



Poison Princess

Kresley Cole , Sara Brambilla (translator)

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2 Arcani. 22 Teenager prescelti. Lasciate che le carte cadano dove possono.

Le terrificanti allucinazioni della sedicenne Evie Greene avevano predetto l'Apocalisse e la fine del mondo le ha portato in dono tutta una serie di nuovi poteri. Ora che la Terra è distrutta e restano pochi sopravvissuti, Evie non sa di chi fidarsi e decide di fare squadra con il pericoloso e sexy Jack Deveaux, in una corsa per trovare delle risposte. Evie e Jack scoprono che si sta avverando un'antica profezia e che Evie non è l'unica dotata di poteri speciali. Un gruppo di ragazzi è stato scelto per mettere in scena la battaglia finale tra il Bene e il Male. Ma non è sempre chiaro chi stia da quale parte. Evie potrebbe essere destinata a salvare il mondo oppure a distruggerlo...

Poison Princess Details

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From Reader Review Poison Princess for online ebook

Nancy says

What the actual fuck was this book?

It was awful. The beginning dragged on and I was honestly waiting for Jackson to become nice. But the entire time he was a jackass. A rude, drunk, mean, horny jackass. And Evie actually cared about him?!!!! I'd have let him rot for what he did and said. I never read such crap before. I have never hated a love interest before but Jackson changed that pretty quickly. Evie is also very annoying. I was waiting for her to toughen up a bit but dear God she was so unmemorable. And the way she allowed herself to be treated by Jackson, her boyfriend, hell even her friends was disgusting! I had really good expectations for the book, but the way it dragged on bored me to death. The male lead was creepy and disgusting and the female lead was flat and forgettable.

Dana Kenedy (Dana and the Books) says

This review can also be found on my blog, Dana and the Books.

Poison Princess surprised me. I was expecting a decent and entertaining apocalypse story to keep me busy for a few evenings. I was not expecting to love it as much as I did or devour it as fast.

The story started out with an insanely creepy prologue setting a dark tone from the start. Putting this at the start of the book was a smart move because the next 10% of the book is actually the worst part of the story. Evie is the stereotypical all-American girl: rich, popular, blonde, cheerleader, hot boyfriend. After such a promising prologue I was a bit worried that I'd be let down.

When the apocalypse (the Flash) did happen that's when everything got awesome! Yes, there were some stupidly cliched eye-rolling moments and a completely unnecessary and ridiculous romantic plot, but I enjoyed the overall journey Evie went through and her struggles to survive after the Flash.

The writing was consistently good throughout with a great cast of characters bringing the story to life. I'm kicking myself for not reading this sooner!

Poison Princess is the first book in Kresley Cole's Arcana Chronicles where there are five books to date. I'm pumped that I now have a new well written series to jump into!

I received a copy in exchange for a review (thanks!) Post-apocalyptic survival sound like your thing? Pick up a copy: (Book Depository / Amazon US / Amazon Canada / Amazon UK)

Cait • A Page with a View says

I can see why others might like this series, but it's definitely not for me.

It's just a series of YA tropes and total "wtf" scenes. MINOR SPOILERS:

The story starts out told through the POV of what seems like the world's creepiest serial killer or something. Then Evie starts to tell him the story of how she survived the apocalypse and made it to his house. At the beginning of her story, Evie has started to hallucinate weird things like burning people and Death calling her "Empress" and this red witch. But she has to pretend to be totally normal because she's the typical unpleasant popular cheerleader stereotype.

On the first day of school she's attracted to a brooding, motorcycle-riding new guy named Jack. He's Cajun, from the wrong side of the bayou, and has *the most annoying accent ever*. Like it's just straight up hard to read. The story follows the general YA formula... Evie and New Guy Jackson are assigned to be partners in a class. He manages to be creepy from day one. They bicker. You know the drill.

Anyways, Evie's been desperate to keep her boyfriend Brand faithful all summer, so she's promised him she'll sleep with him soon (because "*once a racehorse learns how to run, you can't expect to keep him hobbled for long*"). A good chunk of the first half of the book revolves around Evie's friends continually telling her she has to sleep with Brand to keep him. He's obviously a catch.

Then the flash/apocalypse comes (which looks like northern lights?) and all of Evie's friends die. I'm super thrilled I wasted the first half of the book watching their annoying characters be established. Evie learns that all of her visions of the Major Arcana tarot card people talking to her are real and they're coming after her.

Then her mom dies and Evie's left with Jack, who is somehow even *more* unlikeable. He's just a straight up jerk the entire story. Sex is pretty much all that's on his mind, too, only he's got even less self-control than Brand. When Evie won't sleep with Jack right after he kisses her for the first time he's all "*I'd pegged you for a snob, but I didn't figure you for a miserable tease.*" But that's actually one of the kinder things out of his mouth. Swoon.

I'm tired of ranting about the types of guys who are romanticized in YA books, so I'll make this short. Brooding & mysterious with a dangerous air is one thing. But most of these guys are straight up rude with zero redeeming/likable qualities. And they're ALL THE SAME. Maybe I should stop reading stuff like this, Lux, or Hush, Hush and hoping for something different... I just want to read a silly plot without wanting to run away screaming (mostly in anger) from the main guy.

If you don't mind slut-shaming, nonstop sexual "tension" that sounds like it's written by a middle schooler, teens who text like adults from the early 2000s, and characters who are complete cliches, you might have more patience with this story than I did. I was mostly just frustrated the whole way through.

Seriously, though - so many lines made me stop and stare at the page like "is this really what we're going with:"

"So what are you going to do about Brandon's hymen safari?"

About a girl who wears microminis and cutoff t-shirts: *the guys in this town had just never encountered a girl so blatantly available for sex, and it was making them a little wild.*

The Louisiana/bayou setting was a nice change from the typical nameless suburb, so I did like that. And the

plot does seem to have some potential with the Arcana stuff, but it barely even went there. The actual plot is mostly pointless, weird, boring, or irritating filler.

may ❀ says

Buddy read with the wonderful, Brittany

DNF @ 30%

Looking at other people's reviews has me very concerned . . . are we reading the same book or ???

