peep.

But you are more than just a hero or a villain, cursed or charmed. You are everything in between.

You are everything.

In fifty poems, Christine Heppermann places fairy tales side by side with the modern teenage girl. Powerful and provocative, deadly funny and deadly serious, this collection is one to read, to share, to treasure, and to come back to again and again.

About the Author

Christine Heppermann is the author of *Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty*, which received five starred reviews and was named to five best of the year lists in 2014, and *Ask Me How I Got Here*. She lives with her husband and two daughters in Highland, New York.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

David Unruh:

What do you with regards to book? It is not important together with you? Or just adding material if you want something to explain what your own problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy man? If you don't have spare time to accomplish others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? Everybody has many questions above. They have to answer that question mainly because just their can do that will. It said that about reserve. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is correct. Because start from on pre-school until university need this specific *Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty* to read.

Jaime Friend:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read a book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day long to reading a reserve. The book Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty it is very good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book offers high quality.

Judy Marinez:

People live in this new day of lifestyle always try to and must have the free time or they will get lots of stress from both way of life and work. So , once we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not only a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative inside spending your spare time, the book you have read is definitely Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty.

Kristy Moore:

This Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty is fresh way for you who has fascination to look for some information given it relief your hunger of knowledge. Getting deeper you in it getting knowledge more you know or else you who still having little digest in reading this Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty can be the light food for you because the information inside this book is easy to get by anyone. These books develop itself in the form and that is reachable by anyone, yeah I mean in the e-book form. People who think that in guide form make them feel drowsy even dizzy this book is the answer. So you cannot find any in reading a guide especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for a person. So , don't miss it! Just read this e-book type for your better life in addition to knowledge.

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