



Beauty

Nancy Ohlin , Nancy Butcher (pen name)

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Looks to kill for...

Ana is nothing like her glamorous mother, Queen Veda, whose hair is black as ravens and whose lips are red as roses. Alas, Queen Veda loathes anyone whose beauty dares to rival her own—including her daughter.

And despite Ana's attempts to be plain to earn her mother's affection, she's sent away to the kingdom's exclusive boarding school.

At the Academy, Ana is devastated when her only friend abandons her for the popular girls. Isolated and alone, Ana resolves to look like a true princess to earn the acceptance she desires.

But when she uncovers the dangerous secret that makes all of the girls at the Academy so gorgeous, just how far will Ana go to fit in?

Beauty Details

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From Reader Review Beauty for online ebook

Small Review says

a very interesting approach

Originally posted on Small Review

Snow White was never my favorite fairy tale either, but it's a princess story, so I'm always at least partially predisposed to liking it. And, overall, I did like this one. With some reservations.

Nancy Ohlin's version was definitely unique, twisting the traditional focus on Snow White's beauty into a story about body image and disordered thinking. This was a much deeper, sadder story than I usually associate with the original tale.

Nancy Ohlin did an excellent job exploring the relationship between the Snow White character and her mother and the disordered thinking and emotional pain between the two. These women are both damaged and ill and while it was very well done, it was also very uncomfortable to read.

Which is my main problem with the book. I don't like issues books, and this is definitely an issues book. Sure it's fantasy and takes place in a fantasy world with magic and potions, but it's really an issues book.

Check it out if you're looking for a short, unique fairy tale retelling like the Once Upon a Time series (particularly the The Rose Bride). Just be prepared for something much weightier and darker.

Jenne says

This was sad, I felt bad for poor Ana. The ending was a little rushed though. If you like YA and retellings you might enjoy this. As far as I can tell it's kind of a spin on Snow White, maybe? While it was a decent read I don't know if I'll be in a rush to read others.

enqi ??? [joon's] says

Beauty was an interesting retelling of Snow White. The writing was simplistic and enticing and the tale progressed quickly and managed to keep my interest throughout.

Tatiana Anatolia, or Ana, was a fiery main character. I liked her intelligence, spirit, and resilience throughout the book. The lack of a male love interest was actually refreshing, because it was good to see Ana fend for herself and survive against her evil, cruel mother. The result is a more gritty, dark version of Snow White, which I enjoyed immensely.

The only thing I found rather lacking was the ending, which was very glossed over to me. The queen's death was abrupt and not well explained and the final chapters were rushed. Otherwise, Beauty would have been a

good retelling of the traditional fairytale.

Fasiha says

Name: Mirror, Mirror

Rating:

Main Character: Princess/Queen Tatiana

Book Boyfriend: No One

Page Turner: Yes

Cliffhanger: No

Happily Ever After: Yep

What I learnt from this book: Beauty isn't everything and doesn't matter if you're filled with ugliness inside. You should love yourself no matter what, and not hate someone else just because they're better than you. Be thankful for what you have.

And.... Don't be a bitchy mother.

Ana

Pell

Queen Veda

I really liked the story-line and this is probably the first non-romance book I've read in a long time and it felt good. Recently, I've narrowed my reading choices down to just romance and paranormal, but change is good. The story was good, showing how a woman's love of beauty led her to feel hatred for her daughter and how she'd go to any extent to stay the most beautiful woman in the kingdom. It was kinda like Snow White, but with a twist. Ana wants her mother's love, and she does everything to make her mother love her again, even if it means eating pastries and getting fat and not showering and getting ugly. But her mother's love for beauty is too damn much and she's willing to do anything to make sure no one surpasses her beauty, and in the end, gets what she deserves.

Overall, A nice little read.

Renee says

I love a fairy tale retelling and this one was a pretty good version of Snow White...well bits and pieces of Snow White. Evil Queen, check....7 dwarves...uncheck.

This was a pretty short book, more of a novella really and not worth the eight dollars I spent on it, it really should have been in the five dollar range.

The author had a good voice, storytelling and setting were decent, in fact the world she created for her characters was pretty fascinating and I would love to see more tales located in it....I had a little bit of an issue with the character development and a teensy issue with the plot.