Poison Princess is about sixteen year old Evie Greene and her abilities in a post-apocalyptic world? I dunno, The plot is kinda hazy in my head. Instead, I was more focused on the characters and their douchebag qualities.

Allow me to elaborate.

Note: Evie is recounting her story to a literal psychopath –she doesn't know –so she's telling about her life before the Flash

Jackson McDouchebag Daniels:

- Calls her a b*tch to her face
- Tries to kiss her (at her birthday party) when her boyfriend is a few feet away
- Says crap like, "Maybe I came back to claim my taste of you."
- "You doan even know me, and you're angling for another . . . podna?" (That's a quote – yes it's an accent – soooooo hot, right?)
- But we'll forgive him cause:
- "sunlight beamed through the window, striking his handsome face, highlighting his gray eyes and chiseled features."
- "With those cheekbones, squared jaw, and raven-black hair"

:) I think you understand my problem with Mr. Insufferable.

Mellissa Bestie Warren

- "Mel was over at my house, prepping me for date night because she felt the need to sluttify my outfit so I could stand a chance against Clotile's "free-balling lady lumps."
- Yep, that's a quote
- "Eves, on the scale from wholesome to whoresome, you're practically Amish."
- "So what are you going to do about Brandon's hymen safari?"
- Nice to have a best friend that supports you in your choices, huh? :)

And we're not going to even go into the self-pitying, self-absorbed weakling that is the main character. Bye, Felicia.

I'm sorry, but I did not find any redeeming qualities about the book, nor could I stand to read any more of

this.

~~0 stars (is that a thing? It should be) fine, fine,~~

1 star!!

Donna {Book Passion for Life} says

“If you touch me like that again, Evangeline,” he began in a husky tone, dropping to his seat once more, “in the space of a heartbeat, I will have you off this bike and onto the closest horizontal surface. And I woan be picky, no.”

Oh for the love of all things holy, this book is amazing! This was my first book by author Kresley Cole and honestly she couldn't have done it any better. She had me compelled from the very first page with her amazing talent for storytelling and also for her intense and incredible scenes. It's safe to say, *Poison Princess* is a gripping page turner!

This story follows the life of teenager Evangeline 'Evie' Greene. She's a popular girl, with a loving boyfriend and awesome friends, but even though her life appears to be normal, it's anything but. Evie experiences hallucinations but mostly they are disturbing and horrifying. Not only that but Evie also gets visions of people that she's never met and they come with warnings. But soon it's too late for Evie to figure these warnings out because her hometown - including the rest of the world has been hit by an apocalyptic event called 'The Flash' where most people are wiped out.

Evie is among the survivors and soon enough she finds out that the one person she hates is alive - Jackson. Evie needs answers about her visions and decides she needs to travel to see her grandmother - who she thinks is still alive. Jackson agrees to protect Evie on her mission but as her visions get worse, she soon comes across other people who have been having the same call, and she realises she is not the only who is meant to play out their destiny.

Let me tell you right now, this book is so unique! Twenty two teens who all have special powers based on their characteristics of their Tarot card, so they can play their part in an ancient prophesy between good vs evil. Come on, tell me how unique that is? Honestly, I've not read anything like this book before and I'm still in awe with how brilliant it really is.

Evie is a strong protagonist - one I instantly loved. She has the weight of the world on her shoulders and still she tries to remain upbeat, happy and generally tries to stay sane. Even after the flash, she tries to remain the same even though as Jackson points out on a number of occasions, she can't hunt, start fires or protect herself - but you know there's something bubbling under the surface of Evie and it's just waiting to be unleashed. At times my heart broke for her because whatever is happening to her, she has no control over and at times it's very scary. I'm glad she had a person like Jackson to lean on because without him, I think she would have struggled.

Now Jackson, oh gosh, he's a complete bayou boy through and through and with him being Cajun French he has one hell of a sexy accent. However, he can be so harsh and mean sometimes and yes, he does do stupid things but really, you can overlook everything because he's a total sweetheart at heart. It was pretty clear from the start that he was attracted to Evie - despite how he acts and even in the end, he'll always go to her.

Their relationship is pretty intense, I was just waiting for something to happen.

Then, that ending comes in and no sooner than you started....it's all finished...I could have cried. If this book wasn't unputdownable to start with, wait until you get to the last few chapters because it's even worse. I couldn't stop reading until I knew the outcome and my god, I was not expecting what I got. It was absolutely breath-taking and heart-breaking all at the same time. I'm left with so many questions because of that ending - it really was a killer, and I'm dying for more of this wonderful story.

Overall, Kresley Cole has leaped into the YA market by a storm and it's left me wanting more of her work. I urge you guys to go buy this book because it's not one you want to miss out on. A must read of 2012!

A big thank you to Simon & Schuster UK for giving me the opportunity to review this book.

Letitia says

Rating: A+ ... Heat: Sweet

I was nervous and anxious and a tad apprehensive to read this book. Kresley Cole is one of my ABSOLUTE favorite authors. If she writes it, I will read it. As proven by the fact that the moment this was available to preorder – I did. And yet, as excessively excited as I was, I also worried. Needlessly, let me tell you. It rocked. It rolled. It annihilated my expectations. And reaffirmed exactly why Miz Cole is an auto-buy author for me.

Poison Princess is not the same ol' YA schtick. There are no vampires, werewolves, or angels to be had. Not a one. Instead, the twenty two cards of the Major Arcana tarot deck come to life—the Empress, the Magician, Death, etc., each of which possess unique powers and abilities—in a post-apocalyptic world.

Told both Before Flash and After Flash, there are two distinct tones and settings.

Before Flash is a world that feels very 'of the times,' where the teens act like teens. They're not idealized. Some of them cuss, or drink, or smoke—and (gasp!) some of them are even having sex. And, as our heroine—Evie Greene—is from a well-to-do family, they have expensive tastes. Flashy clothes, fast cars. Skies the limit. Which served as an extreme juxtaposition for the world After Flash. Putting the characters at a bigger disadvantage, giving them more things to overcome.

