2009

Cookie

Tessa McMillan

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Reviewer: Tessa McMillan  
**Reading Level:** Intermediate, Young adult  
**Rating:** Outstanding  
**Genre:** Fiction; Contemporary realistic fiction; Subject: Self-esteem--Juvenile fiction; Family problems--Juvenile fiction; Teasing--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Beauty Cooksen seems to have a lot to make her happy: a pricey private school, a large house, beautiful toys, and expensive clothes. Instead she hates her school, she can't have a pet inside her home, she can't play with her toys, and she doesn't fit into her clothes. Her classmates call her "Ugly" because they feel she doesn't live up to her name. Her mother, Dilys, tries to persuade Beauty's classmates to call her "Cookie" by learning to bake different cookies. Beauty’s father, Gerry, isn't happy that his wife is baking and calls her useless. Gerry verbally abuses Beauty and Dilys when he thinks they aren't looking or doing their best. After lavishly celebrating Beauty's birthday, Gerry kills Beauty's new rabbit and tells Beauty how ugly and terrible she is. Dilys has finally had enough of his abuse and takes Beauty away to a new home in Rabbit Cove. After their move, Dilys becomes famous for her cookies to the point that Beauty is asked to show off her mother's cookies on a national television show.

The book cover of *Cookie* seems to suggest a more humorous, fun story than the one presented. But don't judge this book by its colorful cover. Wilson's story is about how abusive relationships eat away someone's confidence. Along with this theme, Wilson showcases the benefits of leaving those relationships to gain self-confidence and courage to face life. Wilson's story is a revealing, endearing, and heart-wrenching narrative with great character development and a strong voice.

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