I felt that the Queen's back story lacked...Why did she want to be so beautiful that she'd kill her daughter? What drove her...? In some parts the Queen seemed to love her daughter and then have that love turned to disgust and hate when her evil little Beauty Consultant would advise her that the girl was going to be the Queen's competition. (He was the main bad guy of this story)It just seemed like a stretch that she would round up all these young beautiful girls and kill them... She just didn't feel evil enough... I am not sure how to explain it, I felt she was a villain with potential that wasn't realized.

Ana was supposed to be 16 or 17, however her inner voice sounded more like a 12 year old girl. She makes herself ugly and fat to win her mother's love and then when at school her BFF ditches her for popular girls she comes out of her shell as a beautiful "true" princess. She suddenly is a heroine and saves the day, rescuing everyone...Which I felt was a bit of a stretch.

There was no romance in this novella, yes you read that right. This book had NO ROMANCE it was pretty awesome, it was completely plot driven (even if the plot lacked a tiny bit) and Ana was the star (though I craved more about her mother).

I felt the ending was rushed while the start was a little slow.

However I enjoyed reading this book and that's important for me. It was fun and simple, had all the trademarks of a fairy tale, aside from the missing love interest. If you are looking for a fast easy read, perhaps something to take on vacation then this is the book for you.

Juliana Lamb says

To be honest this book was a little bit creepy, a daughter who is constantly making herself ugly so her mom will LOVE her, a mom who is so obsessed with her own beauty she barely notices her daughter and when she does STILL feels threatened by her beauty(to a point that she try's killing her daughter(multiple times)), a creepy beauty guy(who is the moms advisor),and a handsome (evil) tutor. YES I do get that the author tried to write her version of Snow White, but this book really just was about our "heroine" feeling sorry for herself/ trying and failing to please her mother. Overall this is not a book I would recommend to ANYONE!

Elevetha says

This was some messed-up shite. That's mostly what I remember.

The one aspect that got me excited at first was that I thought Ana was smart and making her skin mottled and eating too much and not washing her hair as self-preservation. I thought she was *smart*. Nope. She was only doing those things to make her mom like her. Like, Ana legitimately believes that her mom loves her, but that she needs to make herself ugly to receive her mother's love. Ugh.

A really odd and slightly pathetic retelling of Snow White.

Karin says

Ana wants to be ugly. She has worked very hard at it, ever since she was twelve years old. Ever since the day a man complimented her on her beauty and she saw the look of hatred, jealousy, and anger in her mother's eyes. Now she doesn't bathe, doesn't trim her toenails, doesn't brush her hair, and eats nothing but pastries, bread, and moldy cheeses. Her nutrition has left her body pudgy and her face blemished. She is happy because she seems to have her mother's favor; however, staying ugly takes a lot of effort.

Queen Veda, Ana's mother, is a calculating ruler. Vanity is her main focus and she is never without her strange Beauty Consultant. He is a creepy little man that is always lurking around. His eyes turn red whenever he approves of the way the Queen looks. He mixes beauty potions and creates creams out of ingredients like spiders and leaves for the Queen to use to maintain her beautiful appearance. It is Queen Veda's jealousy that leads her to devise her most diabolical plan ever.

The Queen creates a new Academy for the best and brightest girls of the land. About fifty girls receive personal invitations to attend this prestigious academy and Pell, Ana's best friend, is one of them. Ana is heartbroken, thinking that she will lose her best friend forever. But on the advice of the Beauty Consultant, Queen Veda sends Ana to the Academy, too. Pell and Ana are thrilled to be attending a school that will provide rigorous academics, while at the same time being roommates. However, a sinister plot awaits all the girls that attend the Academy.

BEAUTY is a fast-paced fairy tale that pulls at your heartstrings. The reader will cheer for Ana when she finally realizes the truth about her mother. The sinister plan could have been more sinister and the ending a little more complex, but overall this is a fascinating story, definitely one for fans of queens, princesses, and fairy tales.

Laura L says

Story: 1/2 - too many unanswered questions (who was the beauty consultant? What was he?)

Characters: 1

Writing: 1

World: 1/2 - where was it? There were hardly any descriptions of the world except for the academy and its gardens and even then it was limited.

Originality: 1/2 - i didn't feel as if a lot of new things were brought to the table. It's a Snow White retelling and yet the only new things were that the mirror was the beauty consultant - whatever he was - and that she tried to kill all of the beautiful girls in the kingdom with pills. Which makes me wonder if this was supposed to be semi-modern or if this was a fantasy world completely.