After Flash, when the world has been ravaged by what could be solar flares (or not...), when anyone unlucky enough to be outside was turned into ash (or worse...), life is no longer easy and is filled with myriad *hard* limits. Limited food. Limited survivors. Limited women. Militias form, cannibalism becomes a reality, and slavers begin stealing people. It's a very gritty and murky life for a teenager to be faced with.

And, oh my goodness, does Evie have a lot to overcome. She was, quite simply, a great heroine. She never truly frustrated me. She's not stupid, she's not weak. Thrust into tough situations time and again, she has to *learn* how to survive in a setting that comes with a steep learning curve. To say she struggles would be an understatement. But, c'mon. She's sixteen. She went from pampered rich girl to scavenger and survivor. She's going to make mistakes. She's not automatically going to be a she-woman survivalist who can skin animals with her teeth and kill people without a second thought. It felt real, and it felt right. She's human, she's resourceful—she isn't infallible.

Then there is Jackson Deveaux (aka the Cajun I am now ragin' for). He's used to fighting and constantly having to protect himself from danger. He's a survivor. Rough around the edges and more than a little bit crass, he can come across mean at times. But his meanness comes from a hurt and damaged place deep inside. And, really, him and Evie spar verbally pretty equally. She delivers some barbs herself. The tension and animosity between them doesn't rest solely on his shoulders. Besides, as a whole, I see him as simply trying to toughen her up. Give her a thicker skin. Actually give her a fighting chance in this new post-apocalyptic world.

Jack and Evie made my heart pang. The road they're forced to walk down is *hard*. A constant battle. Life or death. It's an extreme situation that brings out both the best and worst in them—as well as in the secondary characters. The cast of this book as a whole is fantastic. Guys and gals alike. Supernatural or simply human. The good and the evil. They're all so vivid and unique and *interesting*. I'm invested in them and their journey and outcome 100%.

Which is probably why I stayed up till 3:30a to finish this. There was no good stopping point. No moment where things slowed down. I had to keep going, had to know what happened next. And the ending... it left me breathless. I was so keyed up and full of sympathy adrenaline that sleep evaded me for nearly an hour. Scenes from the book kept popping into my head.

Poison Princess is full of myths and magic. Unrelenting action. Drama. Romance. It plays out in your head like a movie. Makes you invest. Care. It throws curves at you - some real humdingers – and keeps you guessing. Miz Cole has written such an energetic and dynamic story that both teens and adults will be captivated. It has, quite simply, ensnared my mind and my heart.

And the second book cannot come out soon enough! I want it. Bad. The wait, it's going to be torture. I expect I'll be rereading this one over and over, between releases, like I do Miz Cole's other books.

Favorite Quote:

I had to know what the look in his eyes promised.

He was staring at my lips, and before I could think better of it, I'd wetted them.

"That's it, bébé," he said in a coaxing rasp. "Ma bonne fille." My good girl.

He wrapped one of his arms behind my back, cupping my chin with his free hand.

"Evangeline, I'm goan to kiss you until your toes curl, until we're breathing for each other."

That was the promise...

-- A Romantic Book Affairs Review.

Find us on Twitter and Facebook too!

Alaina Meserole says

OH LORD!

Poison Princess was fucking amazing. I absolutely loved this audio book. I never wanted to press pause, but of course I did to do some family stuff or sleep. Evie, the main character, was a god damn bad ass. A god damn poison princess bad ass. I love her so much. However, she did kind of annoy me sometimes. She whined a lot and was pretty much useless until the end.

Besides her, there was Jackson, Selena, Matthew, Finn, and Arthur. Jackson, man I loved that mysterious guy. I totally shipped them together in this book but I have a feeling that they might not be an actual couple - it's okay, I'll wait to see what this series will do to my heart. Then there was Selena, god I did not like her in this book. When we first meet her she just seemed kind of desperate to get Jackson's attention and I'm like.. ugh, I hate thirsty thots so much. Matthew and Finn were interesting enough but I only really cared about Jackson and Evie.

Then there was Arthur, oh Arthur. I was confused for a moment, or two, about Evie wanting to see him so badly. Once I came to realization that I hate him and he deserved to die for trying to poison a poison princess (what an idiot by the way!) and also wanted to keep her as one of his creepy captives.. yeah, no. He needed to go.

Overall, I loved this book. I was kind of sad about some of the sudden deaths thrown at me while listening to this wonderful book. Yet, it was such a god damn page turner, or page listener?, that I was so pumped to see how it was going to end. Now I'm already listening to the next book because I'm hooked guys.

Please pray for my ship.

Daiane says

Actual Rating: 2.5

Did I like it? No

Did I hate it? No

So what is it? No idea...

I'm going out to the beach for the holidays and will think more about it lol

And while I'm out, HAPPY EASTER GUYS!!!! Or not... But it's a great time to eat chocolate ;D

Katie says

This is a tough book to review because there is a lot to like here. The concept behind the book is great, and I loved watching the puzzle pieces unfold, guessing who was who, seeing their powers in action, taking note of the symbolism, etc. But there are definitely some big problems with the book, which make it hard for me to recommend it.

The first chapter is intriguing, but then we're subjected to many boring pages of life before the Flash. The apocalyptic event mentioned on the back of the book and in the first chapter doesn't happen until page 105 or so (in the ARC). That's 100 pages of Evie going to school, arguing with Jackson, having visions, thinking

she's crazy, etc. Basically, the book could have started on page 100, because we really didn't need all that backstory before getting to the exciting stuff.

Once the event actually happens things really pick up and I couldn't put the book down. There's the usual surviving the apocalypse stuff, which is fun, but there's also a very unique element here, one that I'm a particular fan of. But since it isn't listed on the back cover I don't want to spoil it - which is ironic, since I would never have picked up this book if I hadn't known about this twist before-hand.

