

#### Children's Book and Media Review

Volume 38 Issue 8 *August* 2017

Article 24

2017

### A Little Taste of Poison

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McMillan, Tessa~(2017)~"A~Little~Taste~of~Poison,"~Children's~Book~and~Media~Review: Vol.~38: Iss.~8~, Article~24. Available~at:~https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol38/iss8/24

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# **Book Review**

Title: A Little Taste of Poison

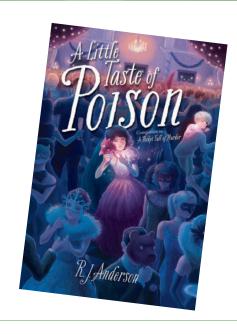
**Author:** R.J. Anderson **Reviewer:** Tessa McMillan

**Publisher:** Aurthur 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.