Actual Rating: 3.5

Once Upon a Twilight says

In this re-telling tale of Snow White being beautiful is quite dangerous. Nancy Ohlin takes a classic fairy tale and completely makes it her own. We see Queen Veda and Ana's mother/daughter relationship throughout the book. All her majesty wants is to be the fairest of them all and all Ana wants is her mother's love. And in order to have her mother's love and approval she has to be ugly. So she doesn't bathe, eats unhealthy and doesn't take time to groom herself properly. But the beauty consultant still says that Ana will surpass the queen. So Queen Veda fabricates an elite school to where she invites the most beautiful girls. And it seems as though their beauty is only enhancing. The question is, will Ana cave in?

It has been quite a long time since I've read a book written in third person. I had to get into the groove for the first few pages. I did like Ana's character very much. Especially in the second half where she stands her ground and doesn't budge on certain issues. All the characters were neatly developed. There was only one character I disliked and that was the beauty consultant. He was very strange and I wish I had more background on him. But other than that I enjoyed this story and it's underlying message. Having beauty isn't everything, it could destroy you.

I love Ohlin's take on this classic tale. It is very different from what I've grown to know, yet similar in certain aspects. Completely re-telling a story that has been told time and time again and making it your own, I believe, is a difficult task. Nancy Ohlin has excelled! It was a fast paced read. And by fast-paced I mean it will keep you very intrigued and anxious for what is to come.

Jules Goud says

This is a very interesting take on Snow White.

Ana wants what she can't have. She becomes "ugly" so that her mother can love her. Ana thinks that there is nothing wrong with her mother.

Queen Veda wants to be the fairest one in the land and uses her beauty consultant to achieve her goal.

This is Snow White without the Prince Charming.

I didn't like Ana. A mother needs to love you for who you are. If you are "pretty", then she should love you. Yes, maybe she had some moments but that means diddle squat. Mothers love you for you, not because you are "ugly".

It was a unique twist on the Snow White tale, I do have to say. The fact that Ohlin made it potions and pills

that were the downfall, it sorta connected with society today. Some people will do many things to make sure that people think they are beautiful. Here is the thing. Nobody can make you believe you're beautiful. If you don't believe, you will always think that you are ugly.

Nice, fast read and interesting take on Snow White, the evil Queen and the mirror.

Fiona says

3.5/5 stars!

Yasmeen says

I was expecting there to be more, something... I expect Ana to be stronger. She knew her mother hated her for her beauty and thus she tried to ruin it by eating pastries, not washing her hair and such. Which is kind of gross. A week without washing your hair? That's just... Pure gross and unhygienic.

The old man was creepy, but what I was hoping for Ana to kill Queen Veda. After knowing what her mother had done, all she did was confront her and in the end she still felt that maybe it was better if she had just been the same old ugly Ana in disguise to please her.

IS ANA OUT OF HER MIND OR SOMETHING?!

I must say I was hoping a prince to save Ana from her misery and unhygienic state, but romance is not always needed, but Ana's character is a bit too bland. Too flat. Also, King Galen should definitely haunt Queen Veda or explain it more clearly what exactly she had done to him. I assumed she had killed him for the throne. There are so many questions left unanswered for me and there could be a sequel but nah, I most definitely wouldn't get it if there is one.

Justine says

I am usually not so critical of books but I just really did not like this book. There was just many things wrong with it. the synopsis originally sounded really intriguing to me but it did not turn out to be what I hoped it would be.

The book follows the story of Ana the daughter of very beautiful Queen Veda. Queen Veda's goal in life is to be the most beautiful person of all time. So when she sees how beautiful her daughter is becoming she shuns her. All that Ana wants though is to have her mother love her. In result she tries to make herself as ugly as possible. But still her mother is worried of Ana becoming more beautiful than her so she sends her away to a special academy. But at the academy the girls are as obsessed with being beautiful as Ana's mother and maybe even more.

The thing that was the biggest issue for me was the way the author wrote the story it was written in a very exaggerated and over the top voice. Sometimes it also sounded kind of childish to me too. She also wrote the story in a very dark way sometimes which I wouldn't originally object to but sometimes it just came out being really strange.

There was also not much character development in the book. I also couldn't stand the main character Ana. She was so whiny at times and came across desperate and annoying. I could not connect to her at all and that made the book hard to read. Not one of the characters in this book actually stood out to me in a good way. They were either annoying, strange, or just boring. Overall this book just did not don't for me, it was dark, annoying, and strange. I think this book could of had potential with the interesting synopsis but the author just did not execute it the right way.

Camilla says

This is the same book as Beauty by Nancy Butcher. Are they the same author!? Here is the other book's link.
<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/25...>