Unfortunately, the book suffers from weak, or downright repulsive, characters. Evie is pretty bland and pathetic for most of the book, and I wish that she'd had some useful skill or something. But then again, I'd probably be a lot like her (terrified, useless) if the apocalypse happened, so I could still relate to her.

But the worst character was the love interest Jackson. I'm not sure I have ever disliked a love interest in a book so much. He drinks whiskey constantly. He beats people to pulps with his fists. He's horrible to the autistic kid. And with Evie he acts like a horny stalker, treats her like a possession, verbally abuses her, and pressures her to have sex with him throughout the entire book.

An actual quote from Jackson (ARC, page 241): "Hell, Evie, you're probably the last girl on earth for me. Would it KILL you to put out?" And trust me, this isn't the only quote like this. I could go on and on. I kept waiting for Jackson to redeem himself, but if anything he only gets worse.

Is this the kind of guy we want teen girls to fall in love with? I was so happy that Evie didn't put up with his crap most of the time, but SO disappointed she fell in love with him anyway. I wanted to put the book down because I was so disgusted by him, but I was so intrigued by the premise I kept reading anyway. I'm still on the fence about reading the next books.

In a time when Goodreads reviews are being called "bullying" I'm very hesitant to post this review at all. But I seriously hope Jackson is made less of an ass before the book actually comes out, because otherwise it was very enjoyable. The author is definitely talented and has a lot of great stuff in this book, but Jackson completely ruins it. I'd love to recommend the book to everyone, but right now I can't.

manda says

11 Oct. '14

For those who have read the 2nd book and can confirm things for me, here are my predictions on Endless Knight.

19 Oct. '12

Be forewarned! There shall be a lot of cussing and angriness and bitch-slapping in this review. If you are a fan of this book/author, or/and not a fan of cuss words in reviews, I highly advise you not to read as I do not want to offend anyone.

Like an old, dying, rheumatic ox plowing through a field of mud and shit. All for the promises of a harvest of fresh, delicious, sweetcorn that he will never ever enjoy. That is how I felt as I trudged through this this heap of stink. *Plod, plod, plod*, and how many times I'd found myself in the middle of this dreck; dirt behind

me, dirt before me, dirt all around me -- but my feet were already wet and icky, and *sweetcorn!* You promised there'd be sweetcorn!

Alas, no sweetcorn for me. Not even one lousy cob. Maybe there will be in the future, but I'm not sinking my hooves in more shit and risking it a *second* time.

You were promised a (post-)apocalyptic. **You will not get a post-apocalyptic** before you trudge through half a field of shit. The first chapter -- prologue? It was a right hooker. Totally sucked me in. Even though I had my consternations -- this vaguely rapey vibe didn't settle down too good in my stomach.

But it promised action! Mystery! Everything on the blurb!

So you read on, all jittery and drooling for sweetcorn and then you're slapped with ***thirteen whole chapters of teenage high school drama*** that has NOTHING! *no importance whatsoever* to the plot.

First of all, these thirteen chapters was a *recount*. Our protagonist, Evie, wandered into a house and was asked to recount her journey. And she did exactly that. **In excruciatingly painful detail** we would be told of her last *seven whole frigging days* before the cataclysmic event that hit the entire planet.

So that is *thirteen chapters* reading about her rich-girl life in her rich-girl school, with all the rich-girl brand names being splattered like rainbow gifs constantly in your face. **Constantly!** See, **this is the first nonsensical part of this novel** -- how the bloody hell do you *remember* seven entire days in such minute detail, especially *months* after it even happened?!

No matter. Let's assume she has super-special memory. The second issue I have with this is **priority in story-telling**, people! Why the *fuck* do I care about your surprise party? Promising your V-card to your boyfriend? Your grades drama?

Why the hell would you spend *thirteen whole chapters* telling us about this honest-to-God perfect jock boyfriend and strangely devoted best friend, when *none of that matters?!*

Read it. Go on, read it, and tell me why the hell knowing Brandon or Mel or even Evie's entire bloody life was important. Spoiler, people: THEY DIED! WE SEE NONE OF THEM EVER AGAIN! **They had no relevancy to the story at all!**

I just ploughed through that field of shit AND YOU AIN'T EVEN GONNA USE IT?!

I want to slap a bitch. And I don't *care* if in the sequels Brandon magically turns out to have survived. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if that indeed happened. Point is, you could've glossed over all of that high school drama bullshit and got on to the **meat** of the story without wasting all that damn paper!

But do you know what *did* get glossed over? **Two hundred and fourteen days of cataclysmic action.** I'm sorry, let me get this straight. You told us, in detail, seven days' worth of your text messages, your pathetic visions in school, your scribbling drawings that I don't give a rat's arse about, your worrying about having sex for the first time, your petty pseudo-racist drama against the new kids in school -- but then after the cataclysmic event, you *jumped ahead four months* and all of a sudden we have cannibals, pseudo-zombies, militia men, and none of that is explained?

The story-telling was imbalanced and the prioritizing sucked to be awfully straightforward with you.

Third issue that frequently made me want to ragequit was the **absolute laziness of the worldbuilding**. How did these zombies come about?! Apparently, humans suddenly *mutated* (because of ... the sun? The thirst? The sheer stupidity of this book?!) and became attracted to water and hated the sun. Because prophecy!

Apparently all plants and water and "everything organic" was obliterated off the face of the earth, but

buildings and houses still stood perfectly well. And of course, *some* water sources remained in tact. Because special!

Apparently everyone who was outdoors died during the big flash and explosion, but everyone *indoors* were unharmed. Because sunburst can't penetrate walls, y'all!

I realize that Evie wouldn't have known any of the answers to these logic flaws, but -- the fact that these questions even existed wasn't even *touched upon* by the characters! No one questions why only plants and animals suddenly turned to dust. Or why buildings stayed in tact. Or why *anything*! They just took it for granted:

Some say the very tilt of the earth's axis wobbled, disturbing the balance of our world, lowering its defenses. Others claim that the depleted ozone layer--already a peeling scab--ripped open, leaving us vulnerable to heat and radiation.

