

Title: *Curses*
Author: Lish McBride
Genre: Humor, Romance, Fiction

Reviewer's Name and Grade: Nitya M., 8th grade

Date Reviewed: March 20, 2023

The main characters of this book are Merit Cravan (The Beast) and Tevin Dumont (The Beauty). The other characters play equally important roles to run the story, especially Val Tern (Tevin's lesbian cousin), Amaury (Tevin's brother), Ellery Detante (Merit's healer), Kaiya DeMarcos (Merit's guard for the house), Willa and Diadora Smythe (Merit's friends) and Lady Zarla (Merit's mother).

When Merit Cravan, the beast was sixteen years old she was forced to marry an older man as her mother's wish. She refused to do that and hence, The Godling fairy cursed her to become a beast forever. To break the curse, Merit must marry a man her mother chooses, or she must marry someone who loves her in beast form. But this should happen before her 18th birthday.

Tevin Dumont, the beauty is a charming boy and the protagonist of this story. Tevin's mother was caught stealing a flower from Merit's estate. For her own freedom, she traded Tevin to serve the Cravan Family. Tevin agreed to be a servant and help Merit find the right man for her before she turned 18 years.

Merit and Tevin fall in love due to their friendship. Their romance grows along with the story and finally, Tevin helps Merit break her curse. Along with Tevin, there are other characters in this story like Amaury, Val Tern, Willa and Diadora who also helped Merit break her curse and keep the story engaging and humorous.

Did the plot keep me interested? This plot kept me interested. It reminds me of Cinderella and Beauty of the beast.

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? This book is appropriate for grade 7 and up as author added few LGBTQ characters.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to? - I would recommend this book to readers who like romantic books.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book? This book is full of humor and romance.

I would rate this book **4 stars** because the plot is very good.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Ashley L., 10th Grade

Date Reviewed: March 8 , 2023

For the sake of her family and reputation, Merit is virtually being pushed to wed a considerably older guy than she is interested in. In defiance of her mother's wishes, she refuses to even meet the man she is engaged to. As a result, a Godling (fairy) curses her to turn into a beast forever if she does not get married by the time she turns 18; however, if she finds true love on her own before that time, she is permitted to marry him. Nonetheless, she intensifies her beastliness over time, making it challenging for her to find a true love of her own. True, she has the power to appear normal at predetermined moments, but being a noble woman makes it harder to find real, lasting love. Florencia DuMont then emerges. Attempting to steal flowers from Merit's family for her personal gain, this thief and con ends up surrendering her oldest son, our "beauty," Tevin, for her freedom. She is also probably not the finest mother. Nevertheless, Tevin is more than simply our "beast's" prospective love interest. In addition to helping Merit discover true love before she becomes 18, he also introduces a sort of adopted family into Merit's life. Merit and Tevin start to develop affections for one another, but Merit is unsure if these sentiments are genuine or the result of manipulation. The supporting cast included Ellery, who played the older sibling in this newfound family structure and was constantly irritated by something, and Val, who serves as Tevin's wingwoman as well as serves as the focus of her own plotline with Kirya.

Did the plot (for fiction) or presentation of information (for nonfiction) keep you interested?

The plot of the book, *Curses* did keep me mostly interested.

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

The pace of the book was too slow. The book kept me very interested at first and I was very invested in what was going to happen. The characters were making great connections but then I hit the middle. In the middle, the author decided to drag out the story to the point it was dull and boring. The way the author wanted the villain to do with his plan was very confusing and unrealistic.

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

This book is appropriate for Grades 7 and up.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I recommend this book to readers who love fairy tales. Those who liked *Cinder*, *The Cruel Prince*, and *Poisoned* will like this book as well.

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

This book is an adaptation of the fairytale, *Beauty and the Beast* but, the gender roles are swapped.

3 stars: It was okay; I had hoped for better.

I was very excited to read this book as the idea of a woman being the Beast and a man being the Beauty was very intriguing to me. However, this book was just okay. It couldn't compare to *Cinder* nor *The Cruel Prince*. The main characters are very bland and the side characters are much more interesting. The secondary characters were very distinctive while the main characters' POVs were long and dull. The beginning was very interesting and I anticipated a lot, however, during the middle to end of the book, it dragged on and on. The book is different in the sense of swapping gender roles but it isn't anything special.