



Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty

By Christine Heppermann

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

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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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:

Gary Lewis:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a book. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled *Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty*. Try to make book *Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty* as your buddy. It means that it can to become your friend when you truly feel alone and beside those of course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortunated for yourself. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , we need to make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

Daniel Downey:

Hey guys, do you desire to find a new book to see? Maybe the book with the headline *Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty* suitable to you? The actual book was written by famous writer in this era. The actual book titled *Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty* is the main of several books which everyone read now. This book was inspired a lot of people in the world. When you read this guide you will enter the new age that you ever know ahead of. The author explained their concept in the simple way, therefore all of people can easily be aware of the core of this publication. This book will give you a lot of information about this world now. In order to see the represented of the world with this book.

James Jones:

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the extra time or they will get a lot of stress from both day to day life and work. So, once we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity do you possess when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, the particular book you have read is actually *Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty*.

Larry Gregg:

This *Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty* is great book for you because the content that is full of information for you who have always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal its details accurately using great coordinate word or we can declare no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read the item hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but hard core information with attractive delivering sentences. Having *Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty* in your hand like getting the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no book that offer you world with ten or fifteen small right but this guide already do that. So, it is good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt which?

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