Yes, of course, because the tilt of the earth could somehow shift and *buildings* remain perfectly well.

"I'm in your camp. Best not to obsess over it."

And *that* is how the author attempts to brush it aside and have *us* "not obsess over it".

You might argue, this was a romance, after all, so I shouldn't expect much in the way of action or whatever. And I'd say sure, it's a romance. But then puh-lease do not delude the market into thinking this is a post-apocalyptic YA adventure. Boy am I sick of dystopia/P-A and YA being used to market a book. Look. The truth is **the post-apocalyptic elements in *Poison Princess* could have been taken away and it wouldn't have mattered**.

I saw P-A here being used as an *excuse* to have our teens running rampant without parental control, journeying across states or whatever. I saw it as a pathetic plot progression tool. The world could have still been in tact, no cataclysmic event, and these kids and Evie's whole *task* (view spoiler) could still exist. As it were, there was no real purpose of having a cataclysmic event hit the face of the earth, other than to prove that Evie and her grandmother weren't insane.

But while we're on the subject -- **even as a romance, this book failed me**. There was nothing to like about Jackson. He's a rude, crass, insensitive asshole, whose only attraction to Evie was *literally* based on her wriggling arse and pretty face. No joke.

The rest of the characters were so blah it's not even worth mentioning. *All* the boys only wanted sex, all the girls only too willing to lap up guys' attention. And *of course* after the apocalypse, virtually all men turned into pseudo-zombies, cannibals, or lawless men who, upon seeing a girl, can only think of sexing her up. Because we're animals like that and we have no self-control, you know. And also because **Kresley Cole's** understanding of human psychology isn't really up to scratch.

Basically, **all the characters were unlikable and unrelatable**. Let's start with Evie ... oh, I could go on forever about her, but I'll try to keep it brief. She was a popular girl, and everyone's lives revolve around her *so much* that the entire school knows when she's about to lose her virginity. Every man who sees her *leers* at her "as if they'd never seen a girl before".

She's one of the richest people in town -- the richest being her jock boyfriend, Brandon, who picks her up in a Porsche? Jaguar? something like that -- and was *faithful to her* while she was away, so she has to give him her virginity *as a reward* because damn how else is a girl gonna keep her man?

[image error]

She's *so* popular she *waves at everyone* and stops by every group of people on her way into school because the school would *collapse* if she didn't play Miss Congeniality. No, seriously.

"If popularity is your My-Little-Pony gundrop-forest of a dream, then so be it. Who am I to piss on your dreams? But know this: The school would freaking shut down without you(...)"

So yeah, meet Mary Sue.

Her best friend was just as unlikable.

"You have two choices, grasshopper. Out-slut Clotile--or go Springer on her ass. I'm down for the assist in both scenarios."

Umm, how about get a boyfriend who doesn't *care* how sexy other girls are dressed?!

Also:

Mel waved away my concerns. "Ignore your mom, put out for Brandon, tank your grades. If you fail, I'll flunk with you."

Yep, that's her endorsing Evie to give up her virginity so Brandon would stop looking at another girl.

But let's get technical now, shall we? Because in this aspect, *Poison Princess* also sucked bad. The **pacing was poor and off-beat**. Again, this had a lot to do with priorities. Seriously, there is this one chapter, where basically Evie tells her love-interest, Jackson, also in detail, about her past. About her asylum days, about her grandma, about the voices she hears all of this *we already know* and yet we had to read about it all. over. a-fucking-gain!

[image error]

All the "romance" drama were expanded upon in minute detail, even running out of gas took one too many pages of attention, and the action scenes were too few and far between and *piss poor* it was hardly worth the wait.

Another technical thing I *really* found disrupting was the dialogue. Because Jackson is Cajun, he slips in french phrases and words in his dialogue. Often. And every time, Evie would translate it to us. Yeah, I know, if she doesn't, most of us probably wouldn't understand it. But hell, none of those phrases were even important. I don't get why it needed to be there in the first place. Authenticity? Actually, it made it sound pretentious if anything.

So **there was nothing that redeemed this book for me**. Nothing. I used to think *Vampire Academy* by **Richelle Mead** was the crappiest book I ever wasted money on, but that title is now replaced. I saw this as a vague attempt of another *Angelfall* type of book, but it fell *way* short of that.

you can also find my reviews at my blog

🦊 Jessi ♥? H. Vojsk says

"Come touch...but you'll pay a price.

Story ????????

When my wonderful friend Mary told me about a series that includes Tarot cards my interest was caught instantly.

Tarot cards always had something mystic and mysterious about them that I loved.

I started this book with high anticipation, lots of expectations and a really good mood.

And first the book was awesome. It was a funny, entertaining book and Evie was an interesting character.

But then the Flash happened and Evie became this whiny mess.

And then a lot of things happened and she met a lot of people and with every page near the end it got more interesting.

Don't get me wrong, I never really had a clue what's going on or what would happen, but the love story and Evie as the main character made it "okay".

But it was still so good that I continued and even finished it (that's probably a wonder).

So... I'll continue, I'm sure of it. First of all because Mary loved it and second because I can't wait to see Evie becoming a super badass with her powers!

You go girl!

Characters ??????

I started this book with great characters, a sassy best friend and a love interest that caught my interest.

But reading the book I was annoyed with Evie and her whiny I-can't-take-care-of-myself-attitude and Jackson's cocky selfloving and sexist personality.

The only thing that got me going was Mary telling me there will be awesome characters, and real cool side characters appearing in the story.

There are badass women, dangerous boys and cute boyish future looking boys.

All in all I wasn't really satisfied with the main characters, but the side characters made the story better.

World ????????

Throughout my life I watched and read a lot of magical fantasy series. There were vampires, werewolves and witches.

But you know what never appears a lot in this series? Tarot cards.

And that's the main thing happening in this book. Reincarnated tarot cards with magical powers that fight each other after the world ended in a flash.

