2017

A Little Taste of Poison

Tessa McMillan

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol38/iss8/24

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.
Title: A Little Taste of Poison  
Author: R.J. Anderson  
Reviewer: Tessa McMillan  
Publisher: Aurther A. Levine Books  
Publication Year: 2016  
ISBN: 9781481437745  
Number of Pages: 362  
Interest Level: Intermediate, Young Adult  
Rating: Excellent

Review

After failing to expose Eryx of murder, Isaveth and Esmond (aka Quiz) are living an uneasy existence away from each another. However, the owner of Glow-Mor changes everything when he gives Isaveth a scholarship to attend the socially elite Tarreton College. Soon after starting, Isaveth reunites with Esmond and they renew their search for clues against Eryx. Their leads show that Eryx is keeping any incriminating documents inside his magically protected car. Under the cover of a masquerade ball at Eryx’s home, Isaveth and Esmond try to get to the evidence. Their efforts are cut short when Esmond’s father, the Sagelord, becomes dangerously ill. He dies a few days later, and Eryx is in line to become the new Sagelord. While Esmond grieves, Isaveth is expelled from Tarreton on false charges. She is later kidnapped by the competitors of Glo-Mor. Esmond rescues her and they barely escape with their lives. Gathering the proper authorities together, Isaveth and Esmond finally expose Eryx as the mastermind behind all the murders, including poisoning his father.

This sequel to A Pocket Full of Murder is another satisfying read full of suspense, sorcery, and scandal. But aside from the fiction, there are several real-life issues Anderson addresses: bullying, religious persecution, and economic class. Even though Isaveth can attend Tarreton College, something no person of her class or religion has ever done before, it doesn’t mean anyone there will automatically accept her. Once she arrives, Isaveth’s rich classmates immediately resent her intelligence and mock her religion and social status. In many cases, she is alone in facing this persecution because Esmond isn’t always around to protect her. However, a new friend, Eulalie, comes to Isaveth’s aid. Knowing she has loyal friends to support her, Isaveth courageously takes on all the bullies in her life, including Eryx.