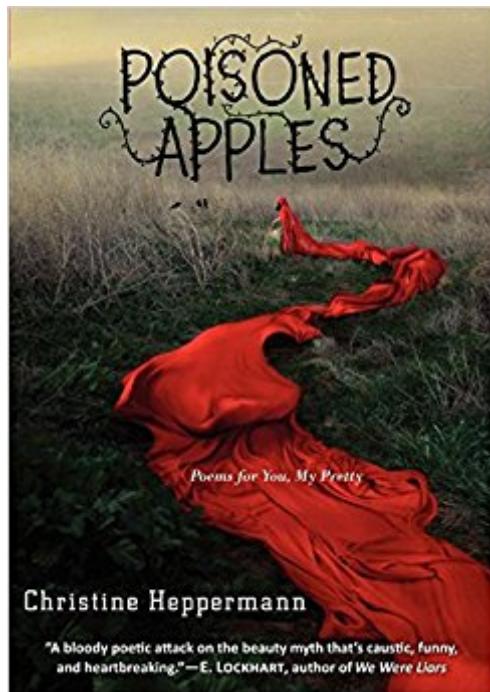


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# Poisoned Apples: Poems For You, My Pretty



## Synopsis

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 heartbreakingly true." 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.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 128 pages

Publisher: Greenwillow Books (September 23, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062289578

ISBN-13: 978-0062289575

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.6 x 7.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 38 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #375,391 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #54 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Poetry #649 in Books > Teens > Social Issues

## Customer Reviews

“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 heartbreakin. (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 primped 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 .Ã¢â€” (Ron Koertge, author of Stoner & Spaz)

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.

I probably fell more into the Princess culture when I got older than when I was a young girl. I'm also not the biggest fan of poetry so I was surprised by how much I liked this book and the poems and pictures inside. The book wraps up very modern things girls and women today deal with in the fairy tale myth. Like most fairy tales the subjects of the poems are fairly universal in women's lives. But they cast a dark and twisted light. The poems deal with eating disorders, body image, sex, Feminism, self-hate and so on. The poems that spoke to me the most dealt with the harsh beauty culture (I will buy every beauty magazine on the rack and I will buy pretty much anything from Sephora) and also a lack of self-confidence and how women are often harder and harsher critiques of other women including our so-called best friends. The pictures are a nice addition especially the ones that are geared more toward the fairy tale element in the poems. All in all I didn't connect with all the poems but there's something in here for everyone. I would keep it to middle school or high school aged girls though if you're thinking about getting it for someone younger. Some of the poems and pictures might be a little too intense or scary for very young girls.

I did enjoy parts of this. The pictures moved me more than the poems though. I didn't realize a huge part of this would be about the author's struggle with anorexia. Which is fine; it's just not what I was expecting. Once again it's not fully developed, truly soul touching poetry. I'm still waiting...

The poems are really thought provoking and relatable. I loved reading this for my English course in college, and it sparked a lot of discussions. Buy this book and share it with your mother, your sister, your daughter. Use it as a feminist tool to delve into idea of self and what it means to be confident and feminist. Or just have a fun read!

When it says poems for you, I don't quite think the title means me. I'm decently past high school worries, which seem to be the focus.

These poems were so dark, I loved them! Heavy on eating disorders, I wish the content was a little bit more varied besides just that. Still, absolutely amazing and heart breaking

I didn't love it as much as I would have hoped. Probably just not my style, but it was a quick and interesting read.

I liked this book. It's a different way to look at old fairytale characters. It's filled with vivid and whimsical imagery.

Love it!

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