Before the flash Evie had nightmares, delusions and hallucinations about people she never met that had magical powers and looked like tarot cards she saw at her grandmothers place. She saw plants growing near her and visions about a evil red witch.

Relationships ????

No, no, no, just no.

Jackson - aka the main love interest - is probably the most annoying sexist asshole I have ever read of. He is

But, I mean, Jack could be sweet if he wanted to... (view spoiler)

Still it had a good pacing with a lot of action, magic and love.

[illegible]

Evangeline “Evie” Green is your typical Southern Aristocracy. Rich, pampered, popular and suffering from a mild case of mental instability. Don’t fault her, we all are a little bit crazy down here. The difference though, in Louisiana, is that they call you a “character”, not crazy. Unfortunately Evie is still in high school, so when

she begins “seeing” horrifying apocalyptic landscapes and events in her dreams and waking nightmares, her mother has her committed. At the beginning of the book she is just getting out from her “time away” and trying to get in the swing of things in school. But it is becoming increasingly hard to do as the hallucinations increase in strength and she seems to be unwittingly drawn to a new addition to her school, Cajun bad-boy Jack Deveaux, a swoon-worthy character if ever there was one. Then just as you are getting settled into high-school life and Evie’s fight for sanity, the end-cometh and suddenly Evie’s hallucinations aren’t just in her head anymore.

‘Poison Princess’ has a richly drawn out and complex plot which left me breathless as Cole sped me through scene after scene. It is non-stop, hard-hitting and emotional from page to page. Cole brings her perfected writing style to the young adult genre and owns it. She found a young adult voice and exploited it in such a rich fashion I wouldn’t have recognized her as the adult paranormal romance writer that I love if I didn’t see her name on the cover. Yet, in signature Cole style, the richly crafted world-building was perfectly construction with all her i’s dotted and t’s crossed. She let nothing slip through her fingers, even though the plot was very intricate. And speaking of plot, the idea behind the characters, represented by the Major Arcana of a Tarot deck was a very original idea. I’m quite familiar with Tarot decks and spent most of the book trying to figure out which card represented which character and I was rather impressed with Cole’s interpretation of the representations. It was beyond interesting.

What also lured me in was the beginning of the book, how she foreshadowed later events that built up anxiety throughout the whole book. I have to admit I even flipped to the end just to see what would happen — even though I couldn’t figure out where everything fell in to place. Worthless exercise – don’t do it.

Then the characters. Oh those characters! I did enjoy Evie, she was just a fantastic heroine, but I was smitten with Jack. I could kill him at times and fall all gaga over him in others. Again, typical Cole with her larger-than-life heroes. Even though this one was human, he still had the makings of a great Alpha. Am I gushing too much?

Read the book. Adults, teens – whatever – get the book read it. Love it.

Recommendations:

Mature teens, there is a smidge of sexual interaction, nothing over the top though, but there is a substantial bit of violence, evisceration, death and destruction. I passed it on to a fourteen year old, but I know she is a mature reader. So, I’ll mark this as a 14+, but parents you might want to read this one if you have concerns. Fans of Julie Kagawa and Kelly Keaton should enjoy! YA Paranormal Romance fans — this is a must read.

shady boots | #WatchPOSE says

Edit (04/01/2018): Commentary from Present Day Me

So I’ve been revisiting some of my old reviews, thinking I might do some commentary for them in like, a self-reflection kinda way or just for a good laugh, and... wow this one is pretty cringey. It’d be wrong of me to adjust it I guess since this was just proof of what I was like as a teenager I suppose, so I’m gonna leave it untouched.

However, I do vividly remember this book and how awful and disgusting the hero was in it. It’s kind of

interesting to see how many people defended his actions in the comments. Says a lot about our culture at the time glorifying all these horrible men. I wonder if we're still like that today? Hopefully we've changed.

My old review (12/31/2012)

Actual rating is **2.5** stars. Or 2.75, not sure. Just lower than 3.

For the first time ever, I might just *only* be talking about the love interest in this review. Because I have so much to say about him. Well, maybe I'll talk about him 98% of the time or so, but believe you me, I will rip this guy apart and say everything that's on my mind about him, so prepare yourselves.

So, Jackson Deveaux. Ladies and gentleman, the unthinkable has happened. I've finally found a guy who is far far worse than Obsidian's Daemon Black. I had thought no one would ever take away his title as the most horrible YA love interest of all time, but apparently I was wrong.

I'll just give you a list of what this guy is:

- Arrogant
- Selfish
- Abusive
- Violent
- Perverted
- Rude
- A bully
- Has no regards for the main character's feelings
- Will sleep with any living thing that has a vagina
- Controlling
- Has anger issues

Any positive traits? Well... he's protective? More like possessive, really. Add *that* to the list, too. The author was smart, though. She added his Cajun accent and uses specific words when he's sweet-talking Evie. Like, "Let me take care of you, *bébé*." The author *knew* that girls love guys with accents. So I'm guessing that's why most of these girls are swooning for him.

This guy is a horrible human being. From the first half of the book, that was very clear, yet I didn't mind because I thought the main character dealt with him well. Not as well as I wish, but she was aware that he was nothing but a perverted bully, regardless of how hot he was.

But then by the second half, my god, this guy became even more disgusting. He constantly wants to get into Evie's pants, and he even *admits* it! Evie asked him if all he wanted was to get in her pants, and *he said yes*. In one scene he was about to do so but Evie refused, and I'd like to give you a direct quote he said from that scene, verbatim.

"Hell, Evie, you're probably the last girl on earth for me. Would it kill you to put out?"

And I'd like to show you what he said a few minutes after this scene, where they meet Selena, the "Other

Girl" character.

Jackson turned to me with a devilish smile. In French, he said, "All of a sudden, Evie, you're not the last girl on earth for me."

Guess what happened that same night? He had sex with her. And he called Evie a "miserable tease". And near the end, after they got into *another* big fight, guess what Evie catches him doing afterwards. Making out with Selena.

