

Title: *Poisoned*
Author: Jennifer Donnelly
Genre: Fantasy

Reviewer Name and Grade: Dhikshika C, 9th grade

Date Reviewed: July 30, 2021

Summary:

Sophie has always been told that she would make a horrible queen. That she was too emotional, too kind, too caring, to do what was needed. Her stepmother hosts a ball for Sophie, so she can secure a strong ruler for her realm. During most of the night, Sophie flirts with Haakon and dances with him; he later proposes to her. After the party, the stepmom goes back to her room. The King of Crows appears and feeds her lies and tells her that Sophie will bring her fall. He gives her a glass box and tells her to “Bring me her heart”. The stepmother ordered a huntsman to kill and take Sophia’s heart. Sophie and the huntsman ride out into the woods, where the huntsmen then proceeds to take her heart, he flees. The seven brothers, who are the seven dwarfs of the story, save Sophie. She may have had her heart stolen – literally – but that wasn’t enough to keep her down. Now she’s on a quest to get her heart back, and save her kingdom.

Main Character Descriptions:

Sophie: She's described as too kind, too foolish, and too weak in the beginning of the book. She was thought to be a terrible ruler for having such a selfless personality. Later into the story she has a huge character development. By the end, she is still kind but this time her kindness brings confidence, and strength. She becomes more queen-like and turns into a great ruler.

Will: He is a grumpy, irritated, and brooding archer. Will is later known to be really trustworthy and is physically very strong.

Arno: Is a thief. He steals money from the dead, at first glance he is known to be hard-headed and doesn’t show any weakness. But later on as you learn his reason for being a thief and stealing from the dead, you can see that he isn’t as rude and emotionless as he seems.

Adelaide: Is the stepmom, she truly evil, doesn't believe in love and kindness. All she wants is her kingdom and to be the only queen, she doesn’t want anyone to surpass her.

Did the plot keep you interested?

The plot of this book kept me very interested; It made me wonder what would happen next.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?

I think the pace of this book was just right.

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?

Grades 7-12

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this to anyone that likes classic fairy tales.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?

Even though it is a follow up for the book Stepsister, it can be read as a stand alone.

Rate this book:

5 stars: I'm really glad I read this book; it was awesome!

I loved her spin on Snow White. The characters were charmingly funny and sometimes devious, the writing was exceptional, and the story incorporated the core of the fairytale while still making its own. Classic fairytales are often enjoyable, but it's always great delving into the darker roots from where they came from.