I think Jackson Deveaux is a horrible, disgusting human being (and I've NEVER used the word 'disgusting' to describe a love interest before, but I think it suits him perfectly), and it boggles my mind that the author expects girls to actually swoon for him. I mean, WHAT THE FUCK? Even *Daemon* wasn't this bad. At least he cared about Katy's feelings. Jackson, however, doesn't give a shit about Evie's. Even when she's crying because of (view spoiler) he's *yelling* at her.

All through this book, I was begging, BEGGING for a love triangle, and I got it, but it was for Jackson, and it wasn't even a love triangle. More like a sex triangle. Because that's all he's after, is sex! He freely admitted it! -_- What in the world was the author thinking, creating such a disgusting love interest?! And he's the main love interest, too. He's definitely costed this book a lot of stars in the rating, and I'm not sure I even want to continue this series because of him.

Okay, I think I got that off my chest. Ugh, I would suggest you all avoid this book simply because of him, because really, he's the worst.

Some quick thoughts on other things of the book, I liked the paranormal aspect, and how it was mixed with post-apocalyptic. Evie wasn't that bad of a heroine either, though she's way too soft and dependent. She's the popular cheerleader type, sure, but I would've liked if she had a sarcastic & badass personality, like for example Alona from *The Ghost and the Goth*. If that were the case, then her and Jackson could have nice witty banter. But most of the time they just argue and yell at each other.

I also liked the ending. Initially I liked this book, but Jackson really really turned me off. I guess I'd give the sequel a try. *sigh* I just desperately hope there's a new love interest, because Jackson doesn't deserve to be one. He's a scumbag and a perv, and whoever *likes* him needs mental help. Like, go to the Dr. Phil show or something, seriously. Or better yet get your brain checked. I'd be genuinely concerned about your mental health.

I think I've said all I wanted to say. I'm going to finish off this review with some GIF messages for the lovely Mr. Jackson Deveaux.

That's all. c: Thank you.

Wendy Darling says

Ugh, no. DNF around 100 pages.

This *really* is not my kind of heroine, romance, story, or crush. At all.

Wendy Higgins says

Oh my gosh!!! That was the most incredible pararomance I've read in a long time. What a wild ride! And now I'm wishing I would have waited until close to the 2nd book's release to read it because I want to still be in this story world seeing what will happen next! I love how we got to see Evie's world before the Apocalypse and after. I just really can't gush enough, and I can't find anything to complain about with this story. It was right down my alley and exactly what I needed.

But I'll warn you - if you don't like alpha male love interests, this might not be a story for you.

Ren says

Young Adult???? Are Kresley Cole follow her dear friend's path, Gena Showalter to write YA?

Ugh, less smex scenes! *shakesfist*

And I want Thad! Please continue writing Immortals After Dark, rather than start new series.

Please, I beg you :'(

Ferdy says

Spoilers

I couldn't be bothered writing a review, so you'll have to make do with this nonsensical rubbish:

Evie: Woe is me. I have harrowing visions about the apocalypse. Woe is me. I had to spend my summer in a mental hospital. Woe is me. I hope my friends don't know about what a ghastly time I've had lately. Woe is me. I am so rich, popular and beautiful. Woe is me. I am dating the most perfect guy. Woe is me. By jove, who on earth is that new fellow on the motorcycle? Oh my, just one glance at him and I seem to be feeling tingly things in my special place. Woe is me.

Jack: I like your ass..it nice. I look at it. I wanna fuck you but also I HATE you. YOU BE RICH. ME BE POOR. Me mad me poor. Me hate all rich people. Me be likin the ass. I stalk you. Then I fuck you.

Evie: Woe is me. How dare you, I am a lady! And I deserve to be fucked like a lady! Woe is me. I hate you!

Stop stalking me! Woe is me. Oh noes! A vision of death. Woe is me.

Jack: You rich bitch. I wanna fuck you. I big manslut and be liking fucking yea. Me wanna fuck rich girl but me hate that want to fuck rich girl. You whore make me feel like wanna fuck you. You whore, like all girl!

Evie: I despise you and your treatment of me. I'm a lady and I need a gentlemen to make love to me. Woe is me.

Jack: I fuck you. Me take belt off, dick come out and then I fuck you.

Evie: Kiss me. Woe is me.

Jack: Hmm, baby. I be stealing your diary and reading it. I need know mind of rich bitch. You no right keep secret from me. You be hearin me whore?!

Evie: How dare you read my most precious diary! I hate you! I don't care about how tingly you make me feel. Stay away from me. Woe is me. Oh my, he read my diary and saw all my drawings of death and doom, what ever shall I do?! Woe is me. Oh my, these plants seem to be calling to me, surely that must means I have the power to control plants. Woe is me. Who am I? I can control plants and I have visions. Woe is me. WHO AM I?!!!! Woe is me.

Jack: BITCH. Hate you. Rich bitch. Why you mad I stole and read diary..you no right be mad. BITCH. YOU FUCK ME NOW. ME POOR YOU RICH. BITCH. ME POOR. ME POOR. ME POOR.

Evie: Goodbye. Oh lordy..my vision has come true, every human, animal and plant is dead for no logical reason. Woe is me. Oh how time flies after an apocalypse, it's already been over 200 days since that vague unexplained thing killed everything. Oh who's that in the distance. Woe is me. Its Jack, he's alive! Woe is me.

Jack: I come for you after 200 days. I no bother before to see if you be dead or alive but it no matter everybody will still think it be romantic that I come check on you after 200 days. We fuck now.

Evie: No. Woe is me.

Jack: What be up with those drawings you did in diary? You be psychic? Bitch, why you no tell?

Evie: I am not psychic, you disgusting dog. Woe is me.

Jack: Okay then. Most women be dead now, you be rare. And all men left be rapists now. They rape you. Let be going from here. Then I fuck you.

Evie: Never... I won't run. Wait okay, I will. Woe is me.

Jack: I help you but I still hate you bitch. You a bitch. Then I fuck you.

Evie: You are such a brute and you are so mean. Woe is me. I have mysterious powers but I keep them secret. Woe is me.

Jack: You tell me your secrets bitch. Women with secrets be evul whores! You tell me now bitch. Then I fuck you.

Evie: Aw, I think I'm falling in love with you. I never knew you could be so sweet. Woe is me. Let's kiss now. Woe is me.

Jack: You be bitch. My bitch. Then I fuck you.

Evie: I shan't sleep with you, you cur! Woe is me. I want to be wooed before giving up my sweet virginity for I am a lady. Woe is me.

Jack : You whore tease bitch! It be because I be poor that why you no fuck me!! You tease me whore. You kiss me that mean I allowed fuck you. Bitch bitch bitch!

Evie: Oh goodness me, more visions about mysterious and nonsensical things. Woe is me.

Jack: You be whore. Oh look there another whore, now I be fucking her! You fuck off, I no help you, I got new whore now. Better whore.

Evie: Oh no! Jack doesn't love me anymore. Woe is me. What if he stops treating me like dirt? Oh, I don't think I could bear it. Woe is me.

Jack: Me like new whore. But what do with old whore?! I keep old whore and help her with her whore things. She be bitch and whore but all girl are.

Evie: Go back to your other lady friend. I need to save my mysterious friend. Woe is me.

Jack: I help you whore. Then I fuck you.

Evie: Well, since you've apologised, I guess that's okay. Woe is me.

Jack: You be a bitch, a slut and a whore. I helped you. Now I fuck you. But first you tell me all your secrets! Only whores keep secrets. I know you be a whore but if you no tell me, I go back to other whore.

Evie: Oh my, I just can't tell you about my secret visions and powers. Woe is me.

Jack: WHORE!! ME POOR YOU RICH! Then I fuck you..No! What I say?! I no fuck you! Never fuck you! Get away whore!

Evie: Oh my tragic life! Woe is me. I shall leave Jack forever. Oh my, who is that random guy? Hmm..he wants me to tell him my life story in return for food and shelter. Woe is me. Oh my, the guy I met a few hours ago is evil. I know, I will kill him with my super secret plant powers! Woe is me. Oh no, Jack came after me and saw me use my secret powers. Woe is me. He'll hate me forever now. Woe is me.

Jack: WHORE! WHORE! WHORE! WHORE! WHORE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Will the Lady Evie ever stop being a whore? Will Jack ever get to fuck Evie? Will love overcome all that sexy abuse? Only time will tell and I dear friends await in bated breath.

Lola says

Unpopular opinion review time!

You know how it goes: you loved this book, I didn't. I'm actually very much dismayed by that, because I stepped into this apocalyptic world with such an overall optimistic state of mind – hell, I expected my first book by Kresley Cole, a *New York Times* bestseller, to be a winner!

Oh boy. My state of mind shifted quickly enough and darkened considerably.

Basically, I didn't like anything about this book. It's a huge "It's not you; it's me" case, so huge that I would have blamed the book entirely if it wasn't for the glowing ratings and reviews. I totally would have.

Because this was awful for me.

Evie is one of the most superficial, spoiled and completely annoying heroines I've had the misfortune to meet. And the love interest, Jackson is a despicable pervert and jackass! Every time he called Evie "bébé," my soul died a little.

I have nothing against the French word for baby, but when Jackson pronounces that word, it doesn't come out as sexy and enticing. It physically hurts and I wished I could punch that word out of his vocabulary. And I'm taking Karate classes, so I'm pretty confident about my blows. Just saying.

I also couldn't believe how many clichés the author inserted. I mean *come on*, this was supposed to be a post-apocalyptic enticing story!

Clichés:

- the superpopularandprettygirl who think of school as her kingdom ("I waved at different folks again and again, much to the bowheads' amusement. I was pretty much friends with everybody")
- the jackass love interest who acts like a jerk around Evie but he's so handsome, so handsome, so handsome,

and no one can resist him. Also very troubled and broken.

- the love triangle
- parents dead (this seems to become so common in YA books that it's just one more trope to me)
- the jackass bad-boy rescues the lost superpopularandprettygirl

And so on and so forth and what have you.

The idea of people incarnating figures from tarot cards to save the world also didn't appeal to me. I found the overall plot weird. It tries too hard to become something exceptional, when it really just isn't.

Oh well, and I bought the whole series, silly me. Guess I'll have to host a giveaway soon.

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Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says

I did not finish this book...there were several things towards the beginning of the story that just had me laughing, it was so ludicrous. For example, the Big Bad Cajun Motorcycle Gang (also known as the Sharks and the Jets...oh, wrong story). They speak in heavily-accented Cajun patois, they have bikes with stolen, mismatched parts! They wear motorcycle jackets, their hair falls in greasy locks over their eyes! They rumble up to their new school in a crowd of big, bad, wolfery and start chatting up and soliciting all the pretty girls.

Aside from the dirt-poor, uneducated, rude Cajun stereotyping and the clichéd bad boys, nevertheless, I could have tolerated the minor absurdity if there had been some promise to a compelling story, but no. I'm not going to waste my time.

Here are a few quotes *very* early on in the story that made up my mind for me.

"Beside him was a couple on a bike—a kid in camo pants and a girl in a pleather miniskirt. The big boy helped her off the bike, easily swinging her up—

'Whew-hell,' Catherine said, 'good to know her panties are hot pink. Shocked she's wearing them, actually. Classy with a capital K.'

Mel nodded thoughtfully. 'I finally understand who buys vajazzling kits.'

I foresee slut-shaming in the future. Not a fan.

"Then Weasel zeroed in on me with a smirk. 'Ain't you dat jolie girl in dat Porsha?' His Cajun accent was as thick as any I'd ever heard. 'Turn around, you, and hike up dat dress, so I can tell for true.'"

...really? REALLY?

""You're laughing at me?' He clenched those big, taped fists like he was just dying to hit something. Most likely my face.

'Tu p'tee pute,' he sneered to my face. You little bitch.'

The above quotes came from the projected love interest. A violent, misogynistic asshole. No. No. I'm just not going to